



A GUIDE TO JAPAN'S 2021 GENERAL ELECTION

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TO MY READERS

I have to begin with an apology. The document I have shared is a rough draft, an unpolished version of what I had hoped would have been a more thorough, comprehensive guide to the general election. But then Suga resigned, the LDP leadership election got interesting, and then Kishida called a general election earlier than expected and in a much shorter time frame. I simply ran out of time to make this into what I wanted it to be. Nevertheless, I still hope you will find it of interest, perhaps something of a program for watching Japan's election night.

This is the latest version of something I have been doing since the 2009 general election, when I went prefecture by prefecture reviewing and forecasting that general election. I have what one might call obsessive tendencies. When it comes to watching Japan's elections, I don't feel comfortable commenting on it until I have looked closely at the single-member district races, which is, after all, where the election happens. I like to get my hands dirty with the data, whether that data is past results in a given constituency, public opinion polling, or qualitative data in the form of news reports or, when travel allows, my own first-hand visits. I try to use some combination of the above – plus my “gut” when it comes to calling close races – to make predictions about each district race. With more time, I would have been able to provide more granular details about each race and maybe make more confident forecasts. The maps, meanwhile, are courtesy of the excellent candidates2021.info. I encourage you to use their map tool to make your own forecasts in the hours before the polls close.

As it stands, I am not entirely sure how confident I am in this forecast. Is the scenario depicted here plausible? Absolutely – I feel confident that the LDP will lose dozens of seats on Sunday, 31 October. Would I put money on having the right number exactly on target? Not necessarily. I should also add that in the past I have tried to model proportional representation outcomes using a D'Hondt method calculator, estimating different outcomes based on turnout. I did not have the time for that approach, so the PR forecast included within is based on my best estimates after looking at the many publicly available polls and past PR election results. I should also add that this forecast is not based on a dramatic change in turnout compared with 2017 or 2014.

I still hope that this guide helps provide the “story” of the election, which I think is a story of three elections. The first, it features highly competitive races from the Kantō east and, to a lesser extent, west between Tokyo and Osaka. Second, in the latest “boom” phase in Ishin no kai's history of boom-and-bust cycles, Ishin is poised to deliver a major blow to LDP candidates in Osaka. Third, with a handful of exceptions, the LDP remains dominant west of Osaka, a major barrier to any opposition bid for power. Whatever the final numbers end up being, the general election will likely bear out this pattern.

Finally, thank you for your interest in this work. I welcome your comments, and hope to use this as the foundation for a more polished publication next general election.

-Tobias

THE 49TH GENERAL ELECTION

At 8pm JST on Sunday, 31 October, the polls will close for the forty-ninth election for Japan's House of Representatives, the lower house of the Diet.

A general election, voters will be selecting the 465 members of the lower chamber through a mixed-member electoral system. 289 are selected in single-member constituencies. The Supreme Court having ruled that elections conducted with excessive discrepancy in the ratio of the population of the most populous constituency to the least populous are in a "state of unconstitutionality," the Diet mandated periodic adjustments to keep the ratio at less than 2. Meanwhile, the remaining 176 are elected via proportional representation, distributed across eleven regional blocks. Voters cast two ballots, one for an individual candidate in the single-member district, one for a party in proportional representation. The system also enables "dual candidacies," whereby a candidate in a single-member district can be included on the party's PR list and "revived" via PR if the losing candidate performs well enough against the winner (relative to other losing candidates from his or her party).

There are a few key numbers when assessing the outcome of a general election. First, for a simple majority, a party (or coalition) needs to win **233** seats. A simple majority does not, however, ensure absolute control of the parliamentary process because parliamentary business is conducted via committees, and committee seats are distributed through a proportional formula. Therefore, for a stable majority, which refers to a ruling party or coalition controlling all chairmanships and exactly half the seats on committees, the winners need **244** seats. In this scenario, committee chairs might have to use their authority to break ties in their committees, which can be risky for the government. Even more secure for the ruling party or parties is **261** seats, the threshold for a "absolutely stable majority," giving the ruling parties majorities on every committee and therefore enabling them to move legislation out of committee without requiring extraordinary intervention from the chair. Finally, a ruling party or coalition needs **310** seats for a supermajority, necessary to pass constitutional amendments and overrule an upper house veto.

The Liberal Democratic Party, Japan's long-dominant ruling party, and its junior coalition partner Komeito entered the election campaign with 305 seats between them, 276 seats for the LDP and 29 for Komeito. They have been at or around the supermajority threshold for most of the past decade, since the 2012 general election ushered the coalition back into power after three years in opposition. The ruling coalition can afford to lose 72 seats before reaching what Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio has described as his "victory line," a simple majority for the ruling coalition. For the LDP itself, a loss of more than 43 seats would mean the loss of a simple majority for itself and would also come close to bringing the ruling coalition below the "absolutely stable majority" line.

While the ruling coalition's majority is not in danger, the following forecast will show that a loss of 40-50 seats for the ruling coalition – mainly the LDP – is well within the realm of possibility. This outcome will have significant implications for the ability of the newly

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formed Kishida government to move legislation, control ruling party backbenchers, and pursue potentially controversial policy changes.

The LDP was aware of the possibility, which is precisely why the party pressured former prime minister SUGA Yoshihide to not seek another term as the LDP's leader, freeing the party to choose a different party president to lead the ruling coalition into the general election that had to be held no later than 28 November due the end of the House of Representatives's four-year term in October. But it is unknown whether Kishida, who was not the popular choice to succeed Suga, will be able to forestall the more dire scenarios for the ruling party.

The opposition, meanwhile, is more energized than it has been since the 2009 general election that ushered the former Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) into power. While the opposition, led by the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP), a DPJ splinter party, is unlikely to win a majority in this general election, it is better positioned to reduce the LDP's majority than in any of the elections since the DPJ lost power in 2012. The most significant development has been the Japanese Communist Party's (JCP) "strategic turn." The JCP abandoned decades of resistance to cooperation with mainstream parties and reached an agreement with the Constitutional Democratic Party in which the JCP signaled that it would be willing to function as an outside partner of a CDP-led government. This agreement was accompanied by deepening electoral cooperation between the CDP and the JCP, as the latter agreed to stand down numerous candidates in single-member constituencies, constituencies where in past elections Communist candidates received more than enough votes to deprive other opposition candidates of victory over LDP candidates. The JCP will be running candidates in only 106 of 289 single-member districts, its lowest total since the new electoral system was introduced in 1996. Its 130 total candidates (including PR) are almost half as many as the 243 candidates it ran in 2017. At a stroke, dozens of electoral districts have become more competitive, with fewer non-LDP candidates dividing the vote.

The numbers bear it out. Coordination among opposition parties has resulted in only 1,051 candidates running overall, the lowest number under the current electoral system. 140 of the 289 single-member districts feature a head-to-head race between a ruling coalition candidate and a single opposition candidate. Another 69 districts feature an opposition alliance candidate plus an additional opposition candidate, most commonly from the Osaka-based Nippon Ishin party, which is trying to expand beyond the greater Osaka region. The competition between ruling coalition and opposition alliance has been made clearer by the parties' manifestos, as the LDP is running on a continuation of Abe's economic program ("Abenomics") with some new industrial policy additions and more robust national security policies, while the CDP and its partners are calling for policies to promote diversity and pluralism and build a larger welfare state, as well as foreign policy centered on diplomacy.

It will therefore be the most notable, and consequential general election Japan has had in years. It is the first election since ABE Shinzō left the premiership, giving voters the opportunity to pass judgment on his legacy. It is, of course, the first nationwide electoral

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test for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party-Komeito coalition since the Covid-19 pandemic began. It is the first electoral test for newly elected Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio. And, as LDP leaders have stressed, it is an opportunity for voters to render their judgment on the CDP's alliance with the JCP.

The most important question is what voters will make of all of this. To some extent, the most important feature of Abe's second administration (2012-2020) was low voter turnout in national elections. The 2012 general election that brought the LDP back into power saw turnout fall from 69.28% in 2009 to a postwar record low of 59.32%. Two years later, turnout plummeted even further, setting a new record low of 52.66%, and barely changed in 2017, rising to 53.68%. Turnout was similarly depressed in upper house elections in 2013, 2016, and 2019, falling below 50% in 2019. Low turnout enabled the LDP to retain large majorities because it meant that the LDP and Komeito "organized votes" were a relatively larger share of the electorate, as the voters who stayed home were generally independent "floating" voters who opposition parties have to turn out in order to win. By staying home, voters gave their tacit endorsement to Abe's administration and voiced their disapproval of the former DPJ and its successors as contenders for power. (It is not insignificant that "there is no alternative" was the most commonly given reason in opinion polls for supporting the Abe cabinet.) The CDP's alliance with the JCP is first and foremost a response to this trend, a new strategy for winning seats in an era when the opposition cannot rely on independents to turn out in great numbers.

Will voters come to the polls in greater numbers in 2021 than in 2017 or 2014? The early signs suggest that this year could be little different than before, which may work in the Kishida government's favor. But it would not take a large increase in turnout for the scenario outlined in this guide to look overly optimistic for the ruling coalition. Either way, we will know soon enough.

SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

	LDP	CDP	Komeito	Ishin	DPFP	JCP	Ind.	NHK	SDP
Hokkaido	4 (-1)	8 (+2)	0 (-1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tohoku	13 (-5)	10 (+5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kita-Kantō	24 (-4)	7 (+3)	0	0	0	0	1 (+1)	0	0
Minami-Kantō	17 (-9)	16 (+9)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tokyo	12 (-8)	12 (+8)	1 (-)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hokuriku-Shinetsu	9 (-4)	10 (+4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tokai	19 (-4)	12 (+6)	0	0	1 (-)	0	0 (-2)	0	0
Kinki	19 (-13)	5 (+2)	6 (-)	14 (+11)	2 (-)	0	1 (+1)	0 (-1)	0
Chugoku	18 (-1)	1 (-)	1 (+1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shikoku	7 (-1)	2 (-)	0	0	1 (-)	0	1 (+1)	0	0
Kyushu	18 (-10)	11 (+7)	0	0	1 (-)	1 (-)	3 (+3)	0	1 (-)
Total	160 (-60)	94 (+46)	8 (-)	14 (+11)	5 (-)	1 (-)	6 (+4)	0 (-1)	1 (-)

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION BLOCKS

	LDP	CDP	Komeito	JCP	Ishin	DPFP	Reiwa
Hokkaido (8)	3 (-)	3 (-)	1 (-)	1 (+1)	0	0	0
Tohoku (13)	6 (+1)	4 (+1)	2 (+1)	1 (-)	0	0	0
Kita-Kantō (19)	7 (-)	6 (+1)	2 (-1)	2 (+1)	1 (+1)	1 (+1)	0
Minami-Kantō (22)	8 (-)	6 (+1)	3 (+1)	2 (-)	2 (+1)	0	1 (+1)
Tokyo (17)	6 (-)	4 (-)	2 (-)	2 (-)	2 (-)	0	1 (+1)
Hokuritsu-Shinetsu (11)	4 (-1)	4 (+2)	1 (-)	1 (-)	1 (+1)	0	0
Tokai (21)	9 (+1)	6 (+1)	2 (-)	2 (+1)	2 (+1)	0	0
Kinki (28)	9 (-)	4 (-1)	4 (-)	3 (+1)	8 (+3)	0	0
Chugoku (11)	5 (-)	2 (-1)	2 (-)	1 (+1)	1 (+1)	0	0
Shikoku (6)	3 (-)	2 (+1)	1 (-)	0	0	0	0
Kyushu (20)	9 (+2)	6 (+3)	3 (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)	0	0
Total	69 (+3)	47 (+8)	23 (+1)	16 (+5)	18 (+8)	1 (+1)	2 (+2)

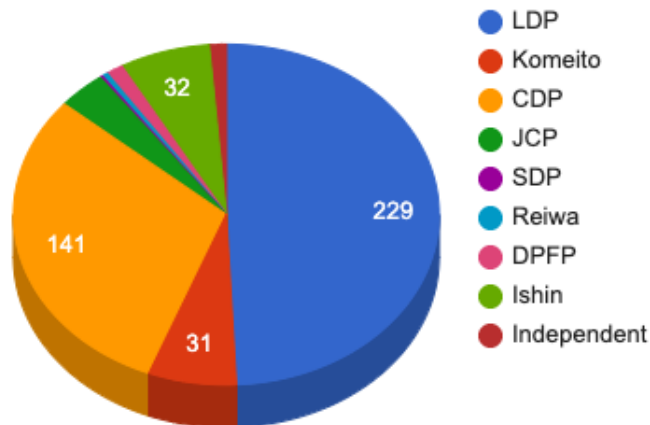
TOTAL SEAT TOTALS

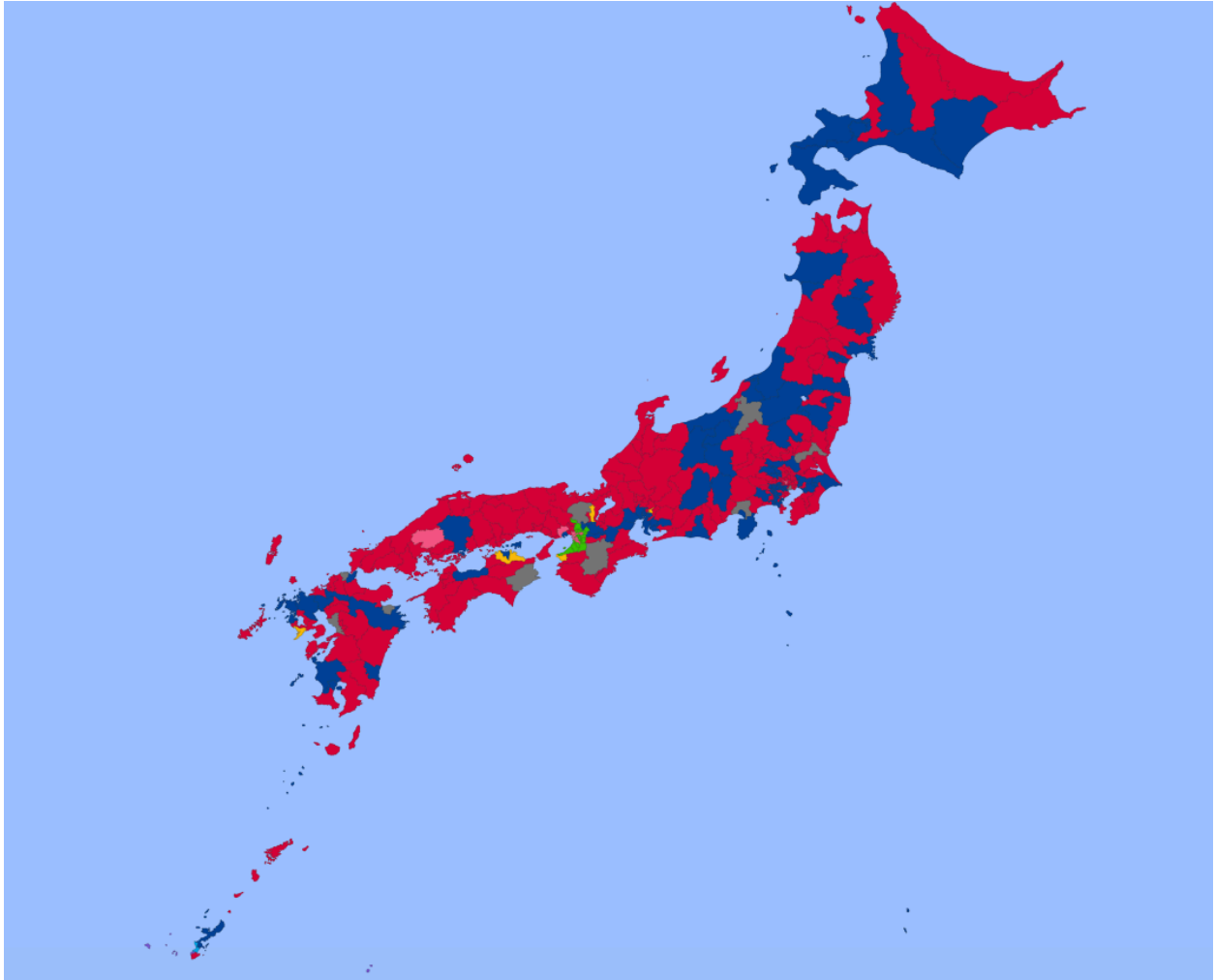
Party	LDP	Komeito	CDP	JCP	SDP	Reiwa	DPFP	Ishin	Ind.
SMD	160 (-60)	8 (-)	94 (+46)	1 (-)	1 (-)	0 (-1)	5 (-)	14 (+11)	6 (+4)
PR	69 (+3)	23 (+1)	47 (+8)	16 (+5)	0 (-1)	2 (+2)	1 (+1)	18 (+8)	0 (-)
Total	229 (-57)	31 (+1)	141 (+54)	17 (+5)	1 (-1)	2 (+2)	6 (+1)	32 (+19)	6 (+4)

If the LDP's 57-seat loss looks large – and larger than other estimates – that is partly a function of how I am counting wins and losses. In the several dozen districts where seats have been vacated by retirement or resignation, I am assessing the seat as a pickup or loss based on which party previously held the seat. As such, that makes the LDP's losses look bigger than otherwise. The numbers could shift post-election as victorious independents join ranks with other parties.

The bottom line is that the LDP could finish at or just below the 233 seats needed for an absolute majority independent of its coalition and the coalition will be around the 261 needed for an absolutely stable majority.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BALANCE





HOKKAIDO BLOCK

4,492,222 voters (October 2021)

Eight PR seats

12 Constituencies

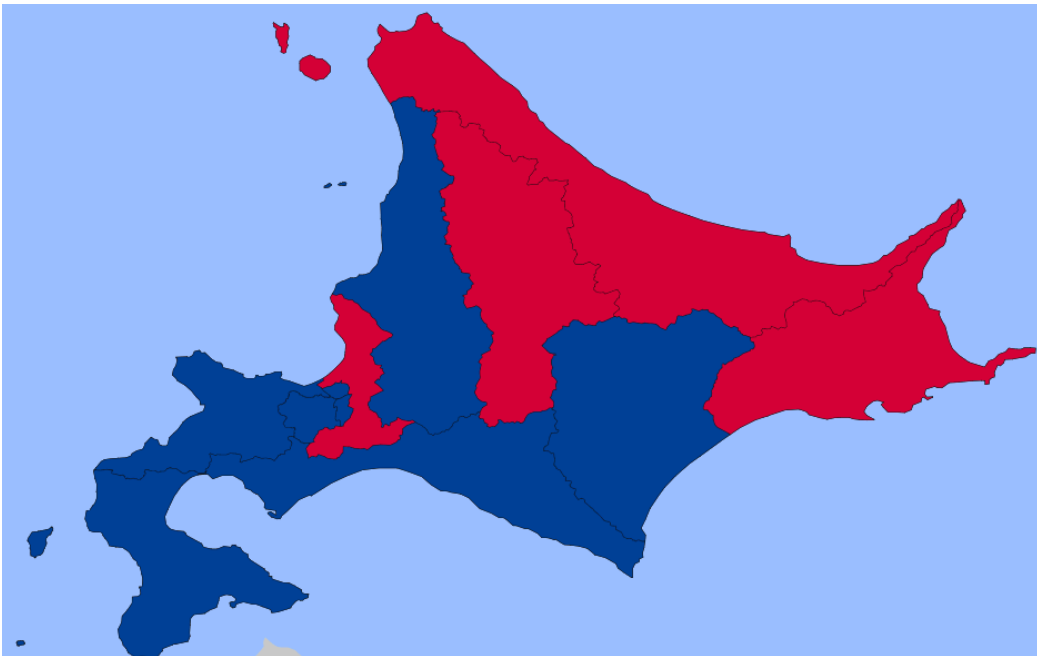
HOKKAIDO SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

Party	Total	Change
LDP	4	-1
CDP	8	+2
Komeito	0	-1

With the JCP agreeing to withdraw more candidates, my base case has the CDP winning the bulk of the prefecture's twelve districts, with Komeito and the LDP each losing one seat in the prefecture.

