Country: Lithuania

Years: 1990-1991

Leader: Vytautas Landsbergis

Ideology: right

Description: CHISOLS identifies Landsbergis’s party as Sajudis. World Statesmen (2019) also identifies the party as Sajudis/LPS (Reform Movement of Lithuania). Political Handbook of the World (2017: 900) identifies party as TS-LK, writing that “TS(LK) leader Landsbergis [secured] 16 percent. Political Handbook of the World (2008: 786) identifies ideology as rightist: “the TS(LK) presented itself as a right-of-center party.” Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that TS-LK is a rightist party. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of the Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) as 7.6. Rohrschneider and Whitefield (2009) identify TS-LK’s oppose-support market score as 5 and its support-oppose welfare score as approximately 5 on scales from 1-7. Döring and Manow (2019) identify TS-LK’s and TS-LKD’s party family as conservative.

Years: 1992-1997

Leader: Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Brazauskas’s party as LDDP. DPI identifies LDDP’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 869), however, writes that “The LDDP scored a surprising victory in the 1992 parliamentary balloting, winning 42.6 percent of the vote on a platform of gradual transition to a market economy”, after DPI identifies LDDP’s ideology as leftist. Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that LDDP is a leftist party. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 869), however, writes that “the LDDP scored a surprising victory in the 1992 parliamentary balloting, winning 42.6 percent of the vote on a platform of gradual transition to a market economy; the party's leader, Algirdas Brazauskas, was subsequently confirmed as president.” Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Brazauskas’s as leftist. Döring and Manow (2019) identify LDDP’s party family as social democracy. Sužiedėlis (2011: 81) identifies Brazauskas as leftist, writing that he is the “former first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party, leader of major Lithuanian leftist parties, and president and prime minister of Lithuania”. Hass (2006: 814) identifies Brazauskas as leftist, writing that “Bringing together the most important left-wing parties under Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas’s leadership, [The Lithuanian Social Democratic Coalition] gained the most votes and seats, although they did not manage to form a majority coalition.” In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.356) in 1992 and “Center-left” (-1.187) in 1996.

Years: 1998-2002

Leader: Valdas Adamkus

Ideology: rightist

Description: CHISOLS identifies Adamkus’s party as none. World Statesmen (2019) also identifies Adamkus as “non-party”. Club de Madrid (2020) identifies him as rightist, writing “During his time in the US, Adamkus was an active member of the Republican Party.” Sužiedėlis (2011: 57) writes that “[Adamkus] also entered local Chicago politics as a Republican”. Ramonaite (2002: 22) writes that “Neither of the two candidates of the second round of the presidential elections had explicit positions on the left-right axis. Rolandas Paksas and Valdas Adamkus were both considered to be more or less of centrist orientation. The former president Adamkus declared his center-right orientation and was consistently supported by the right-wing parties, mainly Conservatives and Liberals. Before the second round, however, he was supported by ruling left-oriented Brazauskas coalition. Ramonaite (2002: 32) further writes that “In 1997/1998 presidential elections Adamkus ran as a nonparty candidate supported by the Lithuanian Center Union. The Center Union as well as the nonpartisan team of Adamkus were trying to present a liberal political program cutting across the traditional polarization between the anti-communist and mildly nationalist right and ex-communist left. Even though Adamkus’ position was ideologically well-founded, the liberal – anti-liberal political dimension appeared to be irrelevant in Lithuania. In 1998 Adamkus won in the second round of the presidential elections as a center-right candidate rather than an advocate of liberalism.” Krupavicius (2003: 1010) writes that “Adamkus was not a member of any party, but enjoyed wide centre-right backing.”

Year: 2003

Leader: Rolandas Paksas

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Paksas’s party as LLDP. DPI identifies LLDP’s ideology as rightist. Bugajski (2002: 142-143) identifies party as Lithuanian Liberal Union (*Lietuvos liberalų sąjunga* - *LLS*), or Lietuvos Liberalu Sajunga (LLS) before 2002. Political Handbook of the World (2015: 870) identifies his ideology as rightist: “Formed in March 2002 by former Prime Minister Rolandas Paksas and other LLS defectors, the center-right Liberal Democratic Party pledged to support the business sector and to guarantee “order in the state.” Armingeon et al. (2018) agree that LLS is a rightist party. World Statesmen (2021) identifies his party as Liberal Democratic Party. It describes the party as rightist, “center-right.” Ramonaite (2002: 22) writes that “neither of the two candidates of the second round of the presidential elections had explicit positions on the left-right axis. Rolandas Paksas and Valdas Adamkus were both considered to be more or less of centrist orientation. Paksas began his political carrier in the rightist Conservatives party and later became the leader of the Liberal Union. In the eve of the presidential elections, however, he left the Liberal Union and created his own party – Liberal Democrats – that did not have any clear ideological orientation. Although liberal attitudes seem to dominate in his team, his populist rhetoric was mainly directed to the traditional voters of Lithuanian left-wing parties.” World Statesmen (2020) notes that LDDP was renamed LDSP in 2001 (Social-Democratic Party of Lithuania). Furmanovicius (2020) states, “Paksas founded the centre-right Liberal Democratic Party (Liberalu Demokratu Parija; LDP) in March 2002. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify leader party’s ideology as “Center” (0.014) in 2004. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Paksas’s ideology as centrist. Döring and Manow (2019) identify LLS’s party family as liberal.

