

Current Political Parties and Leaders of Pakistan



Current Govt: Pakistan Muslim League (PMNLN)

previous Gov: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

Current Govt: Pakistan People's Party (PPP)

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Current Political Parties and Leaders of Pakistan title can be described as the Pakistan is a multi-party democracy. The country has many political parties and many times in the past the country has been ruled by a coalition government. The Parliament of Pakistan is bicameral, consisting of the National Assembly of Pakistan and the Senate.

Mainstream political parties

Pakistan Muslim League (N)

The Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz is a Pakistani conservative political party that was founded in 1993 by senior politician, Nawaz Sharif. The party was founded as an offshoot of the Pakistan Muslim League, but is now its largest faction. It is currently still led by its founder Nawaz Sharif and is ideologically conservative as well as shares similarities with Nawaz's previous party, the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad. It saw rapid growth under Nawaz Sharif in the 1990s as it entered a two-party system with the Pakistan People's Party. It also advocates for economic privatization, as

Nawaz himself was a business owner. The party follows a free market capitalist and economically liberalist approach. It has developed a somewhat ideology around its leader Nawaz Sharif and has been led by members of the Sharif family. It has been right-wing for most of its existence but has shifted to a center-right position in recent years. It holds its base of power in Punjab, more specifically Lahore and has had 3 different prime ministers including Nawaz himself who served for the longest non-consecutive time (9 years). The prime ministers from the PML-N include Nawaz Sharif (3 terms), Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (1 term) and Nawaz's younger brother, Shehbaz Sharif (2 terms), who is serving right now.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is a political party founded in 1996 by cricketer-turned-politician, Imran Khan. The party was founded on the premise of bringing change to Pakistan and to bring a new face to Pakistani politics, as when the party was founded the PPP and PML-N ruled Pakistan in a de-facto two party system. It advocates for welfarism and has promoted turning Pakistan into a modern welfare state. It has often seen populism around Imran Khan, a former cricket star. It launched a large-scale anti-corruption campaign across Pakistan in the 2000s and 2010s which led to its victory in the 2018 Pakistani general election. It holds its base of power in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also holds significant popularity and influence across western Punjab, where Imran Khan is from. It has been widely seen as an anti-establishment party since 2022 as it clashed with Pakistan's military establishment. It was founded as a centrist party, though in 2024, some sources indicated that the party had shifted center-right due to its pro-Islamic unity teachings. Besides this it has advocated for rule of law and constitutionalism as part of its political alliance, the Tehreek Tahafuz Ayin. Despite being the largest political party in Pakistan in terms of membership, and in the top 10 largest parties worldwide, it has only had one prime minister, being Imran Khan himself who served for one term.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP)

The Pakistan People's Party is a political party founded in 1967 by statesman, barrister and senior politician, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. It is by far the oldest out of the top ruling parties in Pakistan and was the first Pakistani political party to lay out a manifesto and ideology. It was founded on the premise of socialism and to struggle against the military rule of Field Marshal Ayub Khan (1958-1969). It has also been characterized as Pakistan's first democratic party and has been left-wing for most of its existence with its founder, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto being a left-wing populist, though in the 21st century it has shifted to a center-left position. Zulfikar ruled Pakistan from 1971 until 1977, when he was overthrown and later hanged in 1979. The party has been widely seen as a dynastic political family party as it has seen its leadership pass down through the Bhutto family, which has seen a devoted cult of personality. After Zulfikar's death the party abandoned its socialist ideology and instead shifted to progressivism under Zulfikar's daughter, Benazir Bhutto. Benazir would be assassinated in 2007 and since then the party has been controlled by her husband, Asif Ali Zardari as well as her son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The party has been rivals with the PML-N for most of its existence but has joined hands with the PML-N against the PTI. Its main base of power is Sindh. The PPP is led by the Central Executive Committee and has seen 4 different prime ministers including: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (1973-1977), Benazir Bhutto (1988-1990, 1993-1996), Yusuf Raza Gillani (2008-2012) and Raja Pervaiz Ashraf (2012-2013).

Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP)

Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) is a far-right religious party that has gained increasing popularity since its formation. It is currently led by Saad Hussain Rizvi, the son of the party's founder, Khadim Hussain Rizvi. TLP follows the Barelvi school of thought and is known for its hardline stance on blasphemy laws and defense of Islamic values. In the 2024 elections, the party performed strongly, especially in Punjab, becoming the fourth-largest party in the National Assembly. TLP is known for organizing large-scale protests and street power demonstrations, often leading to national disruptions.

Awaam Pakistan (AP)

Awaam Pakistan (AP) is a newly formed centrist political party launched in July 2024 by former PML-N stalwarts Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail. The party was officially registered in January 2025 with the aim of creating a modern, reform-oriented alternative to traditional dynastic politics. It focuses on constitutional democracy, institutional reforms, fiscal responsibility, and governance accountability. Although it is still in its early stages, Awaam Pakistan is expected to appeal to the urban educated class and technocrats dissatisfied with mainstream political options.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI)

Jamaat-e-Islami is one of Pakistan's oldest religious parties, advocating for the establishment of an Islamic system of governance based on the Quran and Sunnah. It is now led by Hafiz Naeem Ur Rehman, who was elected as the party's Emir in April 2024. JI maintains influence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Karachi and focuses on education, justice, and Islamic values. The party often plays a significant role in alliance politics and is known for its organizational discipline and ideological clarity.

Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM)

Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) is a Shiite political organization led by Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri. The party was formed in response to sectarian violence and aims to protect the rights of Shia Muslims in Pakistan. It also promotes unity among Sunni and Shia communities and calls for religious harmony. MWM has participated in electoral politics at both local and national levels and has alliances with various secular and religious parties.

National Democratic Movement (NDM)

The National Democratic Movement (NDM) is a progressive political party founded in 2021 by Mohsin Dawar, a former leader of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM). The NDM focuses on minority rights, provincial autonomy, and opposition to military interference in civilian affairs. It represents a liberal, center-left ideology and has a strong presence among youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and tribal areas. The party continues to raise its voice for constitutional democracy and equal rights for all ethnic and religious groups.

Military's Role in Politics

While not a political party, the military establishment continues to have a profound influence on Pakistan's political system. General Asim Munir, the current Chief of Army Staff, was promoted to Field Marshal in May 2025. His leadership during the recent conflict with India and his coordination with the civilian government have made him a popular and powerful figure. The

military's involvement in political decision-making, judicial matters, and even electoral processes is a persistent reality, often overshadowing civilian rule in critical areas of national policy.