HOKKAIDO PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	3	-
CDP	3	-
Komeito	1	-
JCP	1	+1



NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION – PLEASE REQUEST PERMISSION FOR CITATION*****Hokkaido #1*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MICHISHITA Daiki	CDP	1x	n/a	道下大樹
<i>FUNAHASHI Toshimitsu</i>	LDP	2x	Aso	船橋利実
KOBAYASHI Satoru	Ishin	0x	n/a	小林 悟

This district, which represents most of prefectural capital Sapporo, has been represented by opposition candidates for all but one legislative term since the first election under the new electoral system in 1996. YOKOMICHI Takahiro, who represented Hokkaido's former first district for decades as a Socialist Party lawmaker, held the seat from 1996-2012 and from 2014-2017 as a Democratic Party of Japan lawmaker before retiring. Michishita, who won his first term in 2017, was a prefectural assembly member who had formerly worked as Yokomichi's secretary.

This seat's history as an opposition stronghold and Michishita's victory by a comfortable margin in 2017 over LDP candidate FUNAHASHI Toshimitsu suggest that Michishita should win a second term comfortably. However, the late entry of KOBAYASHI Satoru, Ishin no Kai's candidate, into the race complicates the outlook. The only time the opposition lost this seat was in 2012, when it was a four-way race as first iteration of Ishin no Kai and local party New Party Great Earth also fielded candidates. The national trend, Michishita's incumbency, and the likelihood that Kobayashi could take votes from both candidates suggests that the CDP should retain the seat, but the margin of victory could still be narrow.

CALL: CDP hold

Hokkaido #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
<i>MATSUKI Kenkō</i>	CDP	5x	n/a	松木謙公
TAKAHASHI Yusuke	LDP	0x	TBD	高橋祐介
YAMAZAKI Izumi	Ishin	0x	n/a	山崎泉

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Matsuki, who won this seat in the April 2021 by-election comfortably over a field comprised mainly of independents, has had a long and not entirely successful career in Hokkaido politics. Once a member of Ozawa Ichirō's Liberal Party, who followed Ozawa into the DPJ, Matsuki finished in second and won PR seats in Hokkaido's twelfth district in 2003 and 2005 and then defeated LDP veteran TAKEBE Tsutomu in 2009. But Matsuki was a rebellious DPJ member – he was disciplined for his participation in the movement to remove Prime Minister KAN Naoto in 2011, and lost the DPJ's endorsement in 2012. He lost that year running as a candidate from the New Party Daichi, a Hokkaido regional party, and then again as an upper house candidate in 2013, and then joined Ishin, under whose banner he ran in the second district in 2014. He won a PR seat in 2014 running behind LDP incumbent YOSHIKAWA Takamori, but lost badly in 2017 as a candidate from Tokyo Governor KOIKE Yuriko's Party of Hope. However, he managed to win the CDP's endorsement to run in the second district, and, when Yoshikawa was forced to resign due to a scandal, he had his chance to return to the Diet as a CDP lawmaker.

The field in the 2021 general election, however, will look different than the by-election. Most notably, Matsuki will face an LDP candidate, TAKAHASHI Yusuke, a local party functionary. Thanks to negotiations between the CDP and the JCP, Matsuki will not face a JCP candidate, strengthening his prospects given that the JCP has performed well in the district historically. Matsuki's incumbency and the overall national swing against the LDP should enable him to hold the seat.

CALL: CDP hold

Hokkaido #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ARAI Yutaka	CDP	0x	n/a	荒井優
TAKAGI Hirohisa	LDP	2x	Nikai	高木宏壽
KOWADA Yasufumi	Ishin	0x	n/a	小和田康文

Hokkaido's third district, which covers three wards in eastern Sapporo, has been the site of closely fought battles between the LDP and the opposition for most of its history. The retiring incumbent, ARAI Satoshi, had contested every election since the constituency was created, first as a DPJ candidate and then as a CDP candidate in 2017. In 2000, 2003, 2009, and 2017, he won the district outright; in 2005, 2012, and 2014, he ran fairly close races and won PR seats. In 2017, he won a comfortable nine-point victory to unseat the LDP's two-term incumbent TAKAGI Hirohisa, receiving 141,680 votes, the most he had received since the DPJ's landslide victory in 2009.

However, Arai has announced his retirement and, somewhat unusually for the CDP, his son ARAI Yutaka will be running in his place. Arai, a private school administrator, is

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new to politics but will benefit from his family name and a favorable climate for the opposition. Working in Takagi's favor is the presence of an Ishin candidates; no other candidates ran when Arai won in 2017, but Ishin and JCP candidates combined for more than 20% of the vote in both 2012 and 2014, far more than the difference between Takagi and Arai.

With the JCP agreeing not to run a candidate, ARAI is the likely favorite.

CALL: CDP hold

Hokkaido #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAKAMURA Hiroyuki	LDP	3x	Aso	中村裕之
ÔTSUKI Kureha	CDP	0x	n/a	大築紅葉

Hokkaido-four covers western wards of Sapporo and the southwestern port of Otaru on the Sea of Japan. Like other districts on the northern island, the LDP and DPJ waged an intense battle for control during the heyday of two-party competition. The DPJ held the seat from 2003-2012, when the party's power was cresting, while the LDP has held it 1996-2003 and 2012-present. There are two noteworthy facts about the constituency. First, the winning candidate has received at least 50% of the vote only one time, when the DPJ's HACHIRO Yoshio received 65% of the vote in 2009. Second, a runner-up has won a PR seat only one time, when CDP candidate HONDA Hiranao won one in 2017.

Honda would have been a strong contender this time around. However, after making inappropriate comments about age of consent laws, Honda left the CDP and then resigned from the House of Representatives entirely. The CDP has nominated ÔTSUKI Kureha, a television reporter. Ootsuki could be a fresh face and will benefit from the nationwide swing. She will benefit from the JCP's decision not to field a candidate in the constituency. Although the LDP's NAKAMURA Hiroyuki, who was appointed vice minister for agriculture in the Kishida government, is an experienced incumbent, Ôtsuki could be poised to defeat the LDP incumbent as a unified opposition candidate.

CALL: CDP pickup

Hokkaido #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
WADA	LDP	2x	Hosoda	和田義明

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Yoshiaki				
<i>IKEDA Maki</i>	CDP	1x	n/a	池田真紀
HASHIMOTO Mika	JCP	0x	n/a	橋本みか

Hokkaido's fifth district, a strip northwest of Sapporo, had been the long-time stronghold of the late LDP heavyweight MACHIMURA Nobutaka. While the LDP retained the seat after Machimura died in 2015, his successor, WADA Yoshiaki, has held the seat by slimmer margins than Machimura did. In 2021, he will face IKEDA Maki for the third time after edging her out in the 2016 by-election and again in 2017. Ikeda's performance in 2017, when she ran as a CDP candidate, was strong enough to win her a PR seat. She lost by fewer than 7,000 votes. The JCP will be fielding a candidate in the district for the first time since 2014; its candidates have historically received between 15,000 and 30,000 votes in the constituency. In a close race, the JCP's presence could prove decisive.

CALL: LDP hold

Hokkaido #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NISHIKAWA Masato	CDP	0x	n/a	西川将人
AZUMA Kuniyoshi	LDP	0x	TBD	東国幹
SAITŌ Tadayuki	NHK	0x	n/a	斉藤忠行

Hokkaido's sixth district includes its second-largest city, Asahikawa, and, in recent years has been the site of an epic series of battles between the DPJ's SASAKI Takahiro (and before him, his father SASAKI Hidenori) and the LDP's IMAZU Hiroshi. The Sasakis were generally more successful. Since 1996, Imazu only managed to win twice, with a 612-vote margin over the elder Sasaki in 2003 and a larger victory over the younger Sasaki in 2012. Sasaki regained the seat in 2014 and then won by nine points in 2017.

In 2021, there will be neither a Sasaki nor an Imazu on the ballot for the first time since the district was created after the 1994 electoral reform. This race will pit the CDP's NISHIKAWA Masato, who has served as mayor of Asahikawa since 2006, against the LDP's AZUMA Kuniyoshi, an Asahikawa and Hokkaido assemblyman who was previously defeated by Nishikawa in the 2014 Asahikawa mayoral election. While it appeared that the opposition might have an edge in the constituency, late polls suggest that Azuma has pulled ahead of his old rival.

CALL: LDP pickup

Hokkaido #7

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ITŌ Yoshitaka	LDP	4x	Nikai	伊東良孝
SHINODA Naoko	CDP	0x	n/a	篠田奈保子
ISHIKAWA Akemi	JCP	0x	n/a	石川明美

The LDP's ITŌ Yoshitaka has represented this constituency since 2009, when he managed to win by roughly 1,000 votes even as his party went down to defeat nationwide. He has held the seat ever since, even after fending off a challenge from SUZUKI Takako, daughter of local boss SUZUKI Muneo, who lost to Itō by just over 200 votes in 2014. Itō faced only a JCP candidate in 2017, smoothing his path to reelection. In this election he will face SHINODA Naoko, a lawyer and first-time political candidate and the JCP's ISHIKAWA Akemi. However, Suzuki had indicated that she would run despite the Hokkaido LDP's support for Itō. However, the LDP successfully brokered a deal for Suzuki to run as a PR candidate and Itō to run in the SMD. Meanwhile, the CDP and the JCP have been negotiating over Ishikawa's presence in the race, but have been unable to reach an agreement.

Accordingly, this race will be a three-way race with a divided opposition, making Itō's reelection likely.

CALL: LDP hold

Hokkaido #8

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ŌSAKA Seiji	CDP	4x	n/a	逢坂誠二
MAEDA Kazuo	LDP	2x	Hosoda	前田一男

Ōsaka, a former mayor of the ski resort town Niseko, won this district as a DPJ candidate in 2005 and 2009, and again in 2014 before joining up with the CDP in 2017 when the Democratic Party splintered. Maeda, the LDP candidate, unseated Ōsaka in 2012 when he won by 30,000 votes, but Ōsaka regained the seat by 6,000 votes in 2014 (Maeda won a PR seat) and then won reelection in 2017 by more than 24,000 votes. With no other opposition candidates splitting the vote, Ōsaka should win comfortably.

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CALL: CDP hold

Hokkaido #9

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HORII Manabu	LDP	3x	Hosoda	堀井学
YAMAOKA Tatsumaru	CDP	2x	Hosoda	山岡達丸

Hokkaido's ninth district, including the city of Hakodate and Hokkaido's southern Pacific coast, was former prime minister Hatoyama Yukio's constituency until he retired in 2012. After his retirement, however, the seat has been held by the LDP's HORII Manabu, a former Olympic speed skater, who, after a brief career in local politics, won an overwhelming victory in the race for Hatoyama's vacated seat. He was comfortably reelected in 2014 and 2017.

The late withdrawal of a JCP candidate completely transformed the race, and now the CDP's YAMAOKA Tatsumaru appears to be enjoying a comfortable lead heading into the election.

CALL: CDP pickup

*****Hokkaido #10*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
INATSU Hisashi	Komeito	4x	n/a	稲津久
KAMIYA Hiroshi	CDP	1x	n/a	神谷裕

Hokkaido's tenth district, a large constituency east and north of Sapporo, has been represented by Komeito's INATSU Hisashi since 2012. Inatsu has only surpassed 50% of the vote, once in 2017, when he defeated the CDP's KAMIYA Hiroshi by 513 votes. 2017 was also the first time that the district featured a race between only two candidates.

This time, there will again be only two candidates in the race, as the JCP will not be fielding a candidate in the district. With Kamiya's having nearly unseated Inatsu in 2017, he could be well positioned to win unseat the incumbent.

CALL: CDP pickup

Hokkaido #11

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ISHIKAWA Kaori	CDP	1x	n/a	石川香織
NAKAGAWA Yūko	LDP	2x	Nikai	中川郁子

This district in Hokkaido's sparsely populated east was the stronghold of the late NAKAGAWA Shōichi, a LDP heavyweight who lost his seat in 2009 and passed away not long thereafter. His widow Yūko ran for the seat and won in 2012, and again in 2014, but lost in 2017 to ISHIKAWA Kaori, a young TV newscaster and wife of a former DPJ lawmaker. Ishikawa won by a large margin and will likely win her rematch with Nakagawa.

CALL: CDP hold

Hokkaido #12

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAKEBE Arata	LDP	3x	Nikai	武部新
KAWAHARADA Eisei	CDP	0x	n/a	川原田英世
SUGAWARA Makoto	JCP	0x	n/a	菅原誠

TAKEBE Arata, the son of retired LDP heavyweight Takebe Tsutomu, has won Hokkaido's twelfth district comfortably since winning the seat for the first time in 2012. In each election, he has received more than all of the opposition candidates combined, and there is little reason to think that this election will be different.

CALL: LDP hold

TOHOKU BLOCK

7,436,971 voters (September 2020)

13 PR seats

23 Constituencies

TOHOKU SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

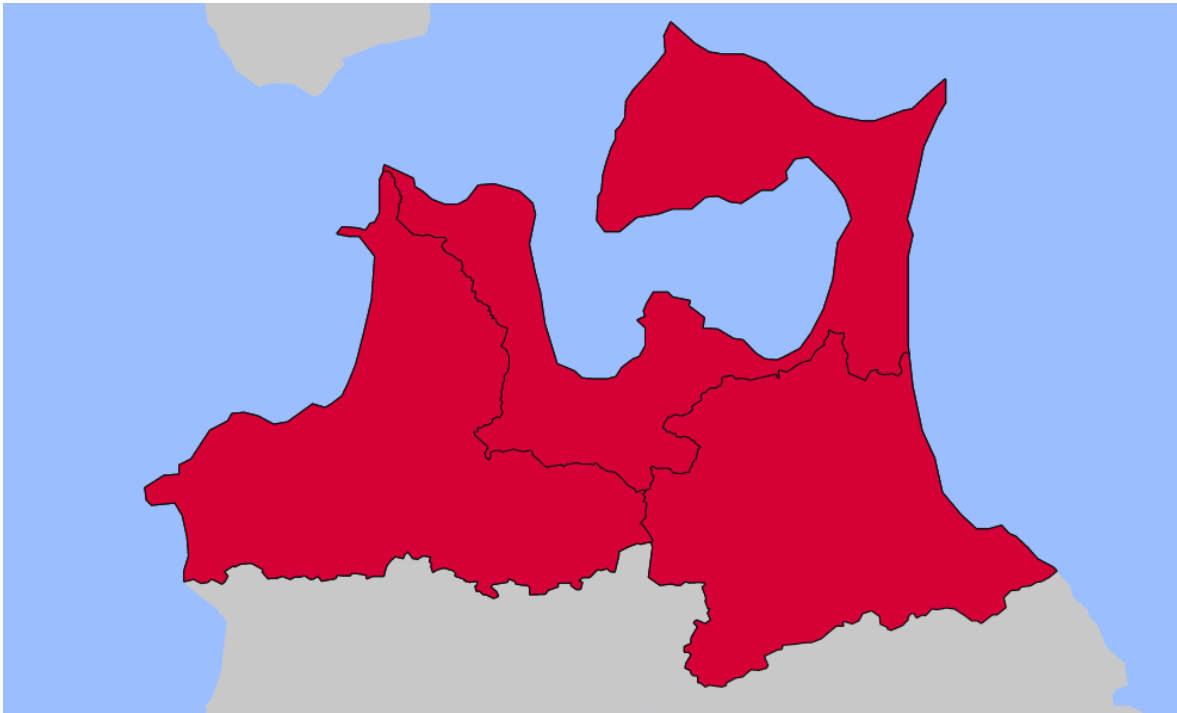
Party	Total	Change
LDP	13	-5
CDP	10	+5

With the LDP and CDP facing off in a greater number of districts in Tohoku, my base case has the CDP making some gains at the LDP's expense in the Tohoku SMDs, although low turnout could keep some of the close races in the LDP's category.

TOHOKU PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	6	+1
CDP	4	+1
Komeito	2	+1
JCP	1	-

AOMORI



Aomori #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ETO Akinori	LDP	7x	Aso	江渡聡徳
MASUTA Sekio	CDP	0x	n/a	升田世喜男
SAITŌ Mio	JCP	0x	n/a	さいとう みお

Officially, there is no incumbent running in Aomori's first district, which includes the prefectural capital of Aomori. Due to the LDP's "Costa Rica" system – whereby LDP candidates will alternate between running in single-member constituencies and running as purely PR candidates – TSUSHIMA Jun, the son of retired Takeshita faction leader TSUSHIMA Yūji, will be running as a PR candidate after winning this seat for the past three elections. Running in Tsushima's place will be ETO Akinori, who had won six elections from Aomori's sixth district before moving to a PR seat in 2017.

Eto will likely win comfortably against MASUTA Sekio, who will run as a CDP candidate after previously running as a Party of Hope, Ishin no Kai, and independent candidate in every election since 2005. Even if the JCP were not fielding a candidate in the district, the LDP's vote share has been far ahead of the opposition.

CALL: LDP hold

Aomori #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KANDA Junichi	LDP	0x	TBD	神田潤一
TAKATA Noriko	CDP	0x	n/a	高畑紀子
TABATA Miyuki	JCP	0x	n/a	田端 みゆき

The Aomori second district is being vacated by the retiring Ōshima Tadanori, speaker of the House of Representatives, who had represented Aomori-3 before moving over to the second district in 2017. The only time the LDP has lost this district was in 2000, when ETO Akinori lost by a slim margin. Eto otherwise managed to hold the seat even in 2009. Although the LDP is fielding a new candidate – KANDA Junichi, a graduate of Tokyo University and Yale who worked at the Bank of Japan, Nippon Life Insurance Company, and the Financial Services Agency before entering politics – the party is likely to retain the district against a divided opposition.

