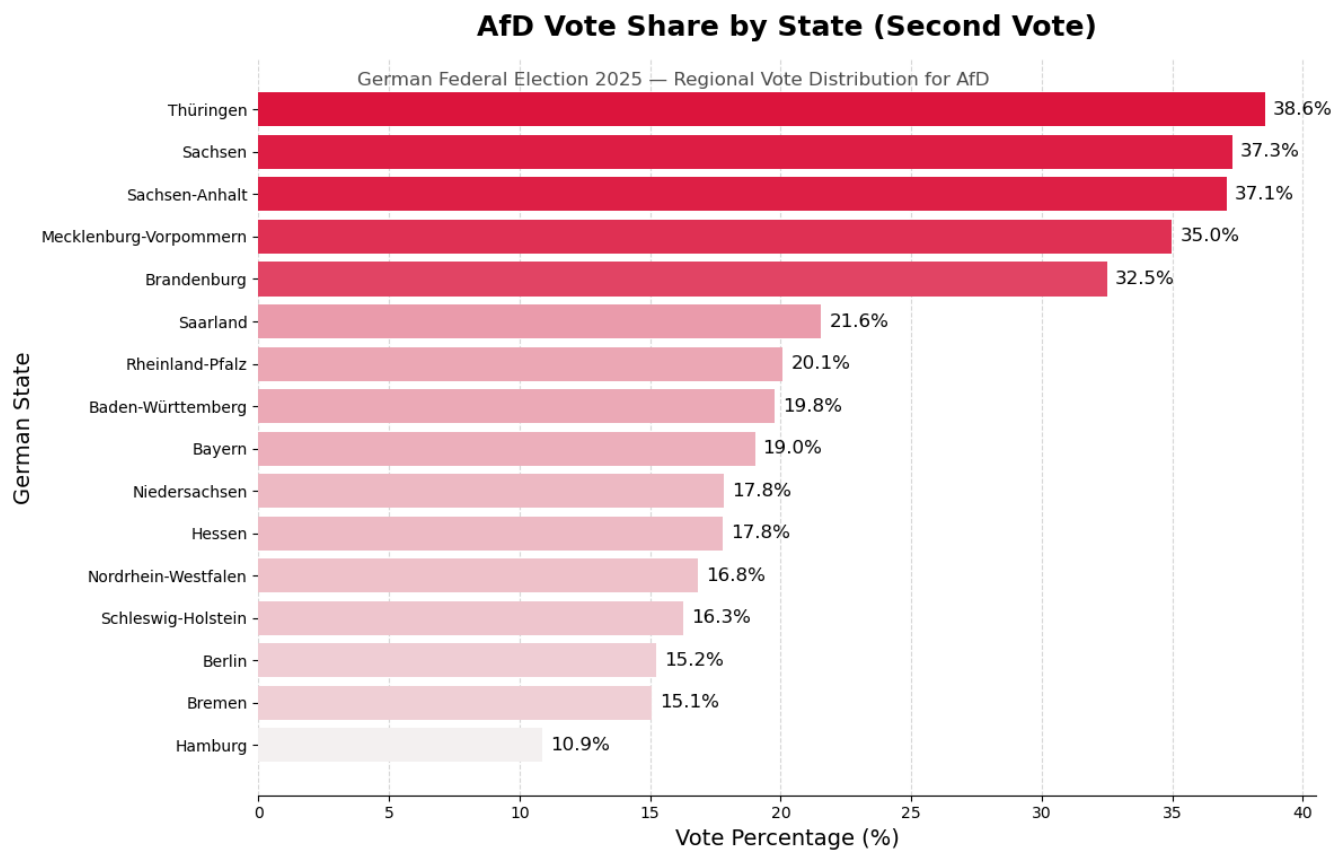


AfD’s Performance in the 2025 German Federal Election: A Regional and Demographic Story

