

# George Simion: Profile for 2025 Romanian Presidential Election

## 1. Background & Rise to Prominence

- **Born** in 1987 (age 38 during campaign), Simion is the leader and founding figure of the **Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR)**, a hard-right nationalist party often compared to MAGA-style populism [AP News+15](#)[Wikipédia+15](#)[Reuters+15](#).
- First gained attention as an activist in the 2019 ethnic dispute over the Valea Uzului military cemetery, where he took a strong nationalist stance ; later turned political leader of AUR representing anti-establishment sentiment [Wikipédia](#).

## 2. Campaign & Ideological Positioning

- Positioned as a **hard-right, eurosceptic populist**, Simion drew inspiration from Donald Trump and aligned himself with nationalist movements across Europe, including admiration for Giorgia Meloni's leadership in Italy [Reuters+15](#)[Reuters+15](#)[Reuters+15](#).
- During the campaign he was critical of EU authority, opposed military aid to Ukraine, and advocated resource nationalization, tax cuts, and public sector reductions [Reuters](#).
- Despite strong nationalist rhetoric, Simion describes himself as “Eurorealist” rather than fully Eurosceptic, and endorsed pragmatic use of the EU single market for economic benefit [Reuters+15](#)[Wikipédia+15](#)[Reuters+15](#).

## 3. 2025 Campaign Momentum

- The **rerun election on 4 May 2025** followed annulment of the previous year's election due to alleged Russian interference favoring ultranationalist Călin Georgescu [Omni+6](#)[Wikipédia+6](#)[AP News+6](#).
- Simion decisively **won the first round**, capturing **~40.96 % of the vote**, leading in 36 out of 47 counties and securing ~61 % of the diaspora; he advanced to the runoff against Nicușor Dan [Reuters+5](#)[Reuters+5](#)[Wikipédia+5](#).
- His strong populist surge was framed as a backlash against political elites and growing economic grievances among voters [AP News+3](#)[Reuters+3](#)[Wikipédia+3](#).

## 4. Runoff & Aftermath

- In the **second round on 18 May 2025**, Simion was defeated by centrist **Nicușor Dan**, who won with **~54 %** vs Simion's **~46 %** of the vote (some reports cited 53.6% vs 46.4%) [AP News+10](#)[Reuters+10](#)[Wikipédia+10](#).
- Simion disputed the results and announced plans to **challenge the outcome legally**, alleging interference by France and Moldova; however, Romania's Constitutional Court **unanimously rejected** the appeal on 22 May [Reuters+1](#)[Reuters+1](#).

## 5. Policy Vision & Public Reaction

- Simion proposed nationalizing key resources, cutting public-sector jobs, slashing taxes, reducing EU dependence, and reversing support for Ukraine—a stark contrast to Dan’s pro-EU, anti-corruption platform [Reuters+1](#)[Reuters+1](#).
- International observers expressed concern that a Simion presidency could isolate Romania, threaten NATO cohesion on its eastern flank, and deter foreign investment [Reuters+1](#)[Wikipédia+1](#).

## 6. Support Base & Electoral Profile

- Simion's core support came from **rural and working-class voters**, older age groups, and the Romanian diaspora—especially among men and those with primary education; in contrast, Dan's support was stronger among urban, younger, and higher-education groups [Wikipédia](#)[Reuters](#)[Reuters](#).
- Exit poll data highlighted demographic splits: Simion led among men (~41.6 % vs Dan's ~18.8 %) and rural voters (~44.5% vs Dan ~12.9%), while Dan led among higher-education voters (~38.5 %) and urban residents (~27.4 %) [Wikipédia](#)[Reuters](#).

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### Summary Snapshot

Attribute	Details
<b>Full Name</b>	George-Nicolae Simion
<b>Born</b>	1987 (38 in 2025)
<b>Party</b>	AUR (Alliance for the Union of Romanians)
<b>First Round Performance</b>	~40.96 % (won 4 May first round)
<b>Runoff Performance</b>	~46 % (lost to Dan in second round)
<b>Ideology</b>	Nationalist, eurosceptic, anti-establishment
<b>Policy Focus</b>	Tax cuts, resource nationalization, anti-EU stance
<b>Base Support</b>	Rural areas, diaspora, lower-education voters