CALL: LDP hold

Aomori #3

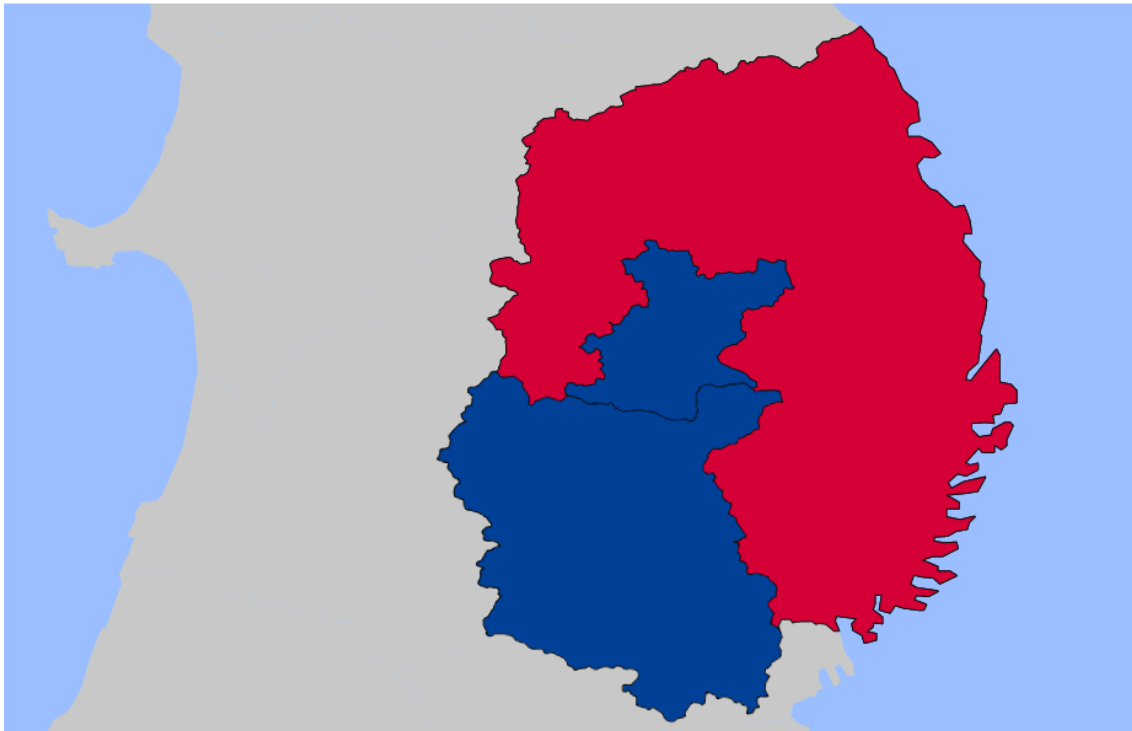
Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KIMURA Jirō	LDP	1x	Hosoda	木村次郎
YAMAUCHI Takashi	CDP	0x	n/a	山内崇

KIMURA Jirō, a former Aomori prefectural government official, had been slated to run in a by-election in 2017 for Aomori's fourth district, which had been vacated when his older brother KIMURA Tarō died of pancreatic cancer. However, the snap election was called before the by-election could be held, and Aomori's fourth district was eliminated by redistricting in the 2017 general election. As a result, Kimura was shifted into Aomori-3, moving Ōshima Tadanori to Aomori-2 and Eto Akinori to the PR list.

After winning Aomori-3 overwhelmingly in 2017, Kimura is likely to win another term in 2021, even though he will only face YAMAUCHI Takeshi, who ran and lost as a Party of Hope candidate in 2017.

CALL: LDP hold

IWATE



Iwate #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHINA Takeshi	CDP	5x	n/a	階 猛
<i>TAKAHASHI Hinako</i>	LDP	3x	Aso	高橋比奈子
YOSHIDA Kyōko	JCP	0x	n/a	吉田恭子

The LDP has never won Iwate's first district, a testament to Ozawa Ichirō's influence over the prefecture's politics. (The prefecture has been called "Ozawa's Kingdom.") However, Ozawa is also at heart of a dispute between the CDP's national headquarters and its Iwate prefectural chapter. Although SHINA Takeshi has represented the district since a 2007 by-election – first as a member of the DPJ but from 2017 onwards as a member of the splinter the Democratic Party for the People – Shina has been engaged in a legal dispute with the CDP's prefectural chapter over allegations that he improperly transferred funds from the DPFP's chapter before he and other members of the party merged with the CDP. While the CDP's prefectural chapter initially decided to back another candidate, thirty-one-year-old SANO Rie, instead of Shina, negotiations with the national party resolved the dispute in Shina's favor.

Although the JCP is planning to run YOSHIDA Kyōko, who received nearly 13% of the vote in 2017, again, the LDP's TAKAHASHI Hinako, who has won a PR seat while finishing second in each of the past three elections, may still struggle to win the seat outright.

CALL: CDP hold

Iwate #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SUZUKI Shunichi	LDP	9x	Aso	鈴木俊一
ŌHASHI Masahide	CDP	0x	n/a	大林 まさひで
ARAKAWA Junko	NHK	0x	n/a	荒川 順子

SUZUKI Shunichi, son of Prime Minister Suzuki Zenko and recently appointed as finance minister in the Kishida cabinet, has won every election in Iwate-2 except for

2009. His victories, meanwhile, have not been particularly narrow. He should have little difficulty against newcomer ŌHASHI Masahide.

CALL: LDP hold

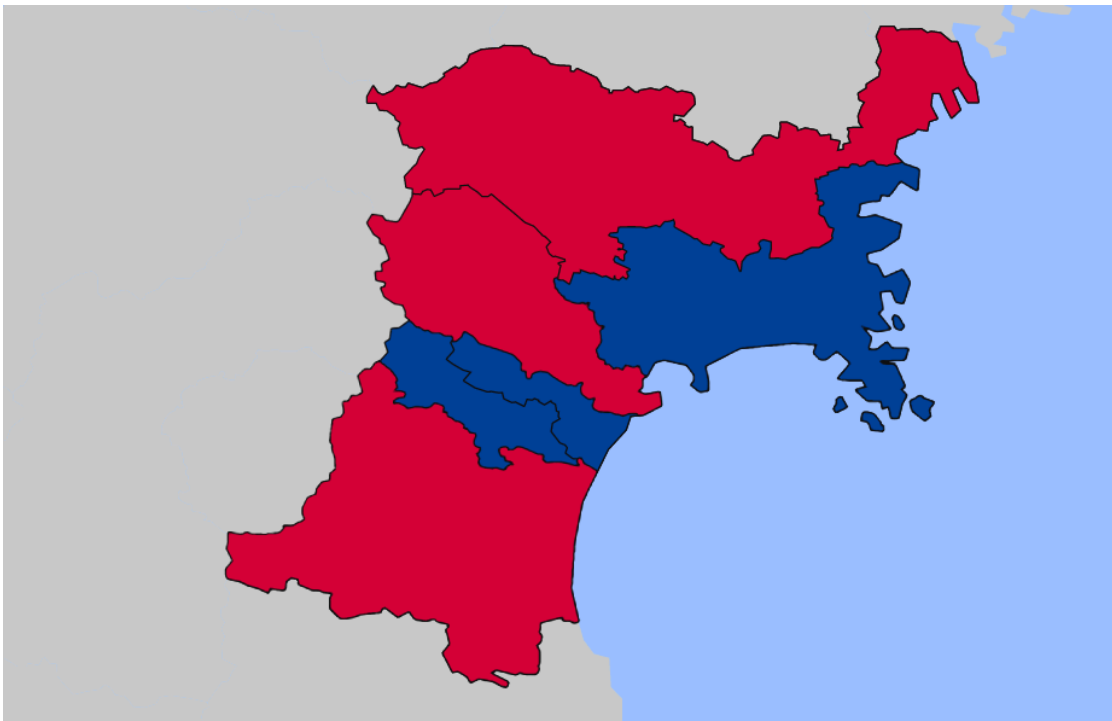
Iwate #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
OZAWA Ichirō	CDP	17x	n/a	小沢一郎
<i>FUJIWARA Takashi</i>	LDP	3x	Hosoda	藤原崇

His Iwate-4 constituency eliminated by redistricting, OZAWA moved into the third district in 2017. He won his seventeenth victory comfortably, although the LDP's candidate FUJIWARA Takashi won a third PR seat as a runner-up against Ozawa. Although polls have showed a tighter race than Ozawa may be accustomed to, this year may still end up looking similar to 2017.

CALL: CDP hold

MIYAGI



Miyagi #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
DOI Tōru	LDP	4x	Hosoda	土井 亨
<i>OKAMOTO Akiko</i>	CDP	1x	n/a	岡本章子
SHUNDŌ Sayaka	Ishin	0x	n/a	春藤 さやか

While opposition candidates have enjoyed some success in Miyagi-1 in the past, the LDP's DOI Tōru has held the seat since 2012 after first winning a term in 2005. However, he may be particularly vulnerable in this election. He has not reached 50% of the vote in any of his four victories, revealing the extent to which his success has depended on a divided opposition. In this election, he faces OKAMOTO Akiko, a former information technology workers union official who in her first race in 2017 finished roughly 21,000 votes behind Doi and won a PR seat. While Ishin no kai will also be fielding a candidate, SHUNDŌ Sayaka, the party's presence may be minimal and if Okamoto can capture the bulk of the votes that went to the Party of Hope in the district in 2017, the CDP could flip the seat.

CALL: CDP pickup

*****Miyagi #2*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AKIBA Kenya	LDP	6x	Takeshita	秋葉 賢也
KAMATA Sayuri	CDP	2x	n/a	鎌田 さゆり
HAYASHI Mariayuki	NHK	0x	n/a	林 マリア ゆき

The LDP's AKIBA Kenya won a slender victory in 2017 over KAMATA Sayuri, who was a DPJ parliamentarian from 2000-2004 but lost her seat and was banned from running for the constituency for five years after a campaign finance violation. She reentered politics at the local level and then made another run for the Diet in 2017. Although sympathetic to the CDP, she ran as an independent and therefore could not win a PR seat despite running just behind Akiba. While the election will be close – and the NHK party's candidate could be a factor – even a slight shift in the opposition's favor could make a difference.

CALL: CDP pickup

Miyagi #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NISHIMURA Akihiro	LDP	5x	Hosoda	西村明宏
ŌNO Sonoko	CDP	0x	n/a	大野 そのこ

NISHIMURA Akihiro, who has held this seat in every election since 2003 except for the DPJ landslide year of 2009, won 60% of the vote against Party of Hope and JCP candidates in 2017. Even with the CDP and the JCP uniting behind CDP newcomer ŌNO Sonoko, Nishimura is likely safe.

CALL: LDP hold

Miyagi #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ITŌ Shintarō	LDP	6x	Aso	伊藤信太郎
FUNAYAMA Yumi	JCP	0x	n/a	ふなやま由美
HAYASAKA Atsushi	Ishin	0x	n/a	早坂 あつし

This constituency is basically the same as Miyagi-3. ITŌ Shintarō first won the seat in a by-election in 2001 after his father passed away. He lost the seat in 2009 but has otherwise held it comfortably ever since. With the JCP representing the opposition alliance in the constituency, ITŌ will likely win comfortably again.

CALL: LDP hold

Miyagi #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AZUMI Jun	CDP	8x	n/a	安住淳

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MORISHITA Chisato	LDP	0x	TBD	森下千里
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AZUMI Jun is one of the CDP's heavyweights, currently serving as the party's parliamentary affairs chief. He has won this constituency in every election since its creation in 1996, and has finished above 50% in every election since 2003. The LDP's candidate, MORISHITA Chisato, is a former model, talent, and actress and is unlikely to unseat the veteran Azumi.

CALL: CDP hold

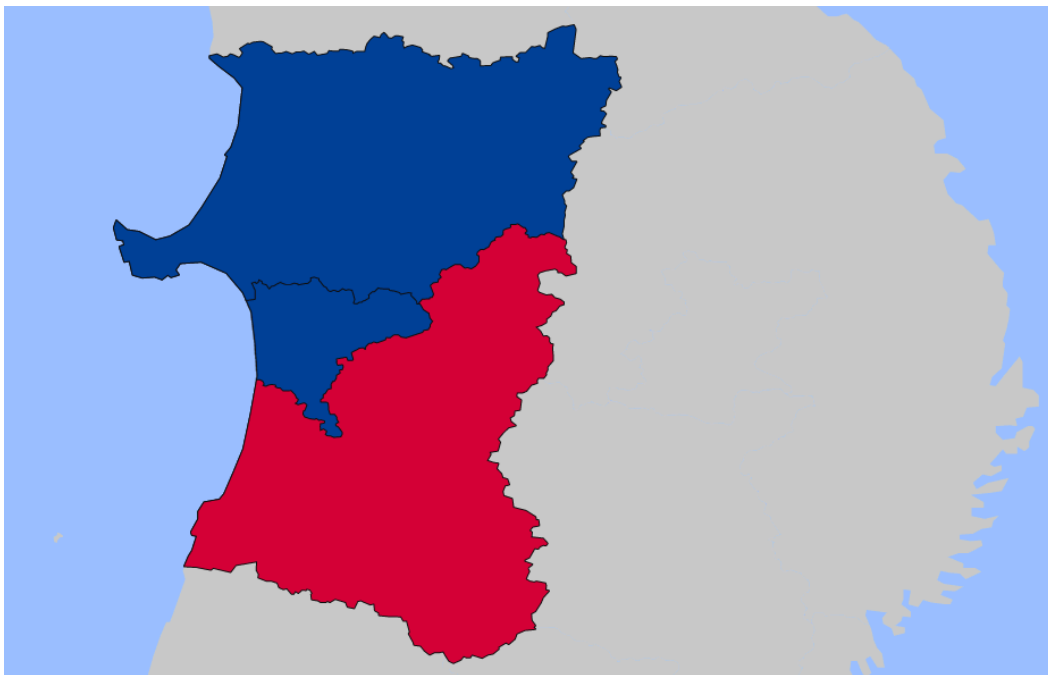
Miyagi #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ONODERA Itsunori	LDP	7x	Kishida	小野寺五典
NAITŌ Takaji	JCP	0x	n/a	内藤 隆司

ONODERA Itsunori, former defense minister and ally of Prime Minister Kishida, won in a landslide facing only a JCP candidate in 2017. The same outcome is likely this year.

CALL: LDP hold

AKITA



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Akita #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TOGASHI Hiroyuki	LDP	3x	Ishiba	富樫博之
<i>TERADA Manabu</i>	CDP	5x	n/a	寺田学

The LDP's TOGASHI Hiroyuki could be a victim of opposition coordination. He was the beneficiary of opposition confusion in 2017, not only because he faced a Party of Hope candidate and a JCP candidate, but also because an agreement between the Party of Hope and the CDP meant that he did not have to face TERADA Manabu, who lost to Togashi by fewer than six percentage points in 2014. Terada, who held the seat from 2003-2012, ran only as a PR candidate in 2017.

This year, however, Terada will be running as the opposition alliance's sole candidate. For the first time in this constituency there will be a head-to-head race between the two major parties. The national swing and Terada's history representing the constituency could swing it towards the opposition.

CALL: CDP pickup

Akita #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KANEDA Katsutoshi	LDP	4x	Nikai	金田勝
<i>MIDORIKAWA Takashi</i>	CDP	1x	n/a	緑川貴士

The LDP's KANEDA Katsutoshi may be one of the LDP's most vulnerable incumbents. In 2017, he won by fewer than 2,000 votes over MIDORIKAWA Takashi, who was running under the Party of Hope's standard but will be running as a CDP candidate this time. Midorikawa will be a beneficiary of the CDP-JCP alliance, as the JCP's candidate received more than 13,000 votes in 2017, far more than the gap between Kaneda and Midorikawa.

CALL: CDP pickup

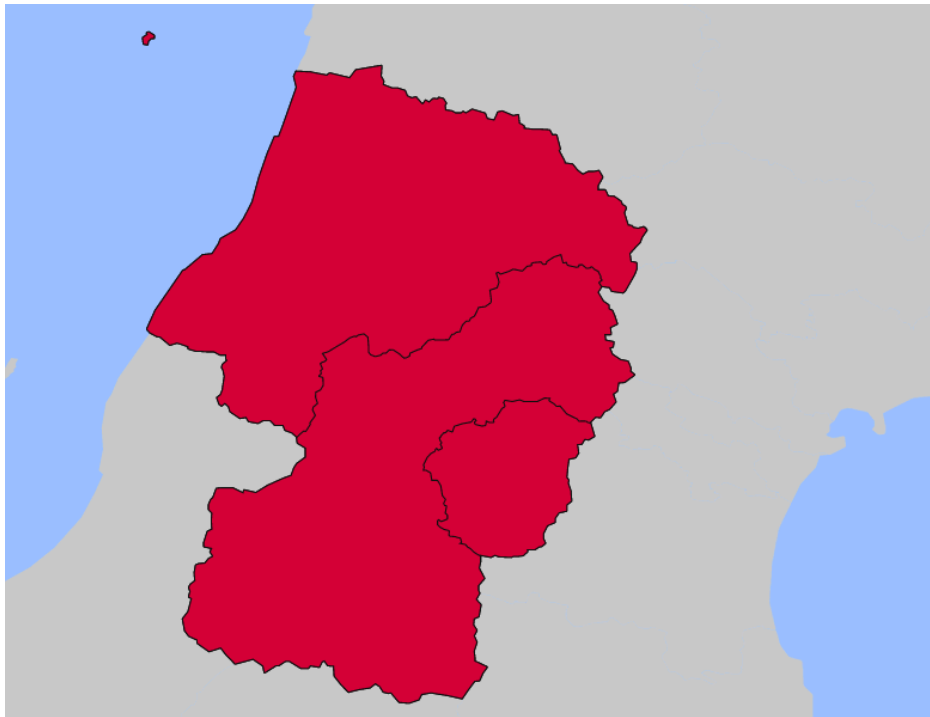
Akita #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MINORIKAWA Nobuhide	LDP	5x	Aso	御法川信英
SUGIYAMA Akira	JCP	0x	n/a	杉山 あきら

The LDP's MINORIKAWA Nobuhide has won this seat continuously since 2003, with the exception of 2009. While his margins have not been exceptionally large, the only year the DPJ has performed well in the constituency was in 2009. In other years, Minorikawa's main rivals were from other parties (Ishin no kai in 2012 and 2014, for example). In this election, facing only a JCP candidate, Minorikawa will win easily.

CALL: LDP hold

YAMAGATA



Yamagata #1

Name (Incumbent;	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
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<i>PR)</i>				
ENDŌ Toshiaki	LDP	8x	Tanigaki group	遠藤利明
HARADA Masahiro	CDP	0x	n/a	原田 まさひろ

While Yamagata-1 will feature only two candidates for the first time in its history this year, ENDŌ Toshiaki will be a tough incumbent for CDP candidate HARADA Masahiro to unseat. ENDŌ has received 57.27% and 61.14% in the past two elections, suggesting that while a unified opposition could narrow the gap, there is still too much ground to make up in the constituency.

CALL: LDP hold

Yamagata #2

Name (Incumbent; <i>PR</i>)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SUZUKI Norikazu	LDP	3x	Takeshita	鈴木憲和
KATŌ Kenichi	DPFP	0x	n/a	加藤健一

While the LDP's SUZUKI Norikazu is not the strongest incumbent – 2017 was the first time he received more than 50% of the vote – the opposition has only won this seat once, in 2009. KATŌ Kenichi is only one of a handful of non-incumbents the DPFP will be backing in this election. While KATŌ could benefit from a lack of alternative opposition candidates, he may also not benefit from JCP support.