Introduction

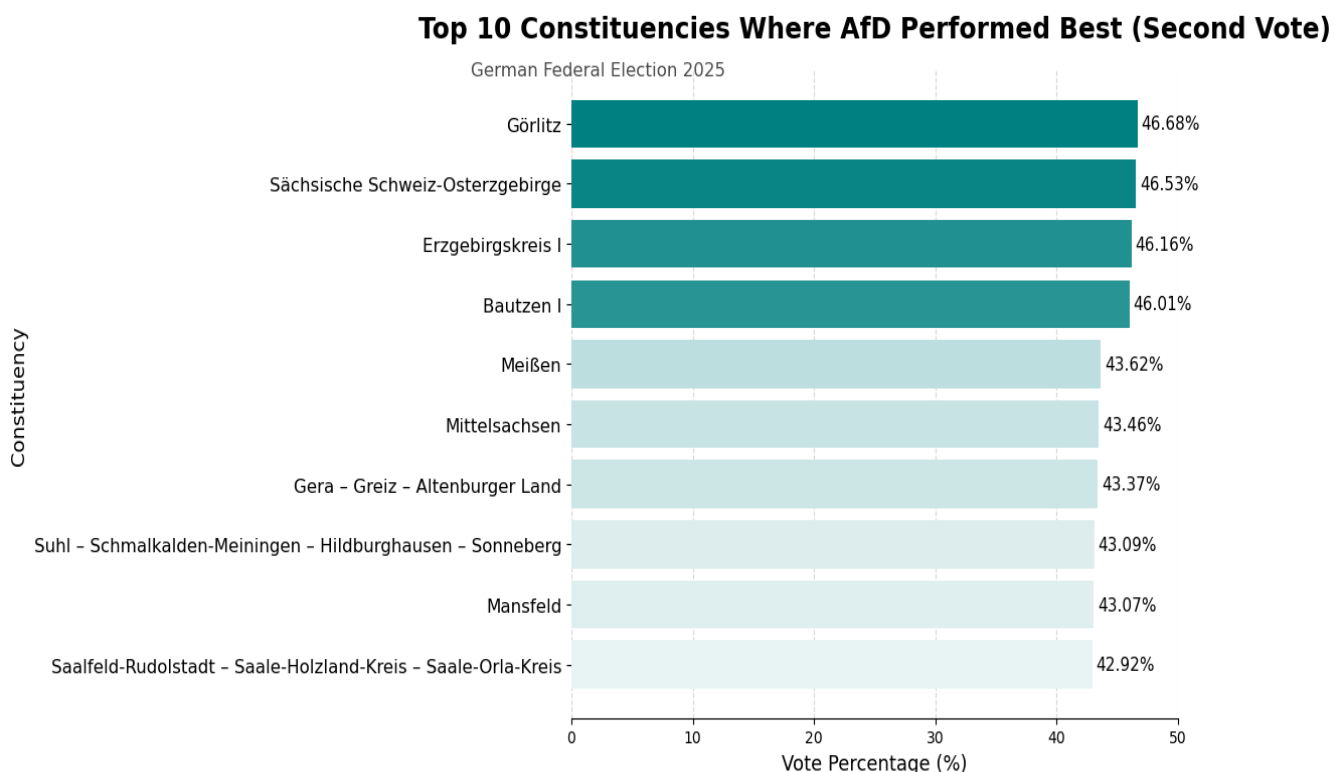
The 2025 German federal election showed a sharp rise in support for the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), especially in eastern regions. Their vote share varied widely strong in some areas, weak in others. This visual story explores where AfD performed best, and how factors like region, population, and demographics influenced the outcome.

