

# Party support

February 2025

Analysis by Republikon Institute

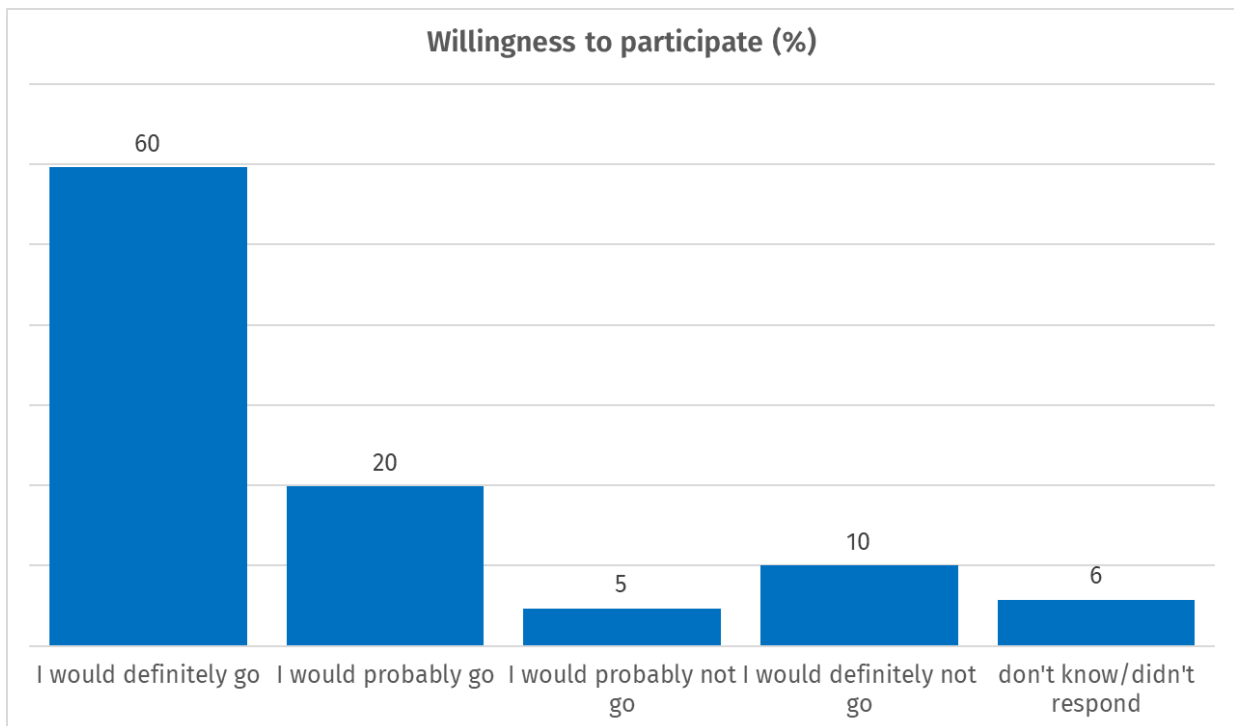


## INTRODUCTION

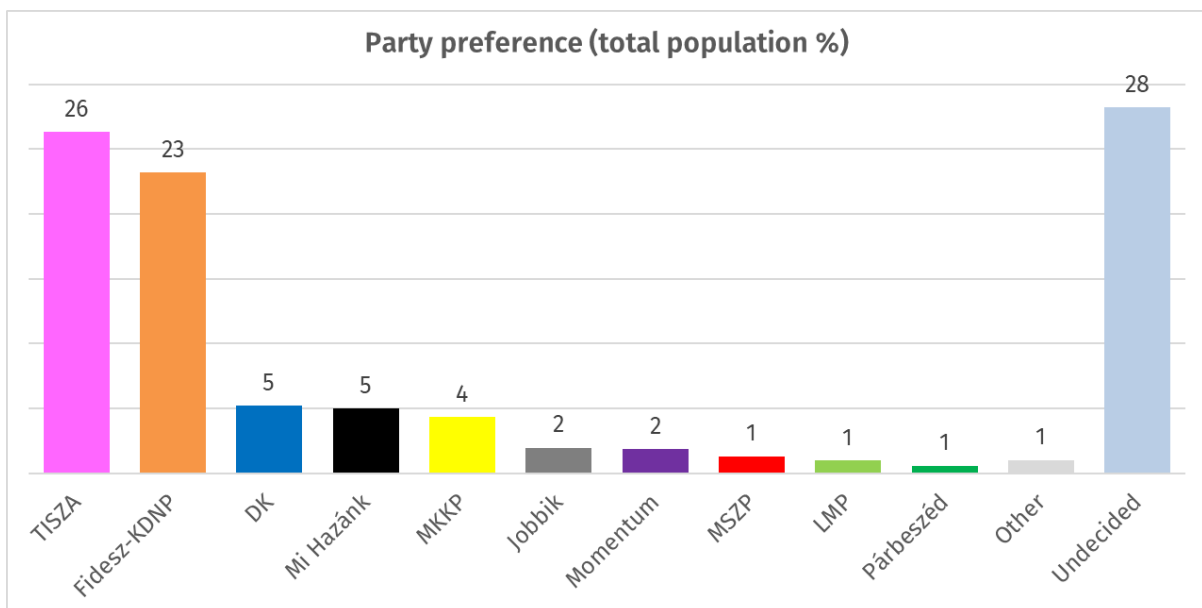
February was a busy month in Hungarian politics. Annual state-of-the-nation addresses were given by Péter Magyar, Ferenc Gyurcsány and Viktor Orbán, among others. The prime minister announced a wave of promises that will necessitate a sum of up to thousands of billions of euros from the Hungarian budget. The parliamentary session has begun and so has the delivery of these political promises. After a year, the government has taken back the political initiative from Péter Magyar in two grotesque moves. On the one hand, the government has taken the intimidation and disabling of the civil sector to an extreme, and has dusted down the homophobic communication panel it rejected at the beginning of 2022, when the Russian-Ukrainian war had broken out: it would ban the Pride parade, an action that would violate the right of assembly and would presumably be unconstitutional. At the same time, Fidesz-KDNP has also begun a public alliance with Mi Hazánk, who support both outrageous moves. World politics has also been thrown into turmoil with the inauguration of US President Trump, with Russia and the US negotiating the future of Europe without involving Europe, while Trump envisages a luxury paradise in the Gaza Strip. Hungarian politics, or more precisely the frenzy of the governing parties, is also part of the political vortex created by the US, the closest link at the moment, apart from pro-Russian war communications, being the 'USAID scandal', including the money coming into Hungary which has supported hundreds of independent organisations during the existence of USAID. It is in this context that Republikon's February party preference survey was conducted.