CALL: LDP hold

Yamagata #3

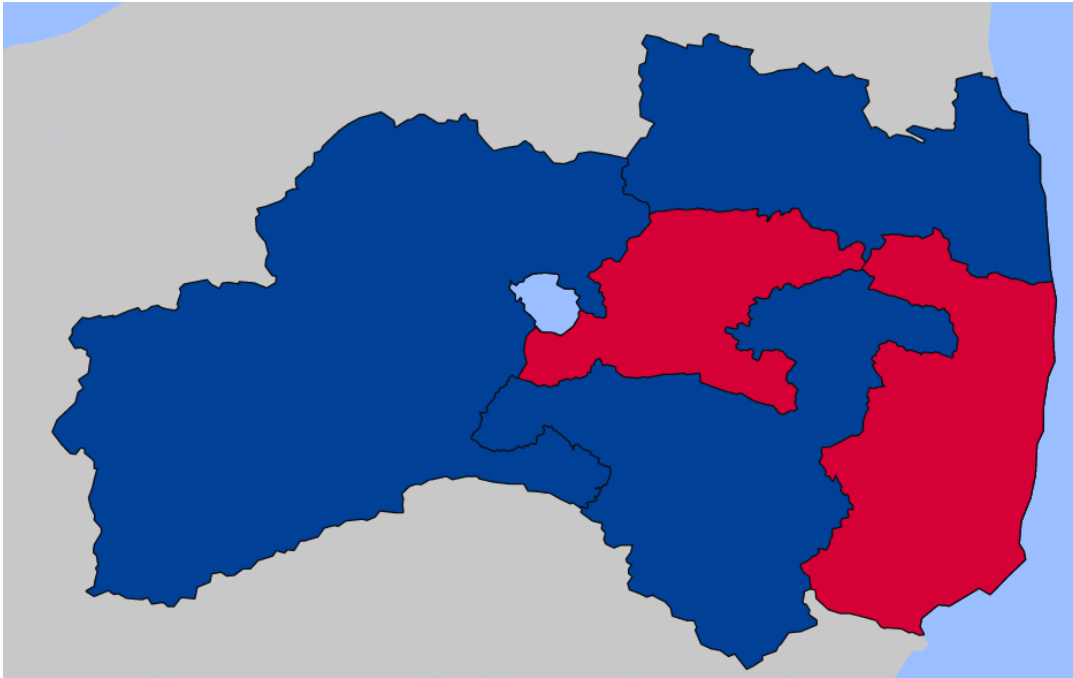
Name (Incumbent; <i>PR</i>)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KATŌ Ayuko	LDP	2x	Tanigaki group	加藤鮎子
UMEKI Takeshi	JCP	0x	n/a	梅木たけし
ABE Hitomi	Independent	0x	n/a	阿部 ひとみ

KATŌ Ayuko is the daughter of the late KATŌ Koichi, the LDP's liberal stalwart. She was one of Kishida's backers in the leadership election, received her first sub-cabinet

post in the new government, and, facing only a JCP candidate (and an independent), should win comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

FUKUSHIMA



Fukushima #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KANEKO Emi	CDP	2x/UH 1x	n/a	金子恵美
<i>KAMEOKA Yoshitami</i>	LDP	4x	Hosoda	亀岡偉民

While the LDP has generally held the upper hand in Fukushima-1 – and LDP candidate KAMEOKA Yoshitami won the seat in 2005, 2012, and 2014 – the CDP’s KANEKO Emi, a second-generation politician, has performed exceptionally well in Fukushima. After serving a term in the upper house from 2007-2013, she lost narrowly to Kameoka in 2014 (winning a PR seat) and then won the district outright in 2017 as an independent. She was one of the ex-Democratic Party lawmaker expelled from the Party of Hope when forced to swear a loyalty oath by Koike Yuriko and then had to run as an independent, joining the CDP after the election. As a strong incumbent with no

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other opposition candidate in the race – the JCP received nearly 8% in 2014, more than the margin by which she lost to Kameoka – she is well poised to win again.

CALL: CDP hold

*****Fukushima #2*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NEMOTO Takumi	LDP	8x	Kishida	根本匠
BABA Yūki	CDP	0x	Hosoda	馬場雄基

NEMOTO Takumi, a veteran lawmaker close to both Abe and Kishida (whose faction he belongs to), has won this seat in every election except 2009, often against divided fields. He will be facing only one candidate in this election – the CDP's BABA Yūki, a 29-year-old graduate of the Matsushita Seikei Juku – since the JCP made a late decision to withdraw its candidate. Baba could keep the race close, since the greatest vote share Nemoto has ever received was 55.24% in 2014, but without an extraordinary large swing and high turnout it will be hard to unseat the incumbent. Baba could, however, win a PR seat.

CALL: LDP hold

Fukushima #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
GENBA Kōichirō	CDP	9x	n/a	玄葉光一郎
<i>UESUGI Kentarō</i>	LDP	1x	Hosoda	上杉謙太郎

The CDP's GENBA Kōichirō has held this seat since 2000 and has consistently won by large margins. With no JCP candidate in the race, he should defeat UESUGI Kentarō, who managed to win a PR seat in 2017, by a large margin.

CALL: CDP hold

*****Fukushima #4*****

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KANKE Ichirō	LDP	3x	Hosoda	菅家一郎
<i>OGUMA Shinji</i>	CDP	3x	n/a	小熊慎司

The CDP's OGUMA Shinji, who has previously run in this district as a Party of Hope, Ishin no kai, and Minna no to candidate – winning as an Ishin no kai candidate in 2014 and winning PR seats in 2017 and 2012 – could be a major beneficiary of the CDP's opposition alliance. He lost to the LDP's KANKE Ichirō by roughly 1,000 votes in 2017, with JCP and Social Democratic Party candidates receiving nearly 20,000 votes. With no other opposition candidates in the race, Oguma has a good chance of winning the seat again.

CALL: CDP pickup

Fukushima #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YOSHINO Masayoshi	LDP	7x	Hosoda	吉野正芳
KUMAGAI Tomo	JCP	0x	n/a	熊谷智

YOSHINO Masayoshi, an LDP veteran who has won every election in Fukushima-5 since 2005 with the exception of 2009, will face only the JCP's KUMAGAI Tomo in this election. Yoshino will likely win comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

KITA-KANTŌ BLOCK

11,839,114 voters (October 2021)
19 PR seats
32 Constituencies

KITA-KANTŌ SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

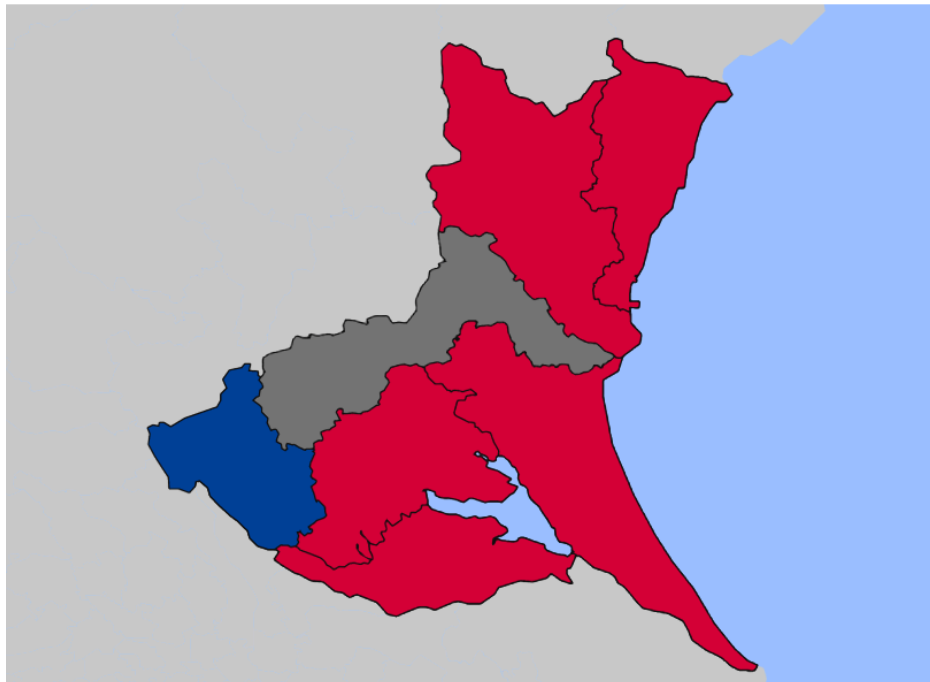
Party	Total	Change
LDP	24	-4
CDP	7	+3
Independent	1	+1

My base case has the LDP holding steady in most of the bloc, with the opposition's gains coming in Saitama prefecture, which features vulnerable incumbents and more effective – albeit not perfect – coordination between the CDP and the JCP. The CDP should be able to pick up seats here without a significant increase in voter turnout.

KITA-KANTŌ PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	7	-
CDP	6	+1
Komeito	2	-
JCP	2	+1
Ishin	1	+1
DPFP	1	+1

IBARAKI



Ibaraki #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TADOKORO Yoshinori	LDP	3x	Ishiba	田所嘉徳
FUKUSHIMA Nobuyuki	Independent	2x	n/a	福島伸享

The LDP's TADOKORO Yoshinori has won this seat comfortably since winning his first election in 2012, thanks in part to a divided opposition. He will face FUKUSHIMA Nobuyuki, who won the seat in 2009 and finished close enough in 2014 to win a PR seat. With no other opposition candidates are running in Ibaraki-1, Fukushima could benefit from the coordinated activities of the opposition alliance even as an independent. Polls show that Fukushima could unseat Tadokoro.

CALL: Independent pickup

Ibaraki #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NUKAGA Fukushirō	LDP	12x	Takeshita	額賀福志郎
FUJITA Yukihisa	CDP	2x/UH 2x	n/a	藤田幸久

LDP heavyweight NUKAGA Fukushirō is seeking his thirteenth term as a member of the House of Representatives. While the opposition will be fielding an experienced unity candidate – the CDP's FUJITA Yukihisa, who won lower house seats in 1996 and 2003 and then served in the upper house from 2007-2019 – Nukaga has only lost in 2009, and even that defeat was by just over one percentage point.

CALL: LDP hold

Ibaraki #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HANASHI	LDP	5x	Kishida	葉梨康弘

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Yasuhiro				
KAJIOKA Hiroki	CDP	0x	n/a	かじおか博樹
KISHINO Tomoyasu	Ishin	0x	n/a	岸野 ともやす

HANASHI Yasuhiro, a former National Police Agency bureaucrat who inherited his father-in-law's seat in 2005, has won every subsequent election except for 2009. His victories have been by comfortable margins against divided fields, exceeding 57% of the vote in the past two elections. While the absence of a JCP candidate could boost CDP candidate KAJIOKA Hiroki's totals, Ishin no kai candidate KISHINO Tomoyasu's presence will still make it difficult to unseat the incumbent.

CALL: LDP hold

Ibaraki #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KAJIYAMA Hiroshi	LDP	7x	No faction	梶山弘志
ŌUCHI Kumiko	JCP	0x	n/a	大内 くみ子
MUTŌ Yūko	Ishin	0x	n/a	むとう ゆう子

KAJIYAMA Hiroshi, who most recently served as Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry under Abe and Suga and who is the son of late LDP heavyweight KAJIYAMA Seiroku, has won this seat by more than 60% of the vote in the past three elections and also held the seat in 2009. The opposition alliance's fielding a JCP candidate but not a CDP candidate is an admission that Kajiyama will be difficult to beat.

CALL: LDP hold

Ibaraki #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ISHIKAWA Akimasa	LDP	3x	None	石川昭政
ASANO Satoshi	DPFP	1x	n/a	浅野 哲
IIDA Miyako	JCP	0x	n/a	飯田 みやこ
TAMURA Hiroshi	Independent	0x	n/a	田村 弘

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From 2000-2017, Ibaraki-5 was held by ŌHATA Akihiro, a DPJ lawmaker whose career began in the 1980s with the Socialist Party. In 2017, his secretary, ASANO Satoshi, ran as the main opposition candidate in the constituency as a Party of Hope candidate. He ran a close race behind the LDP's ISHIKAWA Akimasa, who finished behind Ōhata in 2012 and 2014 but won PR seats in both races. Asano finished with 43.97% of the vote to Ishikawa's 48.17% and also won a PR seat – while a JCP candidate received nearly 8% of the vote.

While it initially appeared that the JCP would not run a candidate in the constituency, aiding Asano's campaign, after the Democratic Party for the People leader Tamaki Yūichirō called the JCP “a totalitarian party” the JCP announced it would field a candidate after all. The DPFP and JCP have continued to negotiate a truce but to no avail.

As a result, Ishikawa's position could be secure again with the opposition vote divided.

CALL: LDP hold

Ibaraki #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KUNIMITSU Ayano	LDP	1x	Kishida	国光文乃
AOYAMA Yamato	CDP	1x	n/a	青山大人

The LDP's KUNIMITSU Ayano won a narrow victory over the CDP's AOYAMA Yamato in 2017, winning by roughly six percentage points and fewer than 6,000 votes. The presence of a JCP candidate – who received more than 24,000 votes and nearly 11% of the vote – clearly swung the race to the LDP, even though the DPJ had only one the district once before, in 2009. With no other opposition candidates in the race, Aoyama has made the race closer but polls point to another win for Kunimitsu.

CALL: LDP hold

Ibaraki #7

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAKAMURA	CDP	14x	n/a	中村喜四郎

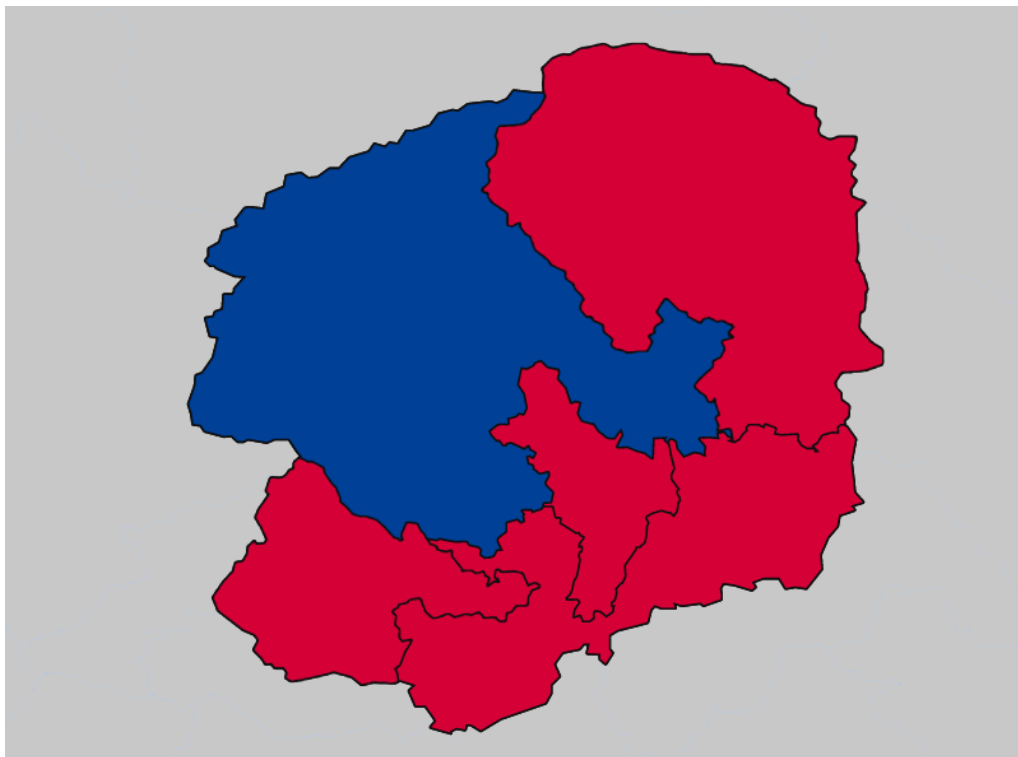
Kishirō				
NAGAOKA Keiko	LDP	5x	Aso	永岡桂子
MIZUNASHI Nobuaki	Ishin no kai	0x	n/a	水梨 のぶあき

NAKAMURA Kishirō, the CDP's candidate, has had a long and winding career that began in 1976 with his election to the Diet as a LDP lawmaker and member of Tanaka Kakuei's faction. He would serve as construction minister in the Miyazawa cabinet, but thereafter would lose his seat due to a corruption scandal. He returned to the Diet in 2005 as an independent and won every subsequent election.

This time, however, Nakamura has opted to run as a CDP candidate against the LDP's NAGAOKA Keiko, who lost to Nakamura by roughly 23,000 votes in 2017 but still won a PR seat. Running under the CDP's banner, Nakamura will benefit from the alliance with the JCP, which received more than 18,000 votes in 2014 and 2017. The presence of Ishin no Kai's MIZUNASHI Nobuaki could narrow the margin of victory but Nakamura should win for a fifteenth time.

CALL: CDP hold

TOCHIGI



Tochigi #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FUNADA Hajime	LDP	12x	Takeshita	船田元
WATANABE Noriyoshi	CDP	0x	n/a	渡辺 のりよし
AOKI Hiroshi	JCP	0x	n/a	青木 ひろし
KASHIWAKURA Yuji	Ishin no kai	1x	n/a	柏倉祐司

Control of Tochigi's first district has changed hands multiple times over the past two decades, but the LDP's FUNADA Hajime has won comfortably over the past three elections, thanks in part to divided fields (although he also passed 50% in 2014 and 2017). In this election, he will again face a divided field, as the CDP and the JCP have not been able to coordinate their candidate selection in the district and Ishin's KASHIWAKURA Yuji – who won a PR seat in 2012 after a losing campaign in Tochigi-2 – will also cannibalize the non-LDP vote.

CALL: LDP hold

Tochigi #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FUKUDA Akio	CDP	5x	n/a	福田昭夫
IGARASHI Kiyoshi	LDP	0x	TBD	五十嵐清

The CDP's FUKUDA Akio, who has contested this seat since 2005 and had to settle for PR seats in 2005 and 2012, broke through in 2014 with a narrow victory over the LDP's NISHIKAWA Koya, which he repeated by a larger margin in 2017, knocking Nishikawa from politics. Fukuda will be defending his seat against LDP newcomer IGARASHI Kiyoshi, who emerged as the nominee after an intra-party battle over who should represent the party in the constituency. Fukuda's history in the constituency and the national trend should ensure Fukuda's reelection.

CALL: CDP hold

Tochigi #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YANA Kazuo	LDP	3x	Hosoda	築和生
IGA Hiroshi	CDP	0x	n/a	いが央

The LDP's YANA Kazuo is aiming for a fourth term from the district that used to be dominated by reformist WATANABE Yoshimi, who left the party to form Minna no to in 2009. After finishing second to Watanabe in 2012, Yana defeated Watanabe in 2014 and then won a convincing victory in 2017, receiving nearly 58% of the vote. For the first time, Yana will be in a head-to-head battle with an opposition candidate, the CDP's IGA Hiroshi, a newcomer to national politics. Yana is likely to win another term in a race that could still be more competitive but still on favorable terrain for the LDP.

CALL: LDP hold

Tochigi #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SATŌ Tsutomu	LDP	8x	Aso	佐藤勉
FUJIOKA Takao	CDP	0x	n/a	藤岡 たかお

SATŌ Tsutomu, an experienced LDP lawmaker who was the party's general affairs council chair under Suga, has won this district all but once since its creation in 1996, losing to the DPJ in 2009. His CDP rival, FUJIOKA Takao, is seeking the seat for the fourth time under his fourth party label, having previously run as a Minna no to, DPJ, and Party of Hope candidate previously. While Fujioka could benefit from the CDP alliance with the JCP, the scale of Satō's victories consistently exceeded the total opposition vote, suggesting that his seat is safe.