Where AfD Found Its Strongest Voice



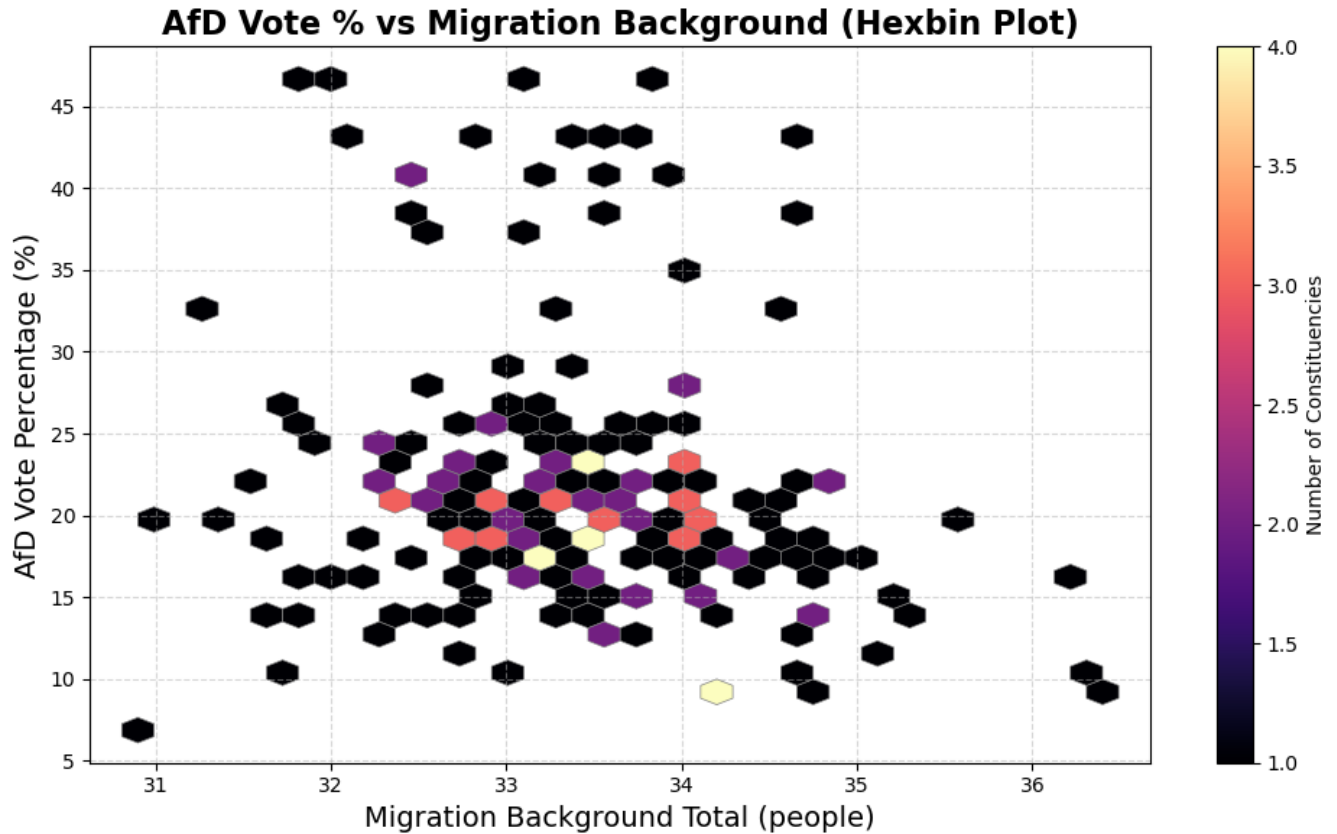
In the 2025 federal election, the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) saw a powerful surge of support not evenly spread, but deeply rooted in specific regions. The bar chart shows that eastern states like Thüringen, Sachsen, and Sachsen-Anhalt gave the party its strongest backing, with vote shares soaring above 37%. These regions, shaped by unique historical and economic experiences, stood apart from the rest. Meanwhile, western and urban states Hamburg, Bremen, and Berlin remained less receptive to the AfD’s platform, with support dipping as low as 10.9%. This striking east-west divide is more than just numbers. It reflects broader social and political dynamics where the AfD’s message resonates strongly in rural, less urbanized communities, but finds less traction in diverse, metropolitan areas. This chart isn’t just about where AfD performed well it reveals where their message truly took hold.

