




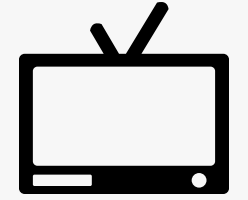
# Czech Republic: Elections and the rule of law

## Top rule of law issues

 **Oversight of covid-19 emergency measures:** The government introduced [several emergency measures](#), but often failed to justify them. Courts annulled some of these measures, due to the lack of reasoning. The extent to which judicial scrutiny will help improve the quality of governmental decision-making in the long run remains to be seen.

 **Corruption and conflicts-of-interest** by top government officials in the distribution of EU subsidies. Allegations that Prime Minister Babiš misused EU funds led to massive protests in 2019. Investigations and audits of the use of EU funds, conducted by both Czech and European officials, have found evidence of conflict of interest. As a result, the [case was submitted to the European Public Prosecutor's Office](#). National investigation into a related EU subsidy fraud case was completed in May 2021, but [returned to the police for further investigation](#) in September.

 **Prosecutorial independence:** Czechia has so far failed to implement a reform guaranteeing prosecutorial independence. The Chief Prosecutor recently resigned, citing pressure from the Minister of Justice as one of the reasons.

 **Media freedom:** The government has reportedly [sought to influence the public broadcaster](#) Czech Television by [packing its supervisory board](#) with supporters. Media groups and Czech opposition politicians expressed concerns that this would undermine the public broadcaster's autonomy. The supervisory board does not control editorial content but can fire the director-general. This is problematic, especially considering the increased oligarchisation of private media.

## Elections at a glance

**When?** 8-9 October 2021

**Who is being elected?** All 200 members of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of parliament

**Who is leading the polls?** [Politico/Kalman](#)

- ANO (RE) **26 %**
- SPOLU: ODS (ECR), TOP 09 (EPP) and KDU-ČSL (EPP) **21 %**
- Pirates (Greens/EFA) and STAN (EPP) **18 %**
- SPD (ID) **11 %**
- KSČM (GUE/NGL) **6 %**
- ČSSD (S&D) **5 %**
- Promise (-) **5 %**

**System of government:** bicameral parliamentary system, with a directly elected president

**Electoral system:** proportional representation, with 5 % electoral threshold

**Elections and covid-19:**

- No vaccination requirement, masks required at polling stations.
- Postal and electronic voting is not possible.
- Voting abroad is possible at Czech embassies and consulates.

## Key numbers & facts

• [Freedom House Freedom in the World 2021](#)

**Score 91/100, free** (14/27 in the EU)

• [RSF World Press Freedom Index 2021](#)

**Global Rank 40/180** (19/27 in the EU)

• [TI Corruption Perception Index 2020:](#)

**Global Rank 49/180** (19/27 in the EU)

• [Eurobarometer on Rule of Law 2019:](#)

**73% of surveyed Czechs** called for improvement in terms of properly investigating corruption involving public officials and politicians (62 % EU average); 65 % of those surveyed acknowledged the need for excluding influence of politicians and economic interests over those investigating corruption (55 % EU average).

• [Implementation of leading ECtHR judgments](#)

**4 % pending from the last 10 years** (45 % European average)

## Further reading

[EU 2021 Rule of Law Report Czechia](#)

[Eurobarometer on Corruption](#)