CALL: LDP hold

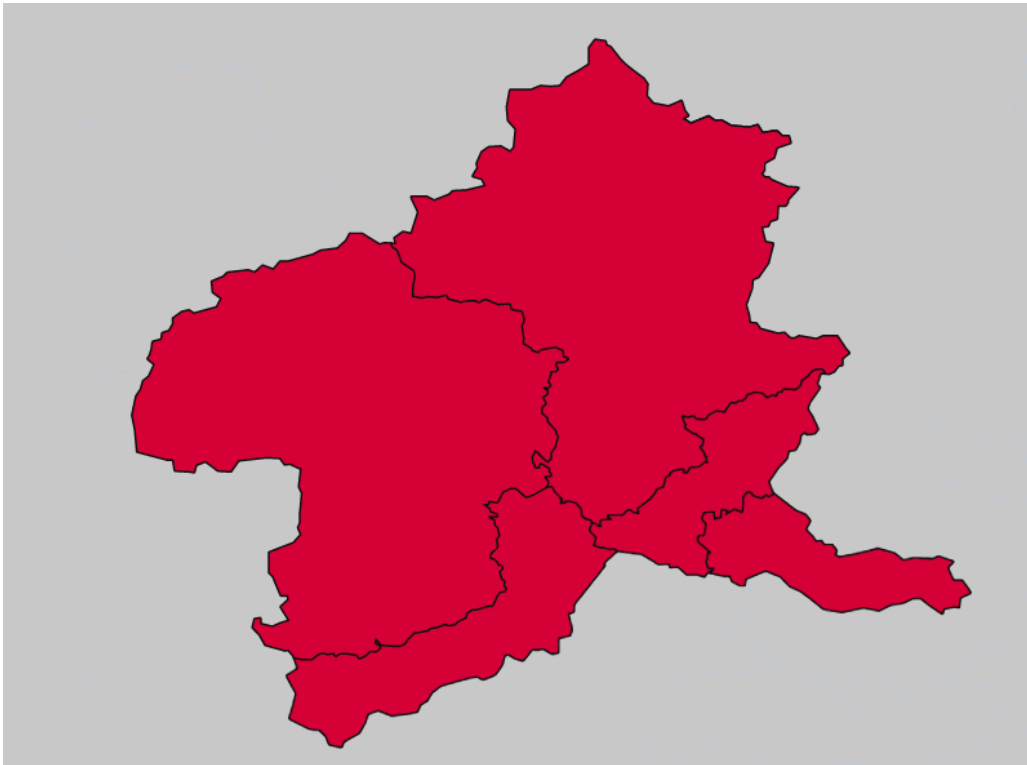
Tochigi #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MOTEGI Toshimitsu	LDP	9x	Takeshita	茂木敏充
OKAMURA Keiko	JCP	0x	n/a	岡村けい子

MOTEGI Toshimitsu, foreign minister under Abe, Suga, and now Kishida, is a virtually invulnerable incumbent, as suggested by the opposition's running only a JCP candidate against him.

CALL: LDP hold

GUNMA



Gunma #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name

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NAKASONE Yasutaka	LDP	1x	Nikai	中曽根康隆
TANAHASHI Setsuko	JCP	0	n/a	たなはし せつ子
MIYAZAKI Takeshi	Ishin no kai	0	n/a	宮崎 タケシ
SAITŌ Atsuko	Independent	0	n/a	斎藤 敦子

The LDP'S NAKASONE Yasutaka, the grandson of the late NAKASONE Yasuhiro and son of upper house member and former foreign minister NAKASONE Hirofumi, won his first election to the Diet as PR candidate in 2017. After a dispute within the LDP whether the party should nominate Nakasone or Gunma-1 incumbent OMI Atsuko, the dispute was resolved in Nakasone's favor. He will likely win a district that has historically been an LDP heartland, facing a divided opposition without a CDP candidate.

CALL: LDP hold

Gunma #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
INO Toshiro	LDP	3x	Takeshita	井野俊郎
HORIKOSHI Keinin	CDP	1x	n/a	堀越啓仁
ISHIZEKI Takashi	Independent	4x	n/a	石関貴史

LDP incumbent INO Toshiro, seeking his fourth term, faces a divided field that could ensure his chances of winning. The CDP is running HORIKOSHI Keinin, who won a term as a PR candidate in 2017. Although HORIKOSHI could have benefited from the JCP's not running a candidate, the district will also see ISHIZEKI Takashi, who as a DPJ candidate won PR seats as a runner-up in 2005, 2012, and 2014 and won the seat outright in 2009. After losing in 2017 as a Party of Hope candidate, Ishizeki is attempting a comeback as an independent. His presence in the race could turn what might have been a close race into an LDP victory.

CALL: LDP hold

Gunma #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name

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SASAGAWA Hiroyoshi	LDP	3x	Takeshita	笹川博義
HASEGAWA Kaichi	CDP	1x	n/a	長谷川嘉一

Gunma-3 features a rematch between LDP's SASAGAWA Hiroyoshi and the CDP's HASEGAWA Kaichi. In 2017, with no JCP candidate in the race, HASEGAWA lost by eleven points to SASAGAWA, but still won a PR seat. With no JCP candidate in the race again, HASEGAWA will have another chance. However, he may need too big of a swing – and an increase in turnout – to unseat the incumbent.

CALL: LDP hold

Gunma #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FUKUDA Tatsuo	LDP	3x	Hosoda	福田達夫
KAIDOKURA Niyoshi	CDP	0	n/a	かどくら邦良

FUKUDA Tatsuo, son and grandson of prime ministers, is an LDP rising star, confirmed by his appointment as the LDP's general affairs council chair by Kishida. Even with the opposition unified, Fukuda is likely to win comfortably against Gunma prefectural assemblyman KAIDOKURA Niyoshi.

CALL: LDP hold

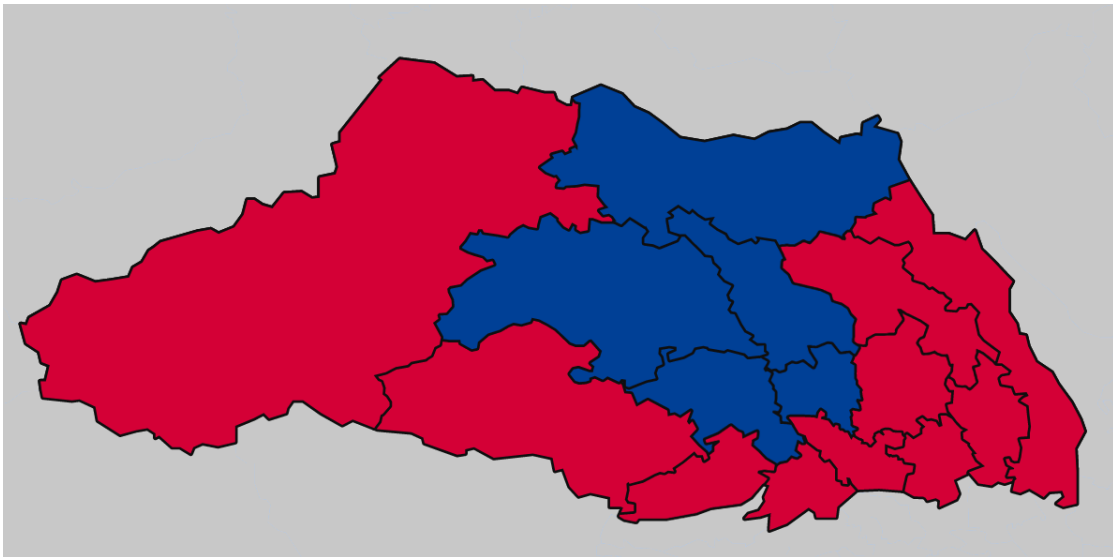
Gunma #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
OBUCHI Yūko	LDP	7x	Takeshita	小淵優子
ITŌ Tatsuya	JCP	0	n/a	伊藤 たつや

OBUCHI Yūko, daughter of late prime minister OBUCHI Keizō, is seeking her eighth term. She has consistently won by extremely large margins, and, facing only a JCP candidate, will do so again.

CALL: LDP hold

SAITAMA



Saitama #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MURAI Hideki	LDP	3x	Kishida	村井英樹
TAKEMASA Kōichi	CDP	6x	n/a	武正公一
YOSHIMURA Gōsuke	Ishin no kai	0x	n/a	吉村 豪介
SATŌ Masami	Independent	0x	n/a	佐藤 真実
NAKAJIMA Tokuji	Independent	0x	n/a	中島 徳二

MURAI Hideki, an LDP lawmaker close to Kishida, could be vulnerable to the CDP-JCP electoral alliance. Murai's vote total and vote share was basically static from 2014 to 2017 – 105,760 and 46.93% in 2014 and 106,699 and 46.88% in 2017 – and in both years opposition candidates totaled more votes than he did. This time, there will be no JCP or SDP candidate (as in 2014), although there will be an Ishin no kai candidate (like in 2017) and an independent. The CDP's TAKEMASA Kōichi, who ran as a Party of Hope candidate in 2017, won the district outright four times and PR seats in 2012 and 2014. His 2017 vote share, when combined with the JCP's, would have surpassed Murai's. A similar performance this year could be enough to return Takemasa to the Diet, but the presence of Ishin's YOSHIMURA Gōsuke could ensure Murai's reelection.

CALL: LDP hold

Saitama #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHINDŌ Yoshitaka	LDP	7x	Takeshita	新藤義孝
OKUDA Tomoko	JCP	0	n/a	おくだ 智子
TAKAHASHI Hideaki	Ishin no kai	0	n/a	高橋 英明

SHINDŌ Yoshitaka, a veteran LDP lawmaker who held multiple cabinet posts in the Abe administration, has won comfortable if not overwhelming victories in this constituency, including with 52.49% of the vote in 2017 against Party of Hope and JCP candidates. The outcome should be similar in this election.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Saitama #3*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KIKAWADA Hitoshi	LDP	3x	Tanagaki group	黄川田仁志
YAMAKAWA Yuriko	CDP	1x	n/a	山川百合子
KAWAI Yusuke	NHK	0	n/a	河合 悠祐

The LDP's KIKAWADA Hitoshi first won this seat in 2012 and then again in 2014 and 2017. In no victory, however, has he received more than 50% of the vote, winning by comfortable but not overwhelming margins over divided opposition fields. In 2017, for example, there were three separate opposition candidates plus an independent and a Happiness Realization Party candidate. The CDP's YAMAKAWA Yuriko received 34.37% of the vote to Kikawada's 44.62% in 2017; the 14.01% received by the Party of Hope would have been more than enough to put Yamakawa over the top. However, despite only a candidate from the minor NHK protest party also on the ballot, Yamakawa has struggled to consolidate the non-LDP vote may not unseat Kikawada.

CALL: LDP hold

Saitama #4

Name	Party	Number of	Faction (LDP)	Japanese
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(Incumbent; PR)		election wins		name
HOSAKA Yasushi	LDP	1x	Suga group	穂坂 泰
ASANO Katsuhiko	DPFP	0x	n/a	浅野 克彦
KUDŌ Kaoru	JCP	0x	n/a	工藤 かおる
ENDŌ Nobuhiko	Independent	1x	n/a	遠藤 宣彦
OGASAWARA Hiroki	Independent	0x	n/a	小笠原 洋輝

HOSAKA Yasushi was elected in a five-way race in 2017, only months have he was nominated by the LDP for the constituency. Receiving only 37.41% of the vote, he could be vulnerable to a more unified opposition campaign. However, it is unclear how the vote will divide between the DPFP's ASANO Katsuhiko, a Tokyo metropolitan assemblyman, and the JCP's KUDŌ Kaoru, who is the CDP-JCP alliance candidate.

CALL: LDP hold

Saitama #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
EDANO Yukio	CDP	9x	n/a	枝野幸男
MAKIHARA Hideki	LDP	4x	Suga group	牧原秀樹

CDP leader EDANO Yukio has held the district since 2000, at times by narrow margins, enabling the LDP's MAKIHARA Hideki to win PR seats four times. However, Edano's seat is safe in this election.

CALL: CDP hold

Saitama #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ŌSHIMA Atsushi	CDP	7x	n/a	大島 敦
NAKANE Kazuyuki	LDP	4x	Hosoda	中根 一幸

The CDP's ŌSHIMA Atsushi has held this seat in every election since 2000 except for 2012, when he lost by 198 votes to the LDP's NAKANE Kazuyuki. He was able to

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win even with the JCP receiving more than 10% of the vote, as in 2014 and 2017; with the opposition united, he should win more comfortably than in previous elections.

CALL: CDP hold

Saitama #7

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KOMIYAMA Yasuko	CDP	6x	n/a	小宮山泰子
NAKANO Hideyuki	LDP	4x	Hosoda	中根一幸
ISEDA Michiko	Ishin no kai	0	n/a	伊勢田 みちこ

The CDP's KOMIYAMA Yasuko has had a long history in this constituency. The eldest daughter of an LDP lawmaker, Komiyama began her career as an LDP local politician, joined Ozawa Ichirō's Liberal Party to seek national office, followed Ozawa into the DPJ and then has contested this seat as an opposition candidate every election since 2003. (She also ran as an independent in 2000.) She won outright in 2003 and 2009, and PR seats in 2005, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

With the LDP victor from 2017 opting to run solely as a PR candidate, Komiyama will be facing a new contender, NAKANO Hideyuki, a prefectural assemblyman backed by former LDP secretary-general NIKAI Toshihirō, whose constituency includes Kawagoe, the largest city in the district.

Nakano could be a tough candidate, but with the CDP-JCP alliance, Komiyama is well positioned to win, even if Ishin no kai's ISEDA Michiko draws off some votes.

CALL: CDP pickup

Saitama #8

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHIBAYAMA Masahiko	LDP	6x	Hosoda	柴山昌彦
ONozuka Masatoshi	Independent	1x	n/a	小野塚勝俊

SHIBAYAMA Masahiko has first won this seat in 2005 and has won every election since with the exception of 2009, when he was unseated by his rival, ONOZUKA Masatoshi, who was running as the DPJ's candidate in that year. Shibayama defeated Onozuka in 2012, 2014, 2017, when he ran as a DPJ candidate and, in 2017, a Party of Hope candidate. Shibayama has not won by overwhelming margins, barely reaching

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50% against divided fields. However, Onozuka has been forced to run as an independent after seeking but failing to receive the CDP's nomination. His nomination was undone by more left-wing opponents, which suggests that although there will be no JCP candidate in the race, Onozuka could struggle to pick up JCP votes, which totaled 30,212 or 16.33% of the vote in 2017.

CALL: LDP hold

Saitama #9

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ONOTSUKA Taku	LDP	4x	Hosoda	大塚拓
SUGIMURA Shinji	CDP	0	n/a	すぎむら 慎治
KANDA Miharuru	JCP	0	n/a	神田三春

The LDP's ONOTSUKA Taku has won by virtually identical margins in 2014 and 2017, receiving just over 111,000 votes and 53% of the vote in both races over fields split between mainstream opposition and JCP candidates. The CDP and JCP failed to reach an agreement in Saitama-9, and so Onotsuka will again face two opposition candidates, which should assure his victory.

CALL: LDP hold

Saitama #10

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SAKAMOTO Yūnosuke	CDP	2x	n/a	坂本祐之輔
YAMAGUCHI Susumu	LDP	0	TBD (likely Takeshita)	山口晋

Saitama's tenth district had been represented by YAMAGUCHI Taimei since its creation in 1996 for all but one term, as Yamaguchi lost in 2009. He announced his retirement, however, and will be replaced on the ballot by his 37-year-old son YAMAGUCHI Susumu. Yamaguchi Taimei has been the beneficiary of opposition divisions, winning with 48% of the vote in 2017, 47.35% in 2014, and only 44.07% in 2012. In each of those elections, he faced multiple opposition candidates, and in 2014 and 2017, the JCP candidates received 15% of the vote, enough to ensure Yamaguchi's victory.

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This year, he will face SAKAMOTO Yūnosuke, the runner-up in the past three elections, who finished close enough in 2012 and 2014 to win PR seats. With no JCP candidate and the transition to a new generation of LDP candidate, Sakamoto has a good chance of winning the district this time.

CALL: CDP pickup

Saitama #11

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KOIZUMI Ryūji	LDP	6x	Nikai	小泉龍司
SHIMADA Makoto	CDP	0	n/a	島田誠
KOYAMA Shinya	JCP	0	n/a	小山 しんや

The LDP's KOIZUMI Ryūji has had an unusual history in Saitama-11. A 2005 postal rebel who was defeated in that year's election, Koizumi returned as an independent in 2009 when he won with 70% of the vote against an LDP candidate. He would continue to win as an independent thereafter, defying the LDP's attempts to unseat him. In this election, he will run as the formally endorsed LDP candidate for the first time since 2003, in one of the districts where the CDP and JCP will both be fielding a candidate. Koizumi will likely win again.

CALL: LDP hold

Saitama #12

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NONAKA Atsushi	LDP	3x	Takeshita	野中厚
MORITA Toshikazu	CDP	1x	n/a	森田俊和

LDP incumbent NONAKA Atsushi, part of the LDP's class of 2012, has won with relatively small pluralities against divided fields in every one of his races. His best total was in 2017, when he received 86,499 votes and 44.96% of the vote. But in that election, he came closest to losing, as the CDP's MORITA Toshikazu, running as a Party of Hope candidate in that race, received 86,007 votes and 44.71% of the vote, winning a PR seat. The JCP won nearly 20,000 votes and 10.33% of the vote, far more than the difference. Morita will surely benefit from the absence of a JCP candidate and could surpass Nonaka in this race.

CALL: CDP pickup

Saitama #13

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TSUCHIYA Shinako	LDP	7x	No faction	土屋品子
MISUMI Sōta	CDP	0	n/a	三角 そうた
AKAGISHI Masaharu	JCP	0	n/a	赤岸まさはる

Saitama-13 is another constituency in which the CDP and JCP will be running competing candidates. The LDP incumbent, TSUCHIYA Shinako, is stronger than some of the other LDP incumbents who will be facing unity candidates, crossing the 50% threshold in 2014 and 2017. The JCP has performed relatively well here, and is likely fielding a candidate in order to strengthen its position in PR voting. The result will be Tsuchiya's reelection.

CALL: LDP hold

Saitama #14

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MITSUBAYASHI Hiromi	LDP	3x	Hosoda	三ッ林裕巳
SUZUKI Yoshihiro	DPFP	2x	n/a	鈴木義弘
TAMURA Tsutomu	JCP	0	n/a	田村つとむ

The DPFP's SUZUKI Yoshihiro was the runner-up in 2012, 2014, and 2017 as an Ishin and Party of Hope candidate, winning a PR seat in 2012 and 2014. The LDP incumbent, MITSUBAYASHI Hiromi, won the seat with a relatively narrow win over Suzuki in 2012, winning with 37.92% of the vote and 84,263 votes. Thereafter, he raised his vote to roughly 47.5% and just under 100,000 votes. Suzuki will struggle to overcome the JCP's presence in the race; the party's candidates have received more than 30,000 votes in the past two races, and could make the difference for Suzuki.

CALL: LDP hold

Saitama #15

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TANAKA Ryōsei	LDP	4x	Suga	田中良生
<i>TAKAGI Rentarō</i>	CDP	1x	n/a	高木錬太郎
SAWADA Ryō	Ishin no kai	0	n/a	沢田良

The LDP's TANAKA Ryōsei has not won overwhelming victories – 48.23% in 2017 and 52.31% in 2014 – against fields that have featured not only JCP candidates but also Ishin no kai candidates. While the absence of a JCP candidate will help the CDP's TAKAGI Rentarō, who won in 2017 as a PR list candidate, Ishin's SAWADA Ryō could draw away enough votes from the right of the non-LDP electorate to ensure Tanaka's reelection.