Strongholds of the AfD – A Closer Look at the Top 10 Constituencies



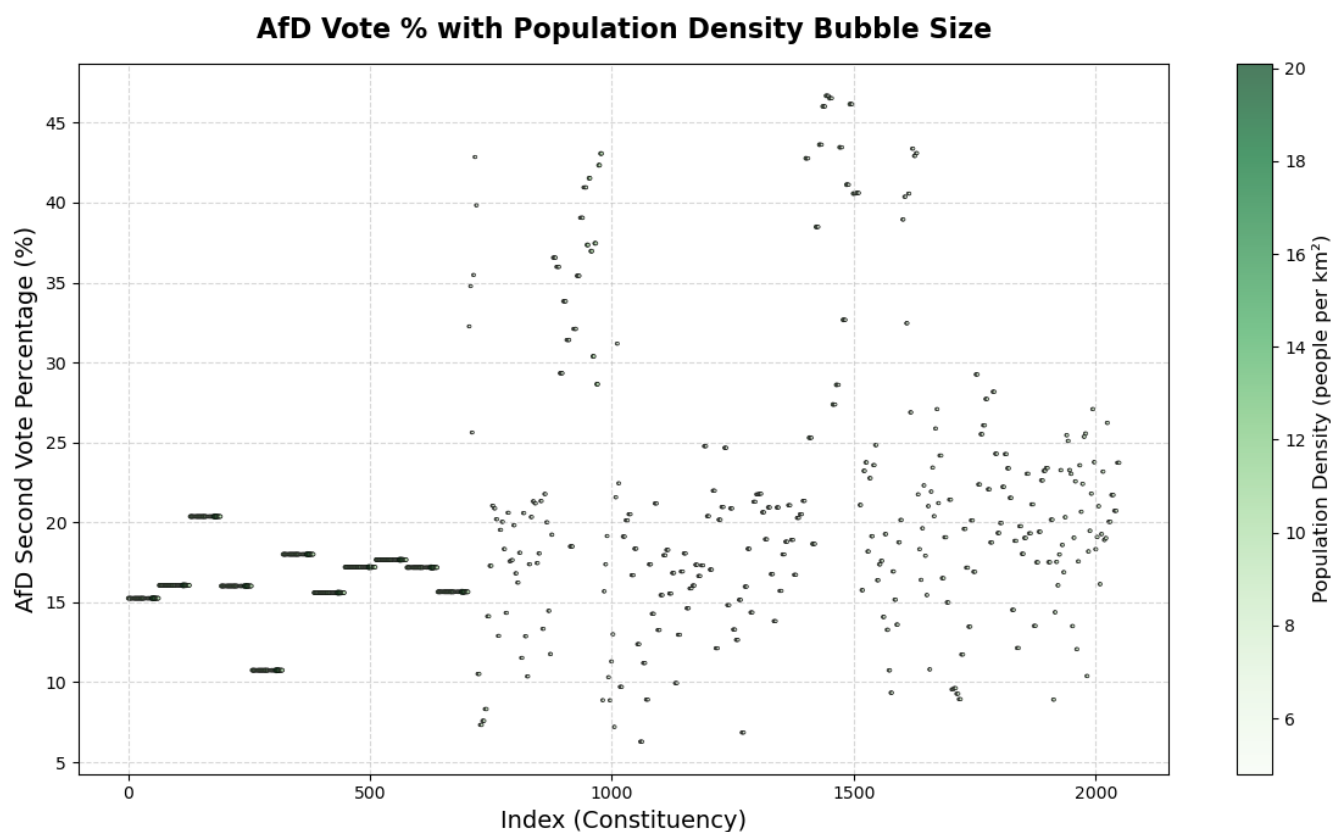
The state-level trends were revealing but the real story unfolds when we zoom in. This chart showcases the top 10 constituencies where AfD dominated the second vote, securing jaw dropping support of over 46% in some areas. Leading the pack is Görlitz, followed closely by Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge and Erzgebirgskreis I, all nestled in the eastern heartland of Germany. These aren't random spikes. They form a clear geographic and cultural cluster regions shaped by post-industrial decline, economic stagnation, and growing distrust in mainstream politics. Here, voters didn't just lean toward AfD they embraced it. With traditional parties struggling to address local concerns, AfD's strong messaging around national pride, public safety, and regional frustration appears to have struck a powerful chord. These districts now serve as the party's political backbone strongholds where AfD doesn't just compete; it leads. If the party is planning its future roadmap, this is exactly where it should begin.

