

# Romanian 2025 Presidential Election: General Electoral Rules

## 1. Constitutional & Legal Basis

- The Romanian Constitution sets out the presidency as a directly elected office serving a **five-year term**, renewable **once consecutively** [presidency.ro+8OSCE+8SSRN+8Wikipédia+9Wikipédia+9electionguide.org+9](#).
- Key eligibility includes:
  - Romanian citizen
  - At least **35 years old**
  - Romanian residency/domicile as per constitutional requirements [Europe Elects+1Wikipédia+1Wikipédia+1Wikipédia+1](#).

## 2. Candidacy Requirements

- Candidates must collect at least **200,000 valid signatures** from registered voters and submit them to the Central Electoral Bureau by the prescribed deadline, defined in **Law 370/2003** [Wikipédia+3Wikipédia+3Wikipédia+3](#).
- Certain public officials are barred from running, including Constitutional Court judges, the ombudsman (Avocatul Poporului), active magistrates, active military/police personnel, and any legally disqualified public servants [A1 Jazeera+9Wikipédia+9Wikipédia+9](#).

## 3. Electoral System & Scheduling

- The presidential election employs a **two-round majority system**:
  - If a candidate obtains **>50 % of registered-voter votes** in Round 1, they win outright.
  - Otherwise, a **runoff** is held two weeks later between the top two finishers; the runoff winner wins by **plurality** [Wikipédia+12Wikipédia+12A1 Jazeera+12A1 Jazeera](#).
- After the annulment of the November 2024 election, the rerun was officially scheduled:
  - **First round:** 4 May 2025
  - **Second round** (if needed): 18 May 2025 [Wikipédia+3Wikipédia+3OSCE+3](#).

## 4. Ballot Access & Disqualifications

- The **Central Electoral Bureau (BEC)** must validate each candidacy after reviewing signatures and legal eligibility [Wikipédia+2Wikipédia+2Wikipédia+2](#).
- **Candidates may be disqualified** if their public statements or actions conflict with constitutional requirements—e.g. ultranationalist figures violating democratic values were barred (e.g., Călin Georgescu, Diana Șoșoacă) [Wikipédia+5Verfassungsblog+5Wikipédia+5](#).

## 5. Campaign Regulations & Oversight

- The legal framework, based on existing legislation and recent amendments, permits **domestic and international observers**, while noting that independent candidates face certain limitations (e.g. not allowed to designate proxy agents at polling stations) [OSCE+1Wikipédia+1](#).
- Observers reported technical integrity and adherence to fundamental voter rights, but also highlighted high legal complexity and last-minute campaign-rule changes without wide consultation [epde.orgoscepa.org](#).

## 6. Post-Round Procedures

- If no candidate exceeds 50 % of votes in Round 1, only the **top two candidates** proceed to the **runoff** [CSIS+1Europe Elects+1](#).
- Official results are released by the **Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP)** and ratified after review.
- Candidates can contest results; in the 2025 election, George Simion legally challenged the outcome but the Constitutional Court **rejected the appeal** and upheld Nicușor Dan's victory [CSIS+4Wikipédia+4Wikipédia+4](#).

## 7. Election Integrity & Observation

- International missions, including the **OSCE/ODIHR** and **Expert Forum (EPDE)**, observed the election; they affirmed that fundamental rights and procedural standards were largely upheld, despite public distrust rooted in the prior election annulment and institutional opacity [epde.org](#).

## 8. Presidential Powers & Institutional Role

- The President:
  - Commands the armed forces
  - Appoints the Prime Minister (subject to parliamentary support)
  - May veto legislation once
  - May dissolve Parliament if no government is formed within 60 days after two failed confidence votes [Verfassungsblog+2CSIS+2Wikipédia+2](#).



## Summary of Key Rules

- **Term length:** 5 years (max two consecutive terms)
- **Eligibility:** ≥ 35 years old, Romanian citizen and resident
- **Candidacy:** 200,000+ signatures; legal restrictions on certain public figures
- **Voting system:** absolute majority in two-round runoff
- **Election dates:** First round — 4 May 2025; Runoff — 18 May 2025

- **Supervision:** BEC & Permanent Electoral Authority; international/domestic observers
- **Disqualifications:** Based on constitutional loyalty and legal compliance
- **Post-election adjudication:** Constitutional Court reviews any legal challenges
- **Institutional functions:** President appoints PM, can veto laws, dissolve Parliament under certain conditions