CALL: LDP hold

MINAMI-KANTŌ BLOCK

13,697,503 voters (October 2021)
22 PR seats
33 Constituencies

MINAMI-KANTŌ SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

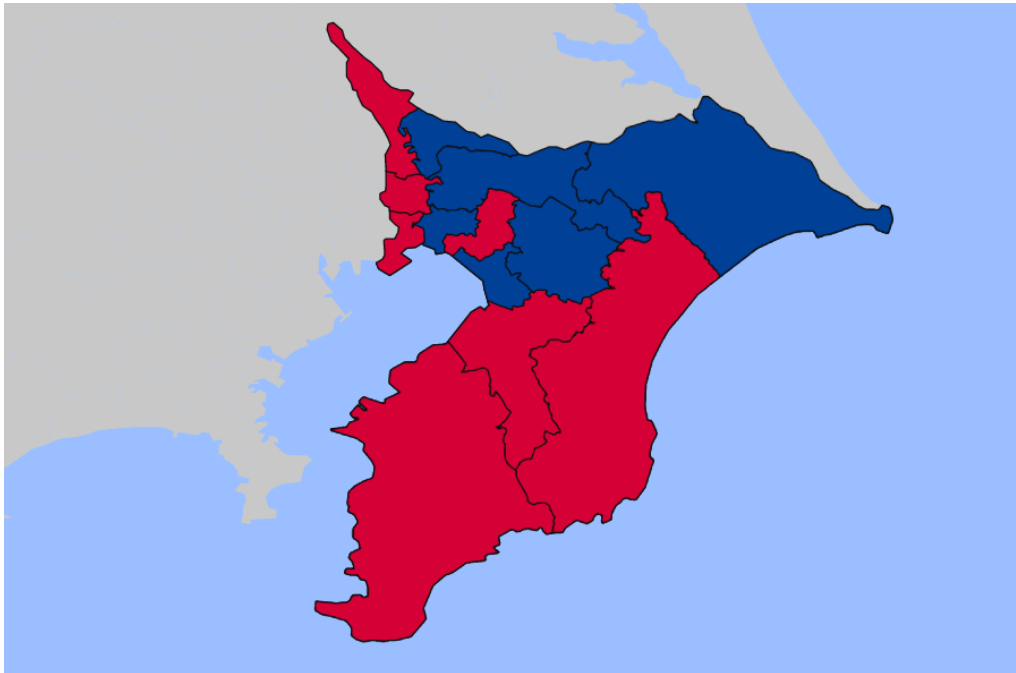
Party	Total	Change
LDP	17	-9
CDP	16	+9

My base case has the LDP defending its position in Chiba but ceding more ground in Kanagawa, where even a strong incumbent like LDP Secretary-General Amari Akira could be vulnerable to a strong challenge from the CDP.

MINAMI-KANTŌ PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	8	-
CDP	6	+1
Komeito	3	+1
JCP	2	-
Ishin	2	+1
Reiwa	1	+1

CHIBA



Chiba #1

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KADOYAMA Hiroaki	LDP	3x	Ishiba	門山宏哲
<i>TAJIMA Kaname</i>	CDP	6x	n/a	田嶋要

The CDP's TAJIMA Kaname first won Chiba-1 as a DPJ candidate in 2003, and again in 2009, 2012, and 2014. He also finished a close second in 2005 and 2017, winning PR seats both times. In 2017, he lost to the LDP's KADOYAMA Hiroaki by less than 1% and just over 1,000 votes while running as a Party of Hope candidate. That race also featured JCP and Ishin candidates, who combined for nearly 20% of the vote. Without any other candidates in the field, Tajima is highly likely to retake the seat outright.

CALL: CDP pickup

Chiba #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KOBAYASHI Takayuki	LDP	3x	Nikai	小林鷹之
KURODA Yū	CDP	0	n/a	黒田 ゆう
TERAO Satoshi	JCP	0	n/a	寺尾 さとし

KOBAYASHI Takayuki, a junior LDP lawmaker who was named to the Kishida cabinet as a minister for state for science and technology and space, received just under 50% of the vote in 2017 in a five-way race and 54% in 2014 when facing only Ishin and JCP candidates. With the CDP and JCP not coordinating in Chiba-2, Kobayashi should win his fourth term.

CALL: LDP hold

Chiba #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MATSUNO Hirokazu	LDP	7x	Hosoda	松野博一
<i>OKAJIMA</i>	CDP	3x	n/a	岡島一正

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<i>Kazumasa</i>				
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The LDP's MATSUNO Hirokazu was recently appointed as chief cabinet secretary in the Kishida cabinet. He has consistently performed well in Chiba-3 and, most recently, won with virtually identical vote shares and vote totals: 53.37% and 85,277 votes in 2014 and 53.27% and 85,461 votes in 2017. OKAJIMA Kazumasa, an Ozawa acolyte, first won the district as a DPJ candidate in 2003 and again in 2009; he won a PR seat in 2017. Although the JCP will not be fielding a candidate this year, it may not be enough to win the seat for Okajima. Matsuno's vote totals have consistently surpassed the opposition's total, and his new heavyweight status could bolster his position.

CALL: LDP hold

Chiba #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NODA Yoshihiko	CDP	8x	n/a	野田佳彦
<i>KIMURA Tetsuya</i>	LDP	1x	Suga group	木村哲也

Former prime minister NODA Yoshihiko is a strong incumbent who defeated the LDP's KIMURA Tetsuya by more than thirty points, although Kimura still won a PR seat. Noda will win again.

CALL: CDP hold

Chiba #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SONOURA Kentarō	LDP	4x	Aso	園浦健太郎
YAZAKI Kentarō	CDP	0	n/a	矢崎 けんたろう
TOKITA Atsushi	DPFP	0	n/a	鴫田敦
SHIIKI Tamotsu	Ishin	2x	n/a	しいき保

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The LDP's SONOURA Kentarō has won with more than 50% against divided fields in 2014 and 2017, and, with three mainstream opposition candidates in the race, he will likely win his fifth term comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

Chiba #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
WATANABE Hiromichi	LDP	7x	Takeshita	渡辺 博道
<i>UBUKATA Yukio</i>	Independent	6x	n/a	生方 幸夫
ASANO Fumiko	JCP	0	n/a	浅野 ふみ子
FUJIMAKI Kenta	Ishin	2x	n/a	藤巻 けんた

Until recently, UBUKATA Yukio was slated to run at the progressive alliance candidate, a CDP veteran who would benefit from the absence of a JCP candidate in the race. After losing to the LDP's WATANABE Hiromichi by roughly 11,000 votes in 2017 – significantly less than the 23,701 votes the JCP received in the district – he had a strong chance of winning the constituency. However, after voicing his belief that Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea are no longer alive – a third rail in Japanese politics – Ubukata was forced to resign his seat, lost the CDP's nomination, and, although he will still be running as an independent, will now be competing with a JCP candidate as well as an Ishin candidate. The beneficiary will be Watanabe.

CALL: LDP hold

Chiba #7

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SAITŌ Ken	LDP	4x	Ishiba	齋藤 健
TAKEUCHI Chiharu	CDP	0	n/a	竹内 千春
<i>UCHIYAMA Akira</i>	Ishin	3x	n/a	内山 晃
WATANABE Kunihiro	NHK	0	n/a	渡辺 晋宏

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The LDP's SAITŌ Ken is a robust incumbent – elected with 54% and 55% in 2017 and 2014 respectively, and 46% in a seven-candidate field in 2012 – and again faces a field divided among opposition candidates that will it hard for any one to unseat him.

CALL: LDP hold

Chiba #8

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SAKURADA Yoshitaka	LDP	7x	Nikai	桜田義孝
HONJŌ Satoshi	CDP	0	n/a	本庄さとし
MIYAOKA Shinichirō	Independent	0	n/a	宮岡 進一郎

SAKURADA Yoshitaka, a long-serving LDP member who has contested Chiba-8 since its creation, has had a mixed record in the district, battling with the DPJ for control in the 2000s before retaking the seat in 2012. His victories have not been overwhelming, having only ever received more than 50% of the vote in 2005. He has more recently benefited from opposition splits, with JCP candidates taking 16% in 2014 and 2017. With the CDP and JCP joining forces in the district, Sakurada could be vulnerable to newcomer HONJŌ Satoshi. In a close race, the vote share of independent candidate MIYAOKA Shinichirō, a former teacher, could be decisive.

CALL: CDP pickup

Chiba #9

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AKIMOTO Masatoshi	LDP	3x	Suga group	秋本真利
OKUNO Sōichirō	CDP	4x	n/a	奥野総一郎

AKIMOTO Masatoshi, one of the LDP's class of 2012, was first elected with only 35.5% of the vote and has never surpassed 50% against divided opposition candidates. In 2017, he received 46.8% of the vote, beating OKUNO Sōichirō, the Party of Hope's candidate, who received 38.75% and won a PR seat. After winning the seat as a DPJ candidate in 2009, Okuno had finished second and won PR seats in 2012, 2014, and 2017 as multiple opposition cannibalized the non-LDP vote. In 2017, the field was down to three, but the JCP still received 14.5% of the vote, more than enough to sink his chances.

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This time, Okuno will be the only opposition candidate, suggesting that he has a strong chance of retaking Chiba-9 for the opposition.

CALL: CDP pickup

Chiba 10

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HAYASHI Motoo	LDP	9x	Nikai	林幹雄
<i>YATAGAWA Hajime</i>	CDP	2x	n/a	谷田川元
AZUSA Mari	New Party Kunimori	0	n/a	宮岡 進一郎

HAYASHI Motoo is a senior LDP lawmaker who was a cabinet minister in the Fukuda, Aso, and Abe cabinets. Although the CDP's YATAGAWA Hajime won the seat in 2009, Hayashi still ran close enough to win a PR seat. Thereafter, Hayashi has consistently won with more than 50% of the vote facing Yatagawa and JCP candidates. With the JCP withdrawing its candidate this year, however, it is increasingly likely that it will be enough to help Yatagawa pass Hayashi again.

CALL: CDP pickup

Chiba #11

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MORI Eisuke	LDP	10x	Aso	森英介
SHIINA Eimei	JCP	0	n/a	椎名史明
TAGAYA Ryo	Reiwa	0	n/a	たがや 亮

The LDP's MORI Eisuke has not lost this seat since its creation in 1996, and most recently received nearly 60% of the vote against multiple opposition candidates. With the progressive alliance backing the JCP's Shiina Eimei – and left-wing Reiwa Shinsengumi also fielding a candidate – the alliance is effectively conceding the seat to Mori.

CALL: LDP hold

Chiba #12

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HAMADA Yasukazu	LDP	9x	No faction	浜田靖一
HIDAKA Takeshi	CDP	3x	n/a	樋高剛
KUZUHARA Shigeru	JCP	0	n/a	くずはら 茂

HAMADA Yasukazu, a long-serving LDP lawmaker from a prominent family, has held this seat without interruption since 2003, more recently winning with well over 60% of the vote. The CDP's HIDAKA Takeshi had served as a representative from Kanagawa in the early 2000s, and his attempt to unseat Hamada in 2017 as a Party of Hope candidate resulted in his receiving less than 20% of the vote. Hamada will win comfortably this time.

CALL: LDP hold

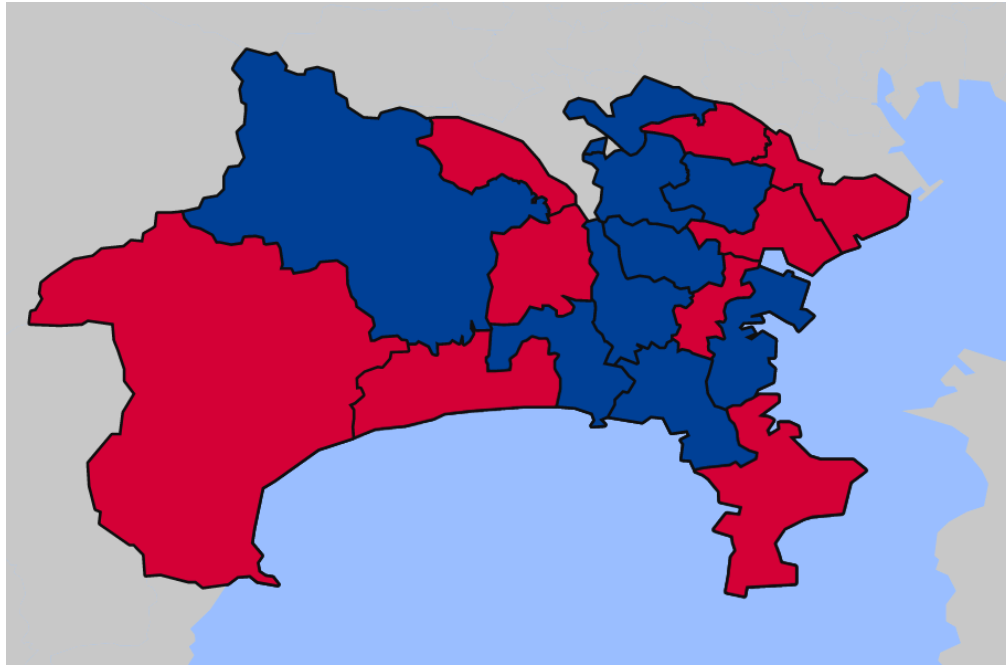
*****Chiba #13*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
<i>MIYAKAWA Shin</i>	CDP	1x	No faction	宮川伸
MATSUMOTO Hisashi	LDP	0	TBD	松本尚
SHIMIZU Kiyoshi	Ishin	0	n/a	清水 きよし

After its incumbent was forced to resign after it surfaced that he violated Covid-19 regulations to partake of nightlife, the LDP has nominated a newcomer, a physician with regular TV appearances MATSUMOTO Hisashi, to run against the CDP's MIYAKAWA Shin, who finished second in 2017 and won a PR seat. Previous LDP incumbent SHIRASUKA Takaki had not won resoundingly against divided opposition fields, suggesting that a unified opposition could compete strongly in the constituency.

CALL: CDP pickup

KANAGAWA



Kanagawa #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MATSUMOTO Jun	Independent	7x	Aso*	松本純
SHINOHARA Gō	CDP	2x	n/a	篠原豪
ASAKAWA Yoshiharu	Ishin	0	n/a	浅川義治

Incumbent MATSUMOTO Jun was one of a handful of lawmakers who left the LDP after they were found to have partaken in nightlife in violation of pandemic restrictions. He is bidding for an eighth term, and would presumably return to the LDP sometime after the election if he wins. He faces the CDP's SHINOHARA Gō, who finished second and received PR seats in 2014 and 2017. While Shinohara will not have to contend with a JCP candidate, Ishin will be fielding a candidate in the constituency. However, the circumstances surrounding Matsumoto's exit from the LDP could favor Shinohara in this election.

CALL: CDP pickup

Kanagawa #2

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SUGA Yoshihide	LDP	8x	Suga group	菅義偉
OKAMOTO Eiko	CDP	1x	n/a	岡本英子

The former prime minister's position is likely not at risk, although the CDP's OKAMOTO Eiko, who won a term in Kanagawa-3 in 2009, could keep it closer than some of Suga's other victories.

CALL: LDP hold

Kanagawa #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAKANISHI Kenji	LDP	UH 2x	Aso	中西健治
KOBAYASHI Taketo	CDP	0	n/a	小林 たけと
KISAKI Tadamasa	JCP	0	n/a	木佐木 ただま さ
FUJIMURA	Independent	0	n/a	藤村晃子

Kanagawa-3 was vacated when OKONOGI Hachirō ran for Yokohama's mayorship. The LDP is fielding a strong candidate in his place, upper house member NAKANISHI Kenji. With Okonogi's having received 50% of the vote against divided fields in 2014 and 2017, Nakanishi should be able to perform similarly against a field that features CDP and JCP candidates as well as an independent.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Kanagawa #4*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
WASEDA Yuki	CDP	1x	n/a	早稲田夕季
YAMAMOTO Tomohiro	LDP	4x	Suga group	山本朋広
ASAO Keiichirō	Independent	3x	n/a	浅尾慶一郎

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TAKAYA Akihiko	Ishin	0	n/a	高谷あきひこ
ŌNISHI Tsuneki	Independent	0	n/a	大西 恒樹

The constituency, which features three current or former Diet members, an Ishin candidate, and an independent, could be one of the most closely contested elections in the country. The incumbent, the CDP's WASEDA Yuki, won a four-way race with 34.76% of the vote; the LDP's YAMAMOTO Tomohiro finished second with 28.89% and won a PR seat. In 2017, ASAO Keiichirō, who had won a PR seat from the district in 2009 as a Minna no to candidate, and then won outright in 2012 and 2014, failed to secure the LDP's endorsement and ran as an independent, finishing the third. While the race could be close, Waseda's incumbency, the divided LDP vote, and the national trend could favor Waseda again.

CALL: CDP hold

*****Kanagawa #5*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SAKAI Manabu	LDP	4x	Suga group	坂井学
<i>YAMAZAKI Makoto</i>	CDP	2x	n/a	山崎誠

The LDP's SAKAI Manabu, an ally of Suga's who was a deputy chief cabinet secretary in the Suga government, is seeking his fifth term. While he lost in 2009, he has generally performed well against divided fields, receiving 51.61% of the vote in 2017 against Party of Hope and JCP candidates. The CDP's YAMAZAKI Makoto, who has won two times as a solely PR candidate, will be seeking to unseat Sakai and could benefit from the opposition alliance.

CALL: CDP pickup

*****Kanagawa #6*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AOYAGI Yōichirō	CDP	3x	n/a	青柳陽一郎
FURUKAWA Naoki	LDP	0	TBD	古川直季
KUSHIDA Seiichi	Ishin	1x	n/a	串田誠一

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In 2017, the CDP's AOYAGI Yōichirō unseated UEDA Isamu, a Komeito incumbent who had held the seat from 2003-2009 and from 2012-2017. Aoyagi had previously won PR seats in 2012 and 2014 as a Minna no to and Ishin candidate respectively before winning outright in 2017. With Ueda defeated, the LDP was free to put forward its own candidate, newcomer FURUKAWA Naoki, the first LDP candidate in the district since 1996. Ishin's KUSHIDA Seiichi, who received 12.6% of the vote in 2017 and won a PR seat, will be running again. Aoyagi is likely favored thanks to incumbency.

CALL: CDP hold

Kanagawa #7

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SUZUKI Keisuke	LDP	4x	Aso	鈴木馨祐
<i>NAKATANI/ Kazuma</i>	CDP	1x	n/a	中谷一馬

The LDP's SUZUKI Keisuke won his first election as a PR candidate in 2005, ran unsuccessfully in Kanagawa-7 in 2009, and then won three elections from 2012 onwards. His victories have been relatively modest, his largest vote share being 47% in 2017 when he faced CDP and Party of Hope candidates. The former, the CDP's NAKATANI Kazuma, was only seven points behind and won a PR seat. This time, Nakatani will be the only opposition candidate facing Suzuki. Polls show a close race, but Nakatani could prevail this time.

CALL: CDP pickup

Kanagawa #8

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
EDA Kenji	CDP	6x	n/a	江田憲司
<i>MITANI/ Hidehiro</i>	LDP	2x	Suga group	三谷英弘

EDA Kenji, a veteran reformist lawmaker who won reelection as an independent in 2017, has joined the CDP and will be seeking his seventh term. While the LDP's MITANI Hidehiro managed to win a PR seat in 2017, he still ran more than twenty points behind Eda, who has consistently surpassed 50% of the vote.