Years: 2004-2008

Leader: Valdas Adamkus

Ideology: rightist

Description: CHISOLS identifies Adamkus’s party as none. World Statesmen (2019) also identifies Adamkus as “non-party”. Club de Madrid (2020) identifies him as rightist, writing “During his time in the US, Adamkus was an active member of the Republican Party.” Sužiedėlis (2011: 57) writes that “[Adamkus] also entered local Chicago politics as a Republican”. Ramonaite (2002: 22) writes that “Neither of the two candidates of the second round of the presidential elections had explicit positions on the left-right axis. Rolandas Paksas and Valdas Adamkus were both considered to be more or less of centrist orientation. The former president Adamkus declared his center-right orientation and was consistently supported by the right-wing parties, mainly Conservatives and Liberals. Before the second round, however, he was supported by ruling left-oriented Brazauskas coalition. Ramonaite (2002: 32) further writes that “In 1997/1998 presidential elections Adamkus ran as a nonparty candidate supported by the Lithuanian Center Union. The Center Union as well as the nonpartisan team of Adamkus were trying to present a liberal political program cutting across the traditional polarization between the anti-communist and mildly nationalist right and ex-communist left. Even though Adamkus’ position was ideologically well-founded, the liberal – anti-liberal political dimension appeared to be irrelevant in Lithuania. In 1998 Adamkus won in the second round of the presidential elections as a center-right candidate rather than an advocate of liberalism.” Krupavicius (2003: 1010) writes that “Adamkus was not a member of any party, but enjoyed wide centre-right backing.”

Years: 2009-2018

Leader: Dalia Grybauskaite

Ideology: rightist

Description: Perspective Monde (2019) identifies party affiliation as none. Perspective Monde (2019) identifies Grybauskaite’s ideology as rightist. Deloy (2014) writes that “outgoing head of State Dalia Grybauskaite, who stood as an independent candidate but with the support of the centre-right opposition - Homeland Union-Conservatives (TS-LK), the Christian Party (KP) and the Liberal Movement (LRLS) was re-elected to the Presidency of the Republic of Lithuania” and that “the Lithuanians elected the Social Democratic Party in the European vote and elected the liberal candidate in the presidential election.” Jastramskis (2020: 10) indicates the Grybauskaite is an independent candidate, backed right-wing parties, writing that “right wing parliamentary parties Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) and Liberals’Movement of the Republic of Lithuania (LRLS) did not raise their candi-dates in the 2009 and 2014 presidential elections and endorsed Dalia Grybauskaitė.” CHISOLS identifies Grybauskatie’s party as none.

Years: 2019-2020

Leader: Gitanas Nauseda

Ideology: Rightist  
Description: World Statesmen (2021) identifies Nauseda as “non party.” Hyndle-Hussein (2019) identifies Nauseda as “[an] independent candidate.” Deutsche Welle (2019) describes Nauseda as “a center-right pro-EU political novice” who “spent his career in commercial banking,” and quotes Nauseda saying, “In Germany, I realized that the Western way of life and the market economy is the right path, and that naïve ideas about some half-way or third way were complete nonsense. My Western attitudes are only getting stronger.” Xuequan (2018) notes, “Lithuania’s opposition Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) party put 12 candidates for the 2019 presidential election on Monday, including prominent politicians and other public leaders on the list. . . [when naming the first three names] the former banker and economist Gitanas Nauseda.” Ortiz de Zarate (2021) writes, “the Union of the Fatherland-Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD), a center-right party that governed for the last time in 2012,” or “la Unión de la Patria-Cristiano demócratas Lituanos (TS-LKD), partido de centro-derecha que gobernó por última vez en 2012.” The Editors of *The Lithuania Tribune* (2018) states that Nauseda declined an endorsement from TS-LKD and decided to run as an independent, ““After thoroughly considering this proposal, I, nevertheless, have to state that my bid to take part in the 2019 presidential election with an independent election agenda and team would look dubious in the public eye if I based it on the financial and organizational support of one of the political parties,” Nausėda writes in a letter to the TS-LKD chairman, which was also posted on his Facebook account. . . According to Nausėda, “controversial assessments would spark political speculations that would interfere with my goal to represent the people of Lithuania in building a welfare state. . . Another important presidential goal would also be unachieved, which is to unite citizens with different political views and look for common grounds and solutions. I am honest and open to all voters, therefore, I am choosing the more difficult path of an independent candidate not only declaring but really, consistently and patiently seeking support from people with different views and social statuses,” the former SEB analyst said, motivating his decision.” From what I can tell, Nauseda was grouped with two other conservative candidates who did accept a nomination from TS-LKD, a conservative party.”” Mokgatle (2019) describes Nauseda as “a centrist.” Grigas (2020) describes Nauseda (and Simonyte) as “center-right politician.”

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