## RESULTS

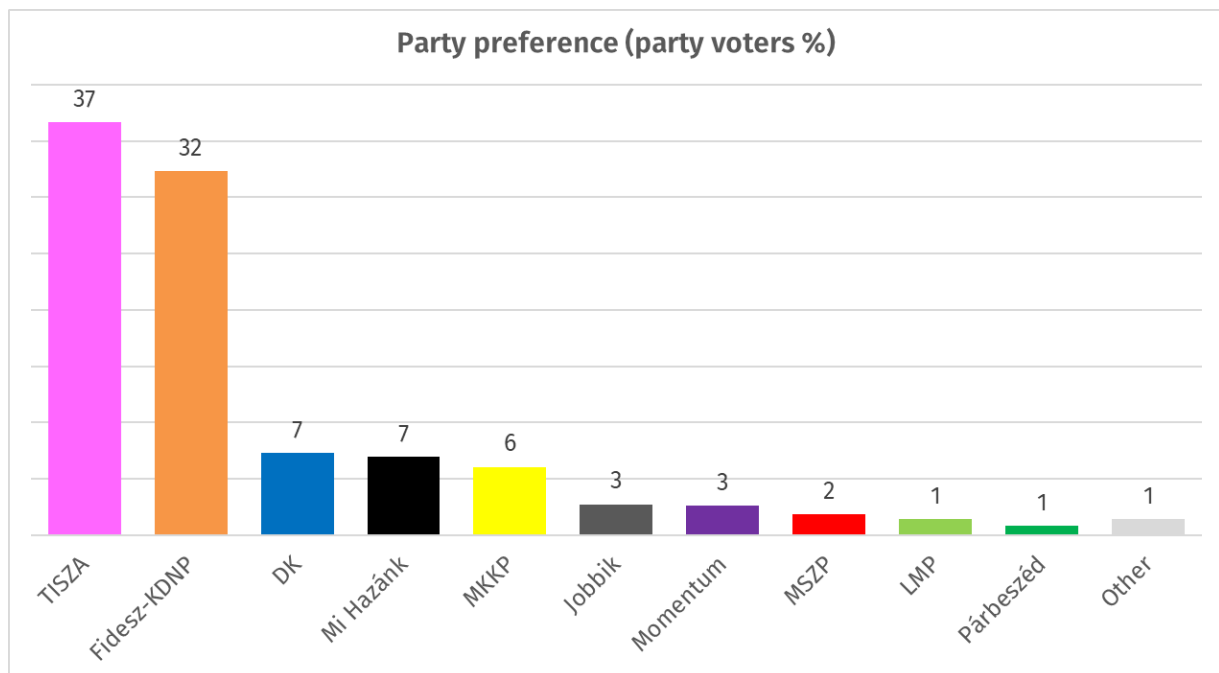
In February, both the Tisza Party and Fidesz-KDNP were able to strengthen among the total population. Tisza gained 2 percentage points, Fidesz-KDNP 3, and the current standing in the total population is 28-26 percent in favour of Tisza, i.e. for the first time, in February, the Tisza Party's lead over Fidesz-KDNP did not increase, but decreased within a margin of error. Tisza has drawn its surplus from the small opposition parties, while Fidesz-KDNP presumably pulled back Fidesz-leaning erring voters from the ranks of the undecided with its February offensive. Among party voters, the change is even more striking, with the Tisza Party's support in this poll unchanged, while Fidesz-KDNP gained 4 percentage points, making the score 37-36 in favour of the Tisza Party. Among secure party voters, Fidesz-KDNP gained 4 percentage points also, while Tisza lost 1 percentage point, making the score 38-36 in favour of Tisza. As we mentioned in the introduction, the governing parties went on the offensive, with monumental promises and a relentless smear campaign, starting with Viktor Orbán's annual state-of-the-nation address. The data in this survey started to be taken on the day of the speech and reflects the mood of the days that followed, which may explain why the peripheral voters of the governing party have rallied behind the party.



