

Presidential elections in Serbia

On January 20, 2008 the first round of presidential elections took place in Serbia.

According to the preliminary estimation, ultranationalist Tomislav Nikolić from the Serbian Radical Party won with almost 40%, while current president Boris Tadić from the Democratic Party gained almost 36% of votes.

Important factor is the sharp and close difference between the democratic and radical block, which was not the case in last elections in 2004. This leaves space for a true competition for the second round scheduled on February 3 and both candidates have chances to win.

Surprising was a relatively high turnout of the elections estimated at 61%.

Important will be behavior of voters of other candidates and non-voters from the first round and decisive factor can be support from current Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica and his Democratic Party of Serbia.

Elections are of a very important nature, because of future international orientation of Serbia, EU integration process and because results of the elections can influence broader stability in the region with direct impacts on neighboring countries.

More information about the preliminary estimation can be found at CeSID, the Center for Free Elections and Democracy from Belgrade at <http://www.cesid.org/eng/index.jsp>.

Detailed information about the elections and updated news can be found at B92, at <http://www.b92.net/info/predsednicki-izbori-2008>.