

„I humbly offer my services!”

Opinions on the suitability of the prime ministerial candidates

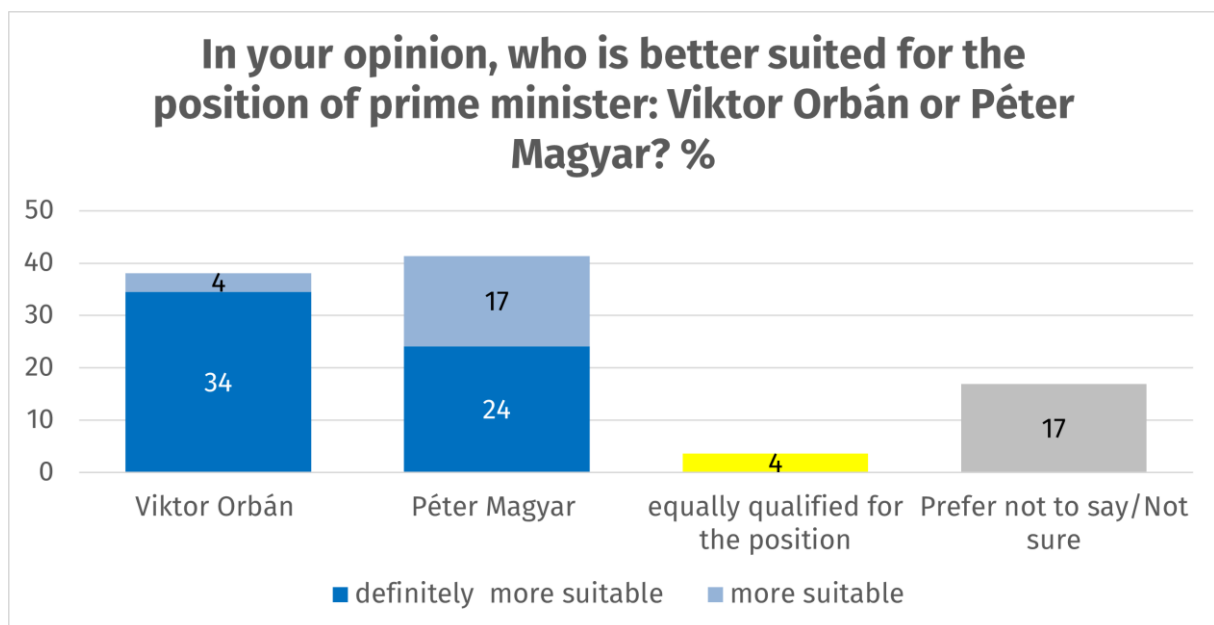
AN ANALYSIS BY THE REPUBLIKON INSTITUTE

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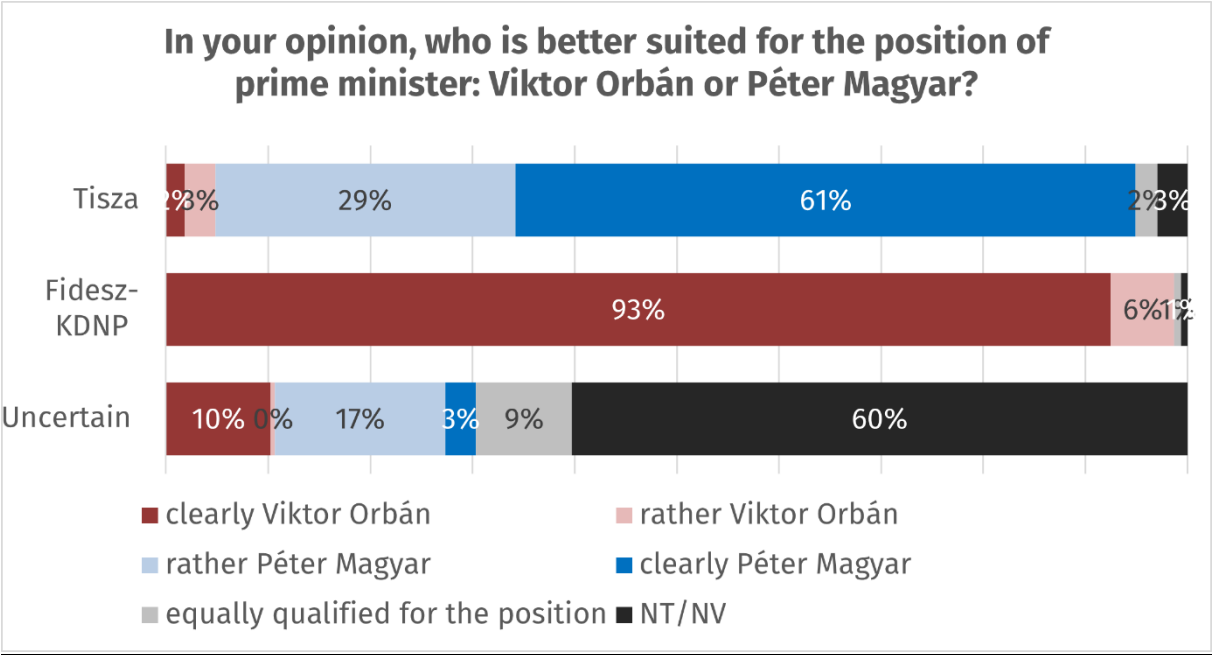
FINDINGS

A central focus of the 2026 Fidesz campaign was to highlight Viktor Orbán's experience, his age, and the resulting suitability for the office of prime minister. "Over the past 35 years, people have come to know Viktor Orbán well (...) Time has certainly taken its toll on him; that is an undeniable fact. But one thing we can say for certain: whenever this country and its people were in trouble, Viktor Orbán was always there to be counted on" – said János Lázár in March 2026 in Jászapáti. The ruling parties are striving to highlight Orbán's experience, seriousness, and importance on the international stage, while portraying Péter Magyar as a scandal-prone tabloid figure and warning their voters against change (see: "change is dangerous" – also from the Jászapáti speech). Although party preference data indicate that the majority still wants a change of government, we do not know to what extent the government's propaganda highlighting Péter Magyar's incompetence and lack of seriousness has been effective; so, in addition to the March party preference survey by Republikon, we asked respondents which party leader they considered more suitable for the position of prime minister.