How Migration Patterns Shape Political Preferences



As we move beyond geography, another layer of the AfD's support begins to emerge one shaped not by borders, but by people. This plot compares AfD vote percentages with the proportion of residents who have a migration background across German constituencies. Each hexagon represents a cluster of regions, and its colour reveals how many areas fall within that vote-diversity combination. What we see is striking: AfD support tends to decline as the share of people with migration background increases. The densest clusters those yellow and red hexes sit around 32% to 34% migration background and 15% to 25% AfD vote share. As migration rises beyond that, support for AfD thins out noticeably. This isn't just numbers on a chart. It points to a deeper narrative a party gaining traction in areas with fewer migrants, where change feels distant but feared, and where identity politics can flourish. There are, of course, exceptions but the trend is clear. In areas with fewer people from migration backgrounds, AfD tends to do better. Where diversity increases, their support usually drops. This pattern helps us understand where the party's message connects with voters and where it doesn't.

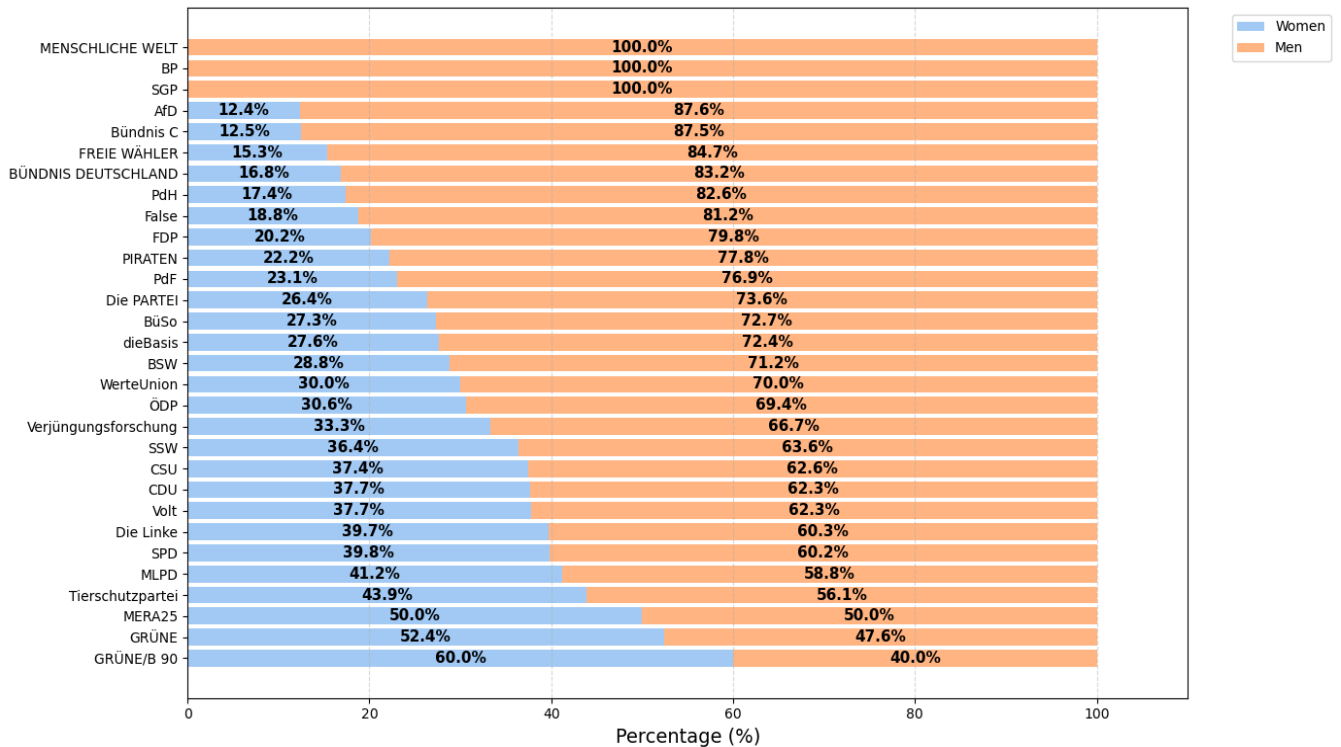
Where Density Meets Dissent: AfD Support vs Population Clusters



