



## GR Japan House of Representatives Election Day Flash Report

27 October 2024 (updated at 11 pm)

### Ruling coalition on track to lose majority, fueling uncertainty over outlook for government

Voting for the House of Representatives election (465 seats) concluded at 8:00 PM on 27 October. Initial returns suggest the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and coalition partner Komeito face significant hurdles in securing the 233 seats needed for a majority. Such an outcome would mark the LDP's first loss of majority rule since their defeat in the 2009 election and would destabilize Shigeru Ishiba's administration. The political landscape could remain highly uncertain depending on the extent of cooperation among opposition parties such as the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP), which has significantly increased its number of seats.

Incumbent ministers including Justice Minister Hideki Makihara and Agriculture Minister Yasuhiro Ozato will lose their seats in single-member contests, dealing a significant blow to Ishiba's government. In an unexpected development, Komeito leader Keiichi Ishii is also at risk of losing his seat.

The LDP has faced a major backlash following the emergence of a political funds scandal involving its former factions and is projected to fall well below the 247 seats it held before the election. Since returning to power in 2012, the LDP has consistently secured a "super-stable majority," which allowed it to exercise full control of the Diet's standing committees and dominate administration of Diet affairs. Komeito also struggled in Osaka, where it faced off against the Nippon Ishin no Kai for the first time following the end of their cooperation agreement in the prefecture. Its strategy of not fielding candidates with overlapping proportional representation bids also backfired.



On the other hand, the CDP, which is Japan's largest opposition party, is expected to significantly build on the 98 seats it held before the election. Former Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, who adopted a centrist-conservative approach as the party's leader, played a critical role in winning over voters critical of the administration. The Democratic Party for the People (DPFP) is also likely to gain seats after appealing to voters through policies aimed at increasing disposable income.

If the ruling coalition fails to achieve Ishiba's goal of maintaining a majority, which seems highly likely at the time of writing this report, the party will likely begin deliberations over who bears responsibility. Should the prime minister seek to continue his administration, he may need to consider endorsing independent candidates previously disqualified from running under the LDP banner due to their involvement in the political funds scandal. He may also seek to cooperate with opposition parties that support similar policies, such as the DPFP or Nippon Ishin no Kai.

Upcoming Political Schedule	
November 5, 2024	U.S. Presidential Election
November 7	Special Diet Session Convened (Prime Minister Election) ← The schedule may change depending on the election results
November 15	□ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit (Peru)
November 18	G20 Summit (Brazil)
Late November to early December	Extraordinary Diet Session, possible Fiscal 2024 Supplementary Budget Proposal
Late December	Fiscal 2025 budget proposal finalized and tax reforms
January 2025	Ordinary Diet Session
2025 summer	Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election and House of Councillors election