According to 41 percent of respondents, Péter Magyar is better suited for the position of prime minister, while 38 percent consider Orbán to be better suited. Although more people consider the leader of Tisza to be suitable, those who vote

for Orbán are more confident in their answer: 34 percent say it is clear that Orbán is the more suitable candidate, while for Magyar, this figure is 24 percent.



A breakdown by party preference helps clarify the situation. Among Fidesz voters, 93 percent consider Orbán “clearly more” suitable, while 6 percent consider him “rather more” suitable; the Tisza camp is somewhat more divided: 61 percent consider Magyar clearly suitable, while 29 percent consider him “rather more” suitable. Sixty percent of undecided voters cannot answer this question, but among them, Péter Magyar’s suitability is twice that of Viktor Orbán’s, at 20 percent versus 10 percent.

It is clear that the Tisza camp is more heterogeneous than the pro-government camp; some of its members are genuinely “against Orbán” rather than “for Magyar,” whereas Fidesz voters are essentially Viktor Orbán’s voters. Even so, we see another set of data that reveals something about the Tisza leadership and confirms that the group of undecided voters is not a gathering of “closet Fidesz supporters,” but consists primarily of apolitical people who are difficult to mobilize but lean toward the opposition.

Methodology: The survey was conducted via telephone interviews with 1,000 respondents between March 23 and 26, 2026. The survey is representative of the country's adult population in terms of gender, age, educational attainment, and type of settlement. The margin of error is +/- 3.5%.