

TURKEY REFERENDUM RESULT: INTERIM COMMENTARY

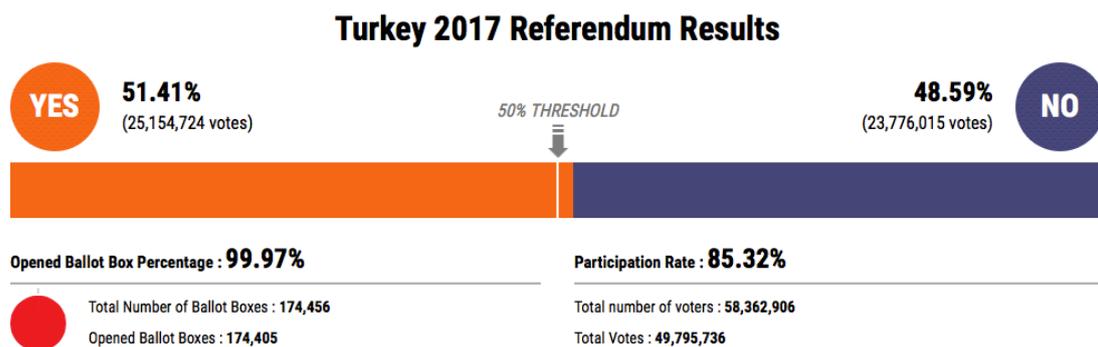
Summary Observations

The referendum on the change to a new ‘Presidential Constitution’ was approved by a narrow ‘Yes’ margin of 51.4%. This is below the governments clear mandate target of 55%.

The opposition parties CHP and HDP have already stated there were voting ‘irregularities’ and the vote result was ‘manipulated’. They intend to appeal the result and request the recount of over 40% of votes, however it is unlikely to overturn the result.

There are currently no major demonstrations against the vote result and because it was so close- government celebrations and usual mobilization of masses in city centers may be more muted, especially as the main metropolis cities of Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Antalya and Adana voted ‘No’ ,as well as the South East region of Turkey.

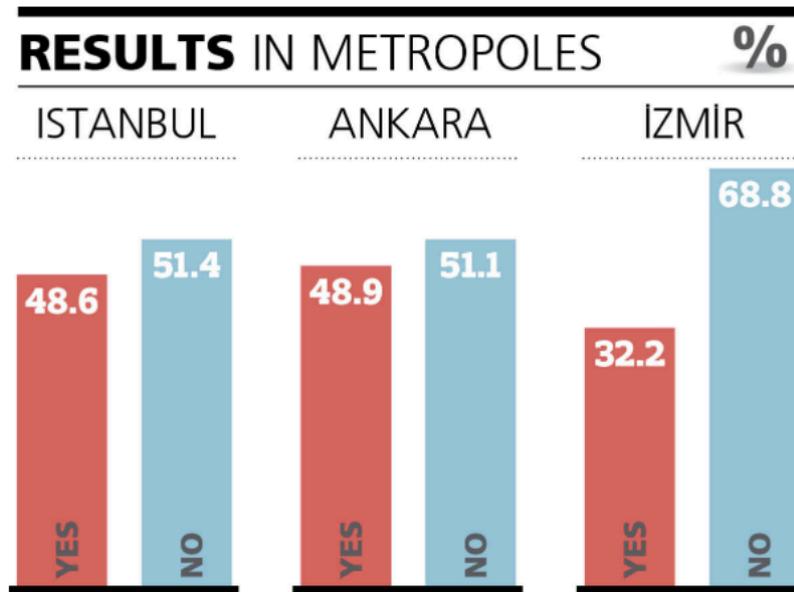
There is no indication at present the result will lead to major civil unrest or demonstrations in cities. The PKK or other terrorist organizations have yet to comment or respond to the election results.



The vote received a very high turn out of 85%, however as next page shows the vote could be called ‘populist’ in the same way as the recent US Elections and UK Brexit elections where the major urban cities and so called ‘educated masses’ voted against. The new constitution will come into place in 2019 following Presidential elections.



This final voting map shows the polarization of Turkey is as extreme as ever and also shows an ‘urban’ v ‘rural’ split between Anatolia and major city metropolis, western regions of Turkey.



Following the ‘Yes’ result, President Erdogan may now also call a referendum on bringing back the death penalty as he promised during referendum campaigning. This should be the next political indicator to watch, as it becomes a de facto vote on remaining in EU accession talks. A ‘Yes’ vote in this case, will reaffirm Turkey’s move from a European to an East Anatolian political, economic and sociological mindset

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The result by a narrow margin also leaves the Government and President Erdogan vulnerable to the impact of renewed terrorist attack action, especially in metropolis areas. The Government has promised the electorate a 'Yes' vote will bring stability and stop terrorism, the PKK, ISIS and other terrorist groups may decide otherwise to undermine these promises.

Alternatively, the long-term diplomatic move could be for the Government to start initiating a peace process with the PKK again, however to do so would be to go against the core 'Yes' voters who have opened the door for a new Constitution and Presidential powers.

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