In politics, geography is more than just borders it's behaviour. This scatter plot reveals a powerful pattern: AfD support thrives where the crowds thin out. Each bubble here is a constituency. The higher it sits, the more votes AfD received. The bigger and darker it gets, the denser the population. But look closer the densest bubbles, those from big cities and metro regions, cluster low on the y-axis. Urban centres like Berlin, Hamburg, and Munich? AfD struggles to gain traction. Instead, the party's support surges in the smaller, quieter places scattered across the map like dots of resistance in the countryside. These aren't isolated cases. They're a reflection of how AfD's message resonates more in less populated areas, where people might feel distant from national policies, overlooked by traditional parties, or cautious of rapid change.

Men Rule the Ballot? Gender Breakdown by Party in 2025

Gender Representation by Party in Candidates (2025 German Federal Election)

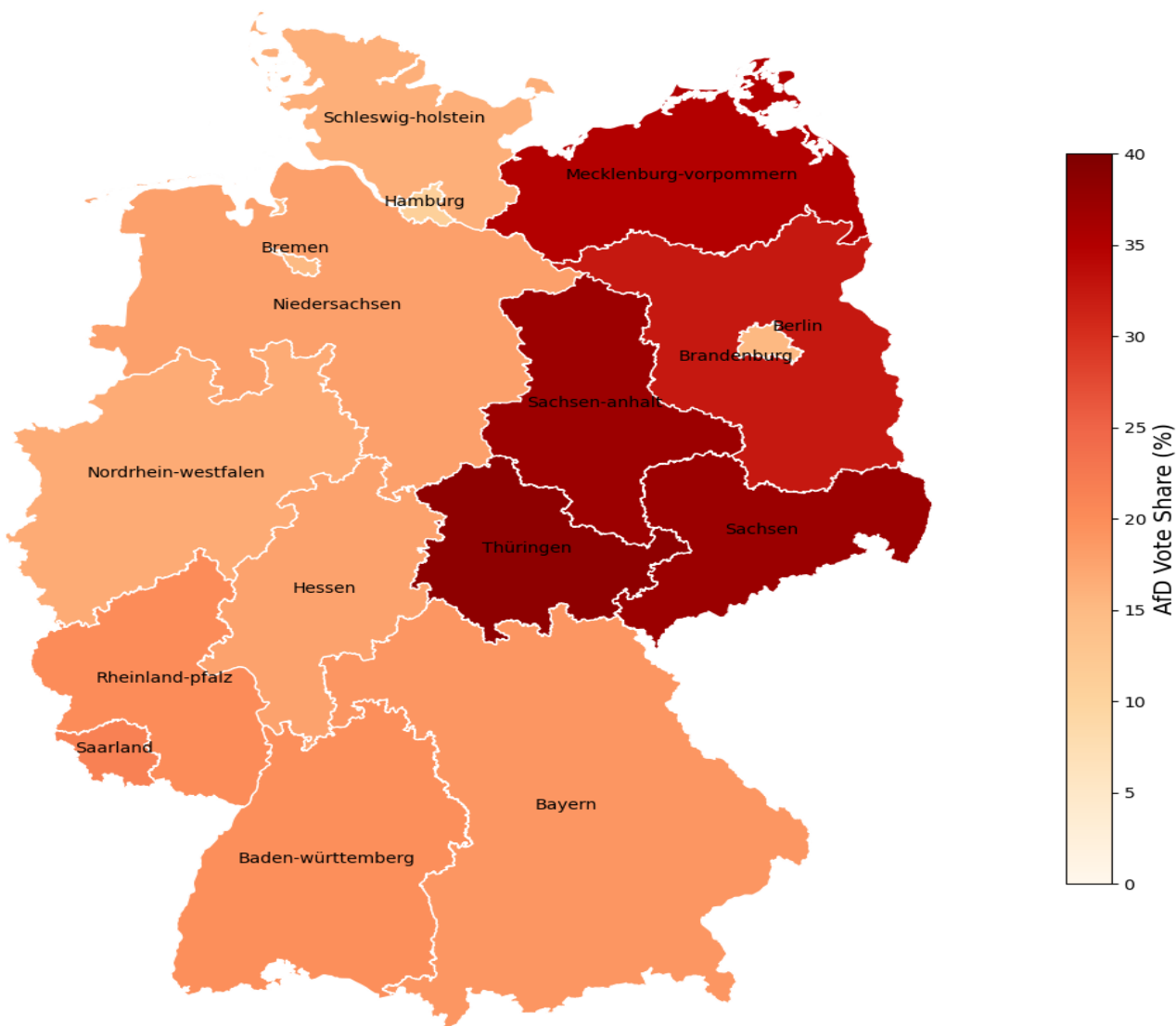


While vote counts and percentages paint one picture of democracy, candidate diversity reveals another often overlooked but just as telling. This chart breaks down the gender composition of candidates by political party in the 2025 German federal election. And the imbalance is hard to miss. At the far right, parties like MENSCHLICHE WELT, BP, and SGP fielded 100% male candidates no women on the ticket. AfD follows closely behind, with a striking 87.6% male candidate share, reflecting one of the lowest female representations among major parties. Meanwhile, at the other end of the spectrum, GRÜNE/B 90 stands out with 60% female candidates, the only party with a majority-female slate. GRÜNE, Volt, and Die Linke also show strong efforts toward balance, signaling a more inclusive approach to representation. The overall pattern is clear: while some parties move toward gender equity, many still lag behind especially those gaining traction in rural and conservative regions. In a democracy, who gets to run shapes who gets represented. And in 2025, that gap remains wide open.