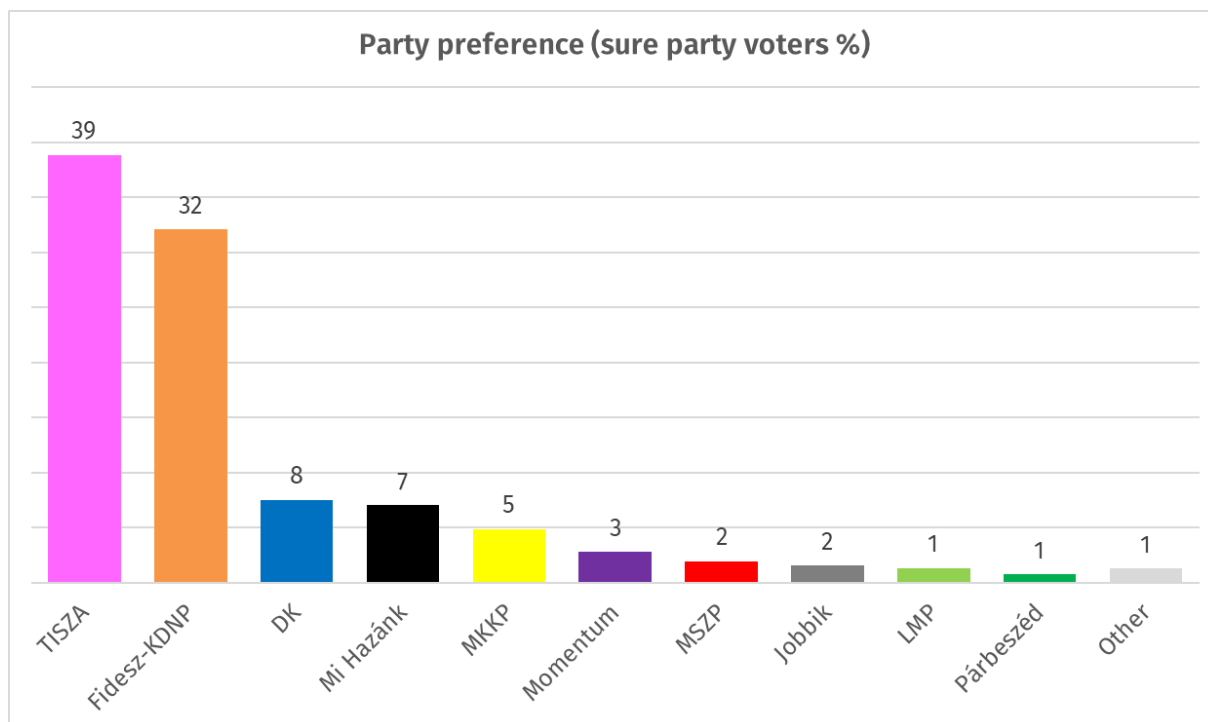
- DK and Mi Hazánk are in roughly the same position as in January, although DK's support has dropped slightly. The two parties' support among the total population is 5-5 percent, DK lost 1 percentage point among party voters, while Mi Hazánk's support remained unchanged, so the figure is 7-6 percent in favour of Toroczkai's party. The ranking of the two parties is reversed in the polls of sure voters compared to January.



- The Dog Party has gained 1-1-1 percentage points since January among the total population, party voters and among those party voters who are certain to vote, respectively. Currently, 5 percent of the total population, 7 percent of party voters and 6 percent of sure party voters would vote for the beleaguered joke party. With this small increase, they have caught up with Mi Hazánk and DK in the overall population and are currently ahead of DK among party voters, with a chance of entering parliament. It is also no coincidence that the Dog Party and Tisza together are stronger than Fidesz-KDNP and Mi Hazánk, although the two of them do not have an absolute majority (with DK the three of them comfortably achieve this). All this simulates the list results anyway, not the individual constituencies, where Fidesz has always won by a large margin until now.



- The smaller parties are currently in a poor position. **Momentum, MSZP, Jobbik, LMP and Párbeszéd** are all polling at 1-1%, and two percent would vote for other parties. Several parties announced in the past month that they would run by themselves, but as things stand now, even lowering the threshold would not give the smaller parties a chance to get in. The share of undecided voters has fallen by two percentage points since January, and they are likely to have rejoined Fidesz-KDNP.



For the first time in a year, the balance of power between the two largest parties has shifted in favour of Fidesz-KDNP. At the same time, the Tisza Party was able to grow again and is still in first place, absorbing the last crumbs of opposition votes. The race between the two leading parties is tight, with almost only the undecided voters, who are not very likely to vote, still in the running. In addition to the usual electoral gimmicks and handouts, individual constituencies will continue to be the decisive factor in the 2026 election. In this respect, the strategy of the smaller parties in parliament will be crucial: will they focus on the best possible list result, or will they also go for individual constituencies? Individual candidate selection is also a precondition for the establishment of a list, but it matters whether one or more opposition candidates run against Fidesz-KDNP in a wavering district. In order to win, either Tisza or the smaller parties will have to concede in individual constituencies. Additionally, there is a significant difference in support for DK between the polls, which, between 4 and 6 percent around the parliamentary threshold, given the current balance of power between the parties, is of serious consequence.

Methodology: The survey was taken between February 22nd and 26th by phoning 1,000 people. The survey is representative of the adult population of the country by gender, age, education and settlement type. Margin of error: +/- 3.2%.