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CALL: CDP hold

*****Kanagawa #9*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
RYŪ Hirofumi	CDP	6x	n/a	笠浩史
NAKAYAMA Norihiro	LDP	3x	Aso	中山展宏
SAITŌ Nodoka	JCP	0	n/a	斉藤 のどか
YOSHIDA Taisei	Ishin	0	n/a	吉田大成

RYŪ Hirofumi has repeatedly won narrow victories in Kanagawa-9, defeating the LDP's NAKAYAMA Norihiro 41.3%-40.3% in 2017, 37.9%-35.2% in 2014, and 36.9%-31.9% in 2012. These victories have been narrow in part to other non-LDP candidates in the race, including the JCP's SAITŌ Nodoka in 2017, who received more than 18% of the vote. The 2014 election also featured a JCP candidate and an Ishin candidate. Ryū's ability to win the seat repeatedly despite multiple opposition candidates in the race suggests that he could again win the seat under similar conditions.

CALL: CDP hold

Kanagawa #10

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TANAKA Kazunori	LDP	8x	Aso	田中和徳
HATANO Kimie	JCP	2x/UH 1x	n/a	畑野君枝
SUZUKI Atsushi	DPFP	0	n/a	鈴木敦
KIMURA Ryūna	Ishin	0	n/a	金村 りゅうな

Kanagawa-19 is a rare district in which a JCP candidate ran closely enough to win a PR seat. The JCP's HATANO Kimie, who was elected as a purely PR candidate in 2014, won a PR seat with 22% in 2017. The LDP's TANAKA Kazunori should still win comfortably due to the opposition vote's being divided between the JCP, DPFP, and Ishin.

CALL: LDP hold

Kanagawa #11

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KOIZUMI Shinjiro	LDP	4x	No faction	小泉進次郎
HAYASHI Nobuaki	JCP	0	n/a	林のぶあき

KOIZUMI Shinjiro won with nearly 80% in 2017.

CALL: LDP hold

Kanagawa #12

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ABE Tomoko	CDP	7x	n/a	阿部知子
HOSHINO Tsuyoshi	LDP	3x	Suga group	星野剛士
MITO Masashi	Ishin	1x/ UH 1x	n/a	水戸 まさし

The CDP's TOMOKO Abe, a former member of the Social Democratic Party, has contested every election in the district since 2000 and, while she won PR seats six times, 2017 was the first time she won the seat outright when she defeated the LDP's HOSHINO Tsuyoshi by less than two percentage points, despite a Party of Hope candidate also running. Even the presence of an Ishin candidate will not stymie her reelection.

CALL: CDP hold

Kanagawa #13

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AMARI Akira	LDP	12x	Aso	甘利明
FUTORI Hideshi	CDP	0	n/a	太栄志

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AMARI Akira, named the LDP's secretary-general by Kishida, faces a surprisingly close challenge according to opinion polls. His opponent is FUTORI Hideshi, a former aide to DPJ-turned-LDP lawmaker NAGASHIMA Akihisa, who received 27.7% of the vote as a Party of Hope candidate in 2017. The absence of a JCP candidate could boost Futori's chances, perhaps enough to win a PR seat, but Amari is still likely to prevail.

CALL: LDP hold

Kanagawa #14

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AKAMA Jirō	LDP	4x	Aso	赤間 二郎
NAGATOMO Yoshihiro	CDP	0	n/a	長友 克洋

AKAMA Jirō was first elected in 2005, lost by a large margin 2009, and, since returning in 2012, has won Kanagawa-14 without reaching 50% thanks to divided opposition fields. In 2017, facing a Party of Hope candidate and a JCP candidate, Akama received 46.5%, suggesting his vulnerability to a unified opposition campaign. The CDP's NAGATOMO Yoshihiro is a former secretary to FUJII Hirohisa, a former finance minister under non-LDP governments who represented Kanagawa-14, and local and prefectural assembly member. Akama may be vulnerable, but probably has an edge.

CALL: LDP hold

Kanagawa #15

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KŌNO Tarō	LDP	8x	Aso	河野 太郎
SASAKI Katsumi	SDP	0	n/a	ささき 克己
WATANABE Mariko	NHK	0	n/a	渡辺 麻里子

KŌNO Tarō will win his ninth term easily, facing one of the few SDP candidates running in an SMD this year.

CALL: LDP hold

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YOSHIIE Hiroyuki	LDP	3x/UH 1x	Hosoda	義家弘介
GŌTO Yūichirō	CDP	4x	n/a	後藤祐一

The LDP's YOSHIIE Hiroyuki and the CDP's GŌTO Yūichirō have fought close races over the past decade. GŌTO won the seat as a DPJ candidate in 2009; Yoshiie won the seat by three points in 2012, then beat GŌTO again in 2014 by half a percentage point and by six points in 2017, leaving GŌTO to settle for a PR seat each time. The national trend could favor GŌTO this time, particularly without a JCP candidate in the race.

CALL: CDP pickup

Kanagawa #17

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MAKISHIMA Karen	LDP	3x	Aso	牧島かれん
KAMIYAMA Yosuke	CDP	2x	n/a	神山洋介
YAMADA Tadashi	JCP	0	n/a	山田正

The LDP's MAKISHIMA Karen, who was named digital affairs minister in the Kishida government, has won comfortably since first winning office in 2012. She took 51% in 2017, running against KAMIYAMA Yosuke (then a Party of Hope candidate) and a JCP candidate. Facing a similar field this year, she is likely to win again.

CALL: LDP hold

Kanagawa #18

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YAMAGIWA Daishiro	LDP	5x	Aso	山際大志郎

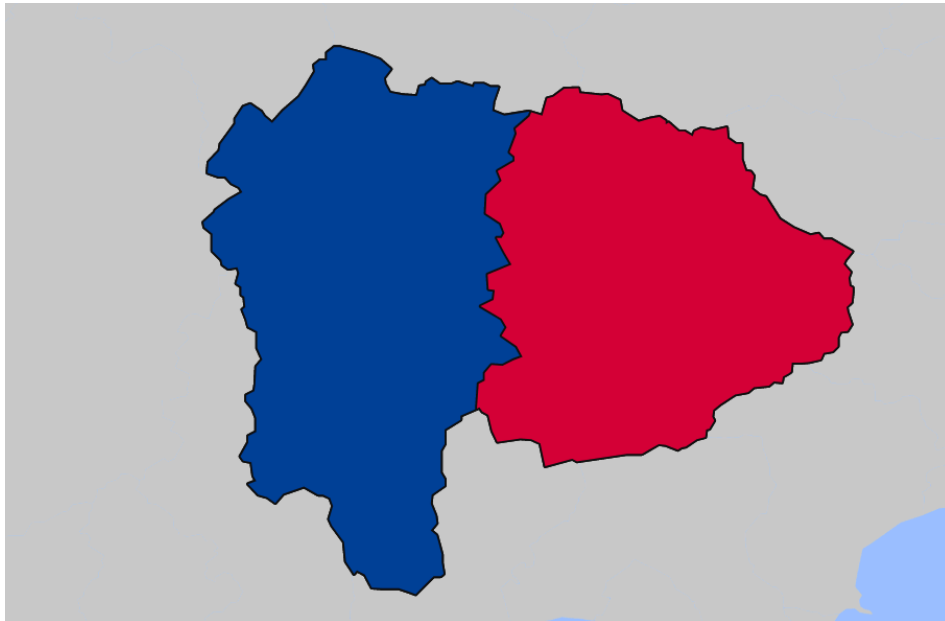
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MIMURA Kazuya	CDP	1x	n/a	三村和也
YOKOTA Mitsuhiro	Ishin	0	n/a	山田正

The LDP's YAMAGIWA Daishiro, who was named economic revitalization minister in the Kishida government, finished second and took a PR seat in 2003 and lost in 2009, but has otherwise won every race in Kanagawa-18. He is likely to win comfortably in this election.

CALL: LDP hold

YAMANASHI



Yamanashi #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAKAJIMA Katsuhito	CDP	3x	n/a	中島克仁
NAKATANI Shinichi	LDP	3x	Takeshita	中谷真一
HENMI Nobuyuki	NHK	0	n/a	辺見信介

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The CDP's NAKAJIMA Katsuhito, who first won a PR seat as a Minna no to candidate running the former Yamanashi-3 in 2009, defeated the LDP's candidate by less than 0.5% to win the district in 2014, and then won by a similar margin over the LDP's NAKATANI Shinichi in 2017. Polls show that the two candidates are neck and neck, and HENMI Nobuyuki, a candidate from the minor anti-NHK party, could make the difference. As a doctor, Nakajima might have a slight edge in this election.

CALL: CDP hold

Yamanashi #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HORIUCHI Noriko	LDP	3x	Kishida	堀内 詔子
ICHIKI Tomoko	CDP	0	n/a	いちき 伴子
ŌKUBO Reiko	JCP	0	n/a	大久保 令子

HORIUCHI Noriko, the daughter-in-law of a senior LDP politician who represented a Yamanashi constituency for all but one term from 1976 to 2009, won her first term via PR in 2012, finishing second behind a DPJ candidate. She was second again in 2014, winning another PR seat, and then won outright in 2017 despite not receiving the LDP's endorsement due to a rival LDP candidate. With the LDP vote united and the opposition divided between CDP and JCP – and Horiguchi elevated to the Kishida cabinet as minister for vaccinations – she is likely to win again.

CALL: LDP hold

TOKYO BLOCK

11,542,928 voters (October 2021)
17 PR seats
25 Constituencies

TOKYO SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

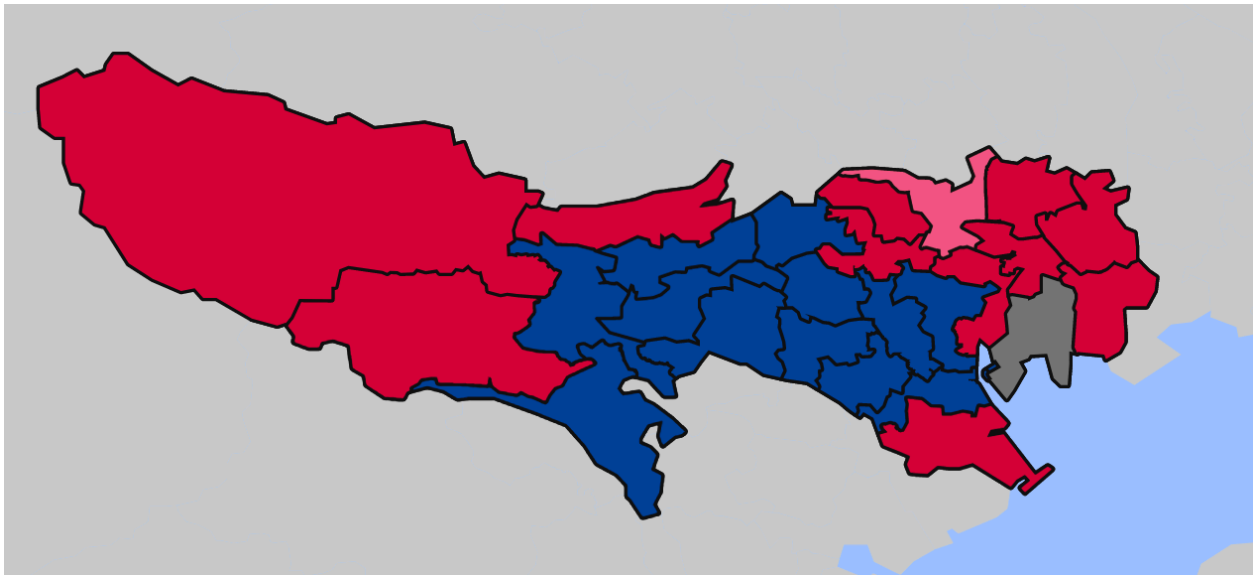
Party	Total	Change
LDP	12	-8
CDP	12	+8
Komeito	1	0

NB: LDP total includes Tokyo-15, where the LDP is backing an independent in a seat previously held by an LDP member.

My base case in Tokyo has the CDP gaining enough seats in the capital to equal the LDP. Results should be correlated across a number of districts in Tokyo in which the opposition has suffered from poor coordination, enabling LDP candidates to win with relatively modest pluralities but also leaving them vulnerable to a more organized opposition campaign. Polls show close races across much of the capital, suggesting that CDP gains in one or two could be indicative of pickups across the board in Tokyo.

TOKYO PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	6	-
CDP	4	-
Komeito	2	-
JCP	2	-
Ishin	2	+2
Reiwa	1	+1



Tokyo #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KAIEDA Banri	CDP	7x	n/a	海江田万里
YAMADA Miki	LDP	3x	Hosoda	山田美樹
ONO Taisuke	Ishin	0	n/a	小野たいすけ
NAITŌ Hisao	Independent	0	n/a	内藤久遠

Tokyo's first district has been a fiercely contested battleground, with no incumbent holding the seat for more than two consecutive elections. KAIEDA Banri, a former leader of the DPJ, has held the seat 2000-2005, 2009-2012, and since 2017, winning PR seats in 1996 and 2012 and losing outright in 2005 and 2014. YAMADA Miki, a former MITI official turned consultant, narrowly bested Kaieda in a nine-candidate race in 2012 and then defeated again Kaieda in 2014, making Kaieda the first party leader since 1949 to lose his seat. Kaieda got his revenge in 2017 when he reclaimed the seat by roughly a percentage point. While the race will be close again, the trend points to Kaieda winning again.

CALL: CDP hold

Tokyo #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TSUJI Kiyoto	LDP	3x	Kishida	辻清人
MATSUO Akihiro	CDP	1x	n/a	松尾明弘
KIMURA Itaru	Reiwa	0	n/a	北村イタル
KIUCHI Takatane	Ishin	0	n/a	木内たかたね
DEGUCHI Shinichirō	Independent	0	n/a	出口紳一郎

The LDP's TSUJI Kiyoto has won comfortably against divided fields since first winning in 2012. While the CDP's MATSUO Akihiro finished less than nine points behind – and wound up with a PR seat in 2020 after another lawmaker resigned – the divided field will make it difficult for Tsuji to be unseated.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ISHIHARA Hirotaka	LDP	4x	Ishihara	石原宏高
MATSUBARA Jin	CDP	7x	n/a	松原仁
KŌZAI Katsusuke	JCP	0	n/a	香西かつ介

Tokyo-3, has been held by ISHIHARA Hirotaka, younger brother of LDP faction leader ISHIHARA Nobuteru and son of former Tokyo Governor ISHIHARA Shintarō, since 2012. He also won in 2005. The CDP's MATSUBARA Jin, meanwhile, won in 2000, 2003, 2009, and ran closely enough behind Ishihara to win PR seats in each of the last three elections. This is their seventh election facing off. While the JCP's support has likely hindered Matsubara during the past three elections, polls suggest that Matsubara could be poised to succeed even with the JCP's KŌZAI Katsusuke in the race.

CALL: CDP pickup

Tokyo #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAIRA Masaaki	LDP	5x	Ishiba	平将明
TANIGAWA Tomoyuki	JCP	0	n/a	谷川智行
HAYASHI Tomooki	Ishin	0	n/a	林ともおき

The LDP's TAIRA Masaaki has represented this district since 2005, with the exception of 2009, when he lost by two points and had to settle for a PR seat. His victories have been comfortable, with the opposition alliance running only a JCP candidate, he should win again.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Tokyo #5*****

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
WAKAMIYA Kenji	LDP	4x	Takeshita	若宮健嗣
TEZUKA Yoshio	CDP	4x	n/a	手塚仁雄
TABUCHI Masafumi	Ishin	0	n/a	たぶち正文

WAKAMIYA Kenji, who first won a Diet seat as a PR candidate in 2005, has held Tokyo-5 since 2012. His victories have been slender; his highest vote share is 41.15%, in 2017, when he edged out the CDP's TEZUKA Yoshio, who received 40.28%. Tezuka also had to contend with a Party of Hope candidate, who received 18.5% of the vote. While Ishin's TABUCHI Masafumi could capture some of the non-LDP vote, Tezuka could be well positioned to win the seat he last won outright in 2009. A victory over Wakamiya could be embarrassing for the prime minister, as Wakamiya was named as minister for the 2025 Osaka world expo in the Kishida government.

CALL: CDP pickup

*****Tokyo #6*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
OCHIAI Takayuki	CDP	2x	n/a	落合貴之
OCHI Takao	LDP	4x	Hosoda	越智隆雄
USUI Rie	Ishin	0	n/a	うすいりえ

The race in Tokyo-6 in 2017 was one of the closest in the country, with the CDP's OCHIAI Takayuki besting OCHI Takao (a grandson of the late FUKUDA Takeo and nephew of FUKUDA Yasuo) by 1,978 votes. The two candidates are on track for another race decided by a slender margin, but Ochiai may still have the edge due to incumbency and the alliance with the JCP.

CALL: CDP hold

Tokyo #7

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAGATSUMA Akira	CDP	7x	n/a	長妻昭
MATSUMOTO Bunmei	LDP	4x	Hosoda	松本文明
TSUJI Kentarō	Ishin	0	n/a	つじ 健太郎
INO Keiji	NHK	0	n/a	猪野恵司
KOMIYAMA Hiroshi	Independent	0	n/a	込山洋

NAGATSUMA Akira is a CDP heavyweight who has won Tokyo-7 in every election but 2005 (when he received a PR seat) since 2000. He will win an eighth term comfortably.

CALL: CDP hold

*****Tokyo #8*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ISHIHARA Nobuteru	LDP	10x	Ishihara	石原伸晃
YOSHIDA Harumi	CDP	0	n/a	吉田晴美
KASATANI Keiji	Ishin	0	n/a	かさたに圭司

Although the LDP's ISHIHARA Nobuteru has won this district in every election since its creation, his victories have been more slender than his heavyweight status would suggest, depending as much on large opposition fields as on his support within the district. For example, in 2017, Ishihara was reelected with only 39% of the vote in a six-candidate field. With the field more consolidated – and no JCP candidate in the race – the CDP's YOSHIDA Harumi stands a better chance of surpassing Ishihara. Yoshida's chances were also helped when Reiwa's YAMAMOTO Tarō reversed a decision to enter the Tokyo-8 race. Polls show that the CDP does enjoy an edge in the district.

CALL: CDP pickup

Tokyo #9

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ANDŌ Takao	LDP	1x	Hosoda	安藤高夫
YAMAGISHI Issei	CDP	0	n/a	山岸一生
MINAMI Jun	Ishin	0	n/a	みなみ純
KOBAYASHI Kōki	Yamato	0	n/a	小林 興起

The resignation of the LDP's SUGAWARA Isshū due to a campaign finance scandal has opened up a race in a district that Sugawara had consistently won easily. Polls point to a close race between the LDP's ANDŌ Takao, who won a PR seat in 2017, and the CDP's YAMAGISHI Issei, a former Asahi Shimbun reporter, but suggest that Yamagishi has the upper hand.