Mapping AfD's Influence Across Germany

AfD Vote Share by German State (2025 Election)

Regional Vote Distribution — German Federal Election 2025



While the bar chart gave exact figures, this map offers instant clarity showing how AfD's influence is concentrated, not widespread. The deep reds in Thüringen, Sachsen, and Sachsen-Anhalt reveal where the party's message truly landed in the 2025 election. These eastern regions formed AfD's electoral backbone, with support soaring above 35%. Lighter shades across Hamburg, Bremen, and Berlin reflect a different story areas where the party struggled to gain momentum in more urban and diverse settings. This map doesn't just show numbers. It tells the story of a divided political landscape, where geography shapes belief, and location becomes a predictor of allegiance.

Conclusion

The 2025 German federal election wasn't just about numbers on a ballot it was a reflection of deeper divides across the country. AfD's rise, especially in the east, signals more than political momentum. It reflects a complex interplay of geography, identity, and disillusionment. From post-industrial towns to sparsely populated rural districts, AfD's message found resonance where people felt unheard places grappling with economic stagnation, demographic shifts, and rapid societal change. And yet, in more diverse, urban centres, the party's reach fades, revealing clear boundaries to its current appeal. This story isn't about winners or losers. It's about understanding *why* the support surged where it did. It's about listening to patterns the data reveals and the voices behind them. If the AfD wants to build on this momentum, the path forward isn't just about doubling down it's about evolving. Focusing on practical, people-first policies economic opportunity, digital inclusion, healthcare access especially in the areas where trust has eroded, could transform pockets of support into lasting political footholds. In the end, this election map isn't just a snapshot. It's a compass pointing not only to where AfD stands today, but where Germany, as a democracy, might be headed next.