CALL: CDP pickup

*****Tokyo #10*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SUZUKI Hayato	LDP	2x	Takeshita	鈴木隼人
SUZUKI Yōsuke	CDP	0	n/a	鈴木庸介
FUJIKAWA Takashi	Ishin	0	n/a	ふじ川 たかし
SAWAGUCHI Yūji	Kokoro	0	n/a	沢口祐司
KOYAMA Toru	Independent	0	n/a	小山 徹

Tokyo-10, the former district of Tokyo Governor KOIKE Yuriko, has been won by the LDP in every election except 2009. SUZUKI Hayato, the latest LDP candidate to win the district, won in a six-candidate race in 2017, taking 37.37% of the vote; the CDP's SUZUKI Yōsuke finished second with 28.77%, failing to win a PR seat. While the race appears to be close, the LDP appears likely to win the seat again.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #11

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHIMOMURA Hakubun	LDP	8x	Hosoda	下村博文
AKUTSU Yukihiko	CDP	4x	n/a	阿久津幸彦
NISHINOHARA Shūto	JCP	0	n/a	西之原修斗
KUWAJIMA Yasufumi	Independent	0	n/a	桑島康文

SHIMOMURA Hakubun, the LDP heavyweight ally of Abe, has held this seat continuously since its creation, even winning in 2009 by a percentage point. With CDP and JCP candidates running in the district, Shimomura's seat is safe.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #12

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
<i>OKAMOTO Mitsunari</i>	Komeito	3x	n/a	岡本三成
IKEUCHI Saori	JCP	1x	n/a	池内沙織
ABE Tsukasa	Ishin	0	n/a	阿部司

Komeito's OKAMOTO Mitsunari, who has won PR seats since 2012, has been selected to replace retiring Komeito lawmaker OTA Akihiro, who had won every election save 2009 since 2003. Ota's wins were not necessarily large, although he surpassed 50% in 2017 running against the JCP's IKEUCHI Saori, who was the unified opposition candidate. Ikeuchi ran close to Ota in 2014 to win a PR seat but was unable to do so in 2017. Polling suggests that the race could be close – there are questions about Okamoto's support from LDP supporters, something Ishin's ABE Tsukasa can take advantage of – but Okamoto's winning is still the likeliest outcome.

CALL: Komeito hold

Tokyo #13

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TSUCHIDA Shin	LDP	0	TBD	土田 慎
KITAJŌ Tomohiko	CDP	0	n/a	北條智彦
SAWADA Shingō	JCP	0	n/a	沢田真吾
WATANABE Hidetaka	Independent	0	n/a	渡辺秀高
HASHIMOTO Magomi	Independent	0	n/a	橋本孫美

The LDP's TSUCHIDA Shin is a newcomer running to succeed the retiring KAMOSHITA Ichirō, who had won nine elections dating back to 1993. In the past two elections, he had surpassed 55% against divided fields. With CDP and JCP candidates running, Tsuchida is well placed to win the seat.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #14

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MATSUSHIMA Midori	LDP	6x	Hosoda	松島みどり
KIMURA Taketsuka	CDP	1x	n/a	木村剛司
NISHIMURA Emi	Ishin	0	n/a	にしむら恵美
ŌTSUKA Kikuo	Independent	0	n/a	大塚 紀久雄
TAKEMOTO Hideyuki	Independent	0	n/a	竹本秀之
YANAMOTO Kazunori	Independent	0	n/a	梁本和則

Since her first victory in 2003, the LDP's MATSUSHIMA Midori has held Tokyo-14 since 2003, winning by comfortable if not overwhelming margins over divided fields. While the absence of a JCP candidate could help the CDP's KIMURA Taketsuka, Matsushima still has the advantage in the constituency.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #15

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KAKIZAWA Mito	Independent	4x	n/a	柿沢未途
IDO Masae	CDP	1x	n/a	井戸正枝
KANEZAWA Yui	Ishin	0	n/a	金澤 ゆい
SAKURAI Makoto	Japan First	0	n/a	桜井誠
IMAMURA Hirofumi	Independent	0	n/a	今村洋史
INO Takashi	Independent	0	n/a	猪野隆
YOSHIDA Kōji	Independent	0	n/a	吉田浩司

Tokyo-15 had been held by the LDP's AKIMOTO Tsukasa, who was found guilty and has been sentenced to four years in prison for taking bribes from a Chinese gambling company interested in setting up a casino in Japan. He had won the seat outright in 2017 after finishing second to KAKIZAWA Mito in 2012 and 2014. Kakizawa, running as an independent with the LDP's backing this year, previously won the district (or PR seats) as a Minna no to, Ishin, and Party of Hope candidate. Opposing Kakizawa in this race is the CDP's IDO Masae, who won a seat in Hyogo prefecture in 2009. While this is an unusually crowded field – including SAKURAI Makoto, founder of the xenophobic anti-Korean Zaitokukai, who could win at least 10% of the vote – Kakizawa's history representing the district and his ability to draw from both LDP voters and non-LDP conservative voters could seal his victory.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #16

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ŌNISHI Hideo	LDP	3x	Hosoda	大西英男
MIZUNO Motoko	CDP	0	n/a	北條智彦
ŌTA Ayaka	JCP	0	n/a	太田彩花
NAKATSUGAWA Hirosto	Ishin	3x	n/a	中津川ひろさと
TANAKA Ken	NHK	0	n/a	田中健

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The LDP's ŌNISHI Hideo has won three terms with vote shares below 50% thanks to divided fields. In 2017, for example, he received 40.9%, but CDP and Party of Hope candidates divided the remaining 59.1% between them, ensuring his victory. The outcome should be similar this time. The incumbent may win a small plurality, but none of the rivals seems likely to surpass his vote share.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #17

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HIRASAWA Katsuei	LDP	8x	Nikai	平沢勝栄
MADOKA Yoriko	DPFP	UH 3x	n/a	円より子
ARAI Sugio	JCP	0	n/a	新井杉生
INOKUCHI Sachiko	Ishin	0	n/a	いのくち幸子

HIRASAWA Katsuei has won Tokyo-17 in every election since 1996, receiving nearly 60% of the vote in 2017. He will win his ninth term.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #18

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KAN Naoto	CDP	13x	n/a	菅直人
NAGASHIMA Akihisa	LDP	6x	Nikai	長島昭久
KOYASU Masami	Independent	0	n/a	子安正美

After finishing second and settling for PR seats in 2012 and 2014, former prime minister KAN NAOTO won by less than 0.5% to retake Tokyo-18. This time, he will face NAGASHIMA Akihisa, a former DPJ lawmaker. Nagashima had represented Tokyo-21 for his entire parliamentary career – winning the district in 2017 as a Party of Hope candidate – but after joining the LDP in 2019, the party decided to move Nagashima to Tokyo-18 and leave Tokyo-21 to the LDP's ODAWARA Kiyoshi, who lost nearly to

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Nagashima in 2017. Nagashima faces an uphill climb to win in his new district, as polls show Kan enjoying a steady lead.

CALL: CDP hold

Tokyo #19

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MATSUMOTO Yōhei	LDP	4x	Nikai	松本洋平
SUEMATSU Yoshinori	CDP	6x	n/a	末松義規
YAMAZAKI Hideaki	Ishin	0	n/a	山崎英昭

The LDP's MATSUMOTO Yōhei has never received more than 46% of the vote, and his high came in his first election, in 2005. Subsequently, he has won by increasingly small margins over the CDP's SUEMATSU Yoshinori, who won a PR seat in 2017 after failing in 2012 and 2014. With no JCP candidate in the race, Suematsu is looking like a stronger candidate to retake the seat.

CALL: CDP pickup

Tokyo #20

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KIHARA Seiji	LDP	4x	Kishida	木原誠二
MIYAMOTO Tooru	JCP	2x	n/a	宮本徹
MAEDA Junichirō	Ishin	0	n/a	前田順一郎

KIHARA Seiji is close to Prime Minister Kishida, and was named deputy chief cabinet secretary and aide to the prime minister in October. Kihara won with 52% of the vote against JCP and DPJ candidates in 2017. Against a JCP and Ishin candidate this year, he should be comfortably reelected. The JCP's MIYAMOTO Tooru will be aiming for his third consecutive finish good enough to win a PR seat.

CALL: LDP hold

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION – PLEASE REQUEST PERMISSION FOR CITATION*****Tokyo #21*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ODAWARA Kiyoshi	LDP	3x	Hosoda	小田原 潔
ŌKAWARA Masako	CDP	1x/UH 1x	n/a	大河原 雅子
TAKEDA Mitsuaki	Ishin	0	n/a	竹田 光明

With NAGASHIMA Akihisa's move to Tokyo-18, ODAWARA Kiyoshi, who finished second and won PR seats in 2012 and 2017 and won the district in 2014, is the LDP nominee again. ŌKAWARA Masako won a Tokyo PR seat in 2017 and previously served a term in the upper house. While Odawara has been a strong contender, Ōkawara will benefit from the absence of a JCP or, as in 2017, an SDP candidate in the race.

CALL: CDP pickup*****Tokyo #22*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ITŌ Tatsuya	LDP	8x	No faction	伊藤 達也
YAMAHANA Ikuo	CDP	4x	n/a	山花 郁夫
KUSHIBUCHI Manri	Reiwa	0	n/a	櫛淵 万里
HASEGAWA Yōhei	NHK	0	n/a	長谷川 洋平

Every election in Tokyo-22 since its creation has featured either ITŌ Tatsuya, a member of the Yamahana family, or both, starting with a race between Itō and YAMAHANA Sadao in 1996, YAMAHANA Ikuo's successful run as DPJ candidate following in his father's footsteps in 2000, and then back and forth struggles between Itō and the younger Yamahana from 2003 onwards. Yamahana won in 2003 and 2009; Itō in 2005, 2012, 2014, and 2017. Only in 2003 and 2017 was the runner-up able to win a PR seat. Itō's victories since 2012 have been modest and dependent on a divided non-LDP vote. While the absence of a JCP candidate should help Yamahana, it is unclear what impact the presence of Reiwa's KUSHIBUCHI Manri – who won Tokyo-23 as a DPJ candidate in 2009 – will have on Yamahana's chances. If Yamahana can

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consolidate most of the opposition vote from 2017, he should still have enough room to spare even if Reiwa captures some of that vote.

CALL: CDP pickup

Tokyo #23

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
OGURA Masanobu	LDP	3x	Nikai	小倉將信
ITŌ Shunsuke	CDP	1x	n/a	伊藤俊輔

OGURA Masanobu, a former BOJ official who was part of the LDP's 2012 class, has never passed 45% of the vote in his three victories, reaching 44.95% against ITŌ Shunsuke (running as a Party of Hope candidate) and a JCP candidate. Ogura's other victories came with smaller vote shares against larger fields. Against a unified opposition, Ogura's position looks vulnerable.

CALL: CDP pickup

Tokyo #24

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HAGIUDA Kōichi	LDP	8x	No faction	萩生田光一
SATŌ Yumi	DPFP	4x	n/a	佐藤 由美
ASAKURA Reiko	SDP	0	n/a	朝倉 れい子
YOSHIKAWA Honoko	JCP	0	n/a	吉川ほのか

HAGIUDA Kōichi, the Abe ally who occupied an increasingly prominent series of jobs during the Abe administration, has won comfortably if not overwhelmingly over the past three elections. With the opposition field still divided, he will hold the seat again.

CALL: LDP hold

Tokyo #25

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
INOUE Shinji	LDP	6x	Aso	井上信治
SHIMADA Yukinari	CDP	0	n/a	島田幸成

INOUE Shinji, the LDP's representative in Tokyo-25, has won the district without interruption since 2003. He has faced divided fields, but still received large shares of the vote. Even with a unified opposition, he should win comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

HOKURIKU-SHINETSU BLOCK

6,079,250 voters (October 2021)

11 PR seats

19 Constituencies

HOKURIKU-SHINETSU SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

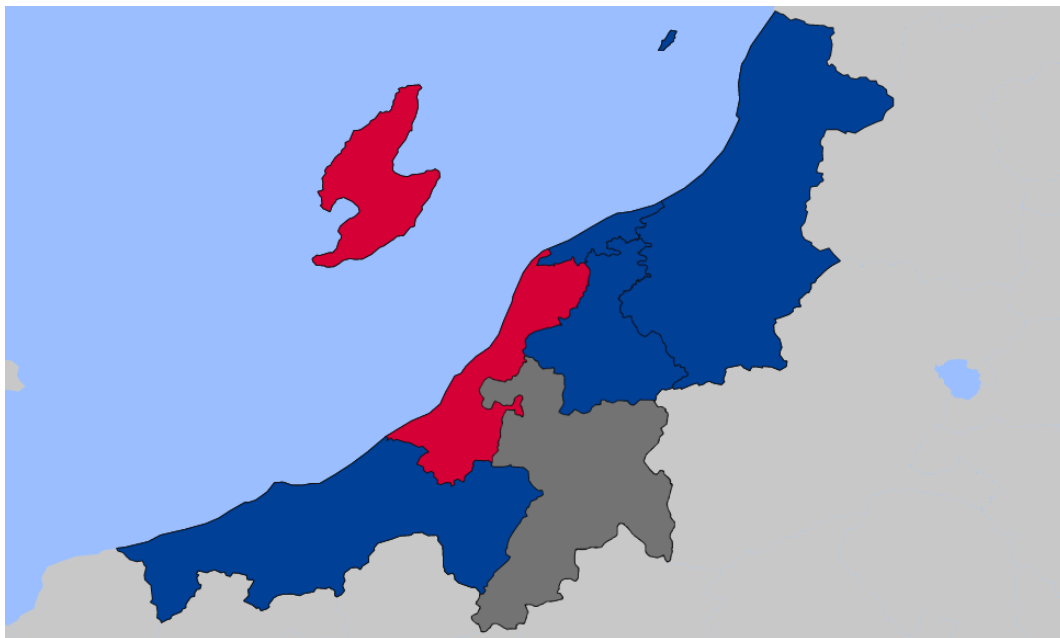
Party	Total	Change
LDP	9	-4
CDP	10	+4

My base case is that the opposition alliance could enable the CDP to make gains in Niigata and Nagano, and, if turnout increases, possibly gain closely fought seats in Ishikawa.

HOKURIKU-SHINETSU PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	4	-1
CDP	4	+2
Komeito	1	-
JCP	1	-
Ishin	1	+1

NIIGATA



Niigata #1

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NISHIMURA Chinami	CDP	5x	No faction	西村智奈美
TSUKADA Ichirō	LDP	UH 2x	TBD	塚田 一郎
ISHIZAKI Tooru	Ishin	3x	n/a	石崎 徹

NISHIMURA Chinami, the CDP's candidate this year, represented Niigata-1 from 2003-2012, won a PR seat in 2014 to reenter the Diet, and then won the district outright again in 2017. Her opponent in 2017, ISHIZAKI Tooru, won a PR seat in 2017 but was forced out of the LDP after a series of scandals. The party has nominated TSUKADA Ichirō instead, an LDP upper house representative from 2007-2019. The shuffling of LDP candidates may not make much difference. After winning by more than six points in 2017, Nishimura should win by at least that much in this election.

CALL: CDP hold

Niigata #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HOSODA Kenichi	LDP	3x	Hosoda	細田 健一
TAKAKURA Sasae	DPFP	0	n/a	高倉 栄
TAIRA Ayako	JCP	0	n/a	平あやこ

The LDP's HOSODA Kenichi, who won a PR seat in 2017, won Niigata-2 by .06% in 2014. He lost in 2017 to WASHIO Eiichirō, who had previously won the constituency as a DPJ candidate, won it as an independent in 2017, and then joined the LDP. The party is running Washio as a purely PR candidate and running Hosoda in the district instead. Hosoda is poised to win the constituency by a larger margin against a divided opposition.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Niigata #3*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name

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KUROIWA Takahiro	CDP	3x/UH 1x	n/a	黒岩宇洋
SAITŌ Hiroaki	LDP	3x	Aso	斎藤洋明

KUROIWA Takahiro, the CDP's candidate this year, won Niigata-3 by 50 votes over the LDP's SAITŌ Hiroaki, who had won the seat in 2012 but has had to settle for PR seats in 2014 and 2017. Kuroiwa likely has the edge in another tight race.

CALL: CDP hold

Niigata #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KIKUDA Makiko	CDP	6x	n/a	菊田真紀子
KUNISADA Sanjō	LDP	0	TBD	国定勇人

KIKUDA Makiko, who first won Niigata-4 in 2003, reclaimed the district with a convincing win in 2017 after settling for second-place finishes and PR seats in 2012 and 2014. Facing an LDP newcomer, she is likely to win her seventh term this year.

CALL: CDP hold

Niigata #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
IZUMIDA Hirohiko	LDP	1x	Nikai	泉田裕彦
YONEYAMA Ryūchi	Independent	0	n/a	米山隆一
MORI Tamio	Independent	0	n/a	森民夫

The LDP's IZUMIDA Hirohiko, a long-serving Niigata governor (2004-2016) and former MITI official, won his first term as a member of the House of Representatives by around seven points against an opposition-backed independent in 2017. In this election, however, he faces the opposition-backed governor who succeeded him, YONEYAMA Ryūchi, as well as the LDP-backed candidate that Yoneyama defeated, MORI Tamio. Polls show that Yoneyama has the advantage in this battle of governors.

CALL: CDP pickup

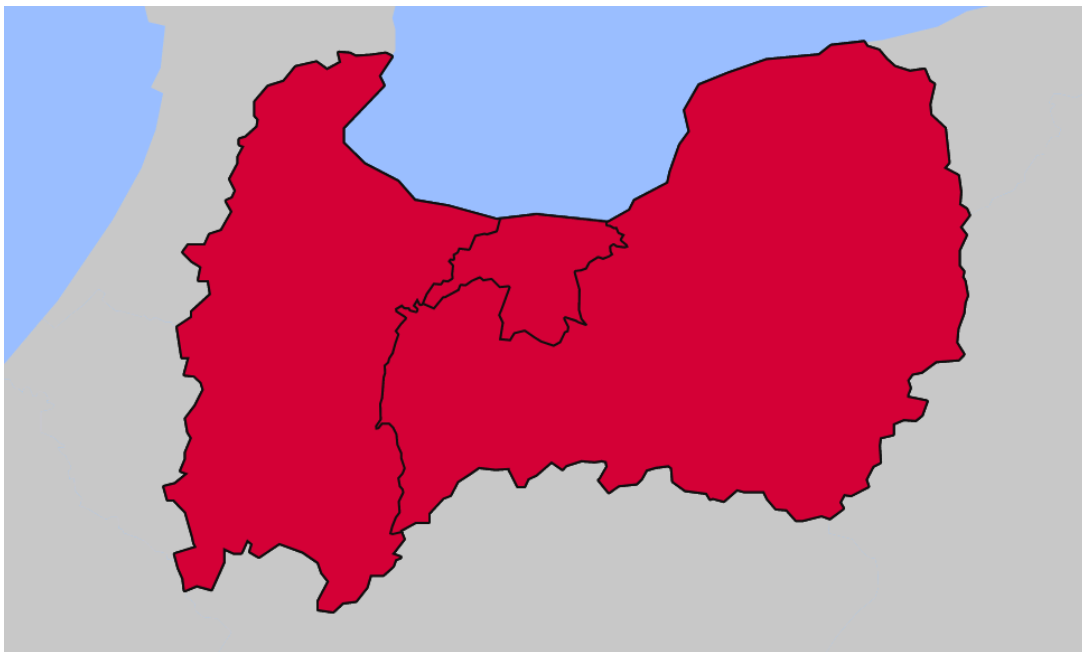
Niigata #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAKATORI Shūichi	LDP	4x	Hosoda	高鳥修一
UMETANI Mamoru	CDP	0	n/a	梅谷守
KANDORI Kosan	Independent	0	n/a	神鳥古賛

The CDP's UMETANI Mamoru, a former local politician and secretary to DPJ Diet members, fought a close battle as an independent in 2017, losing by roughly a percentage point to the LDP's TAKATORI Shūichi. Although Takatori has been a fairly strong candidate since his first victory in 2005 – although he lost in 2009 – Umetani benefited from the absence of a JCP candidate in 2017 and could do so again this year.

CALL: CDP pickup

TOYAMA



Toyama #1

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TABATA Hiroaki	LDP	3x	Hosoda	田畑裕明
NISHIO Masaei	CDP	0	n/a	西尾まさえい
AOYAMA Ryōsuke	JCP	0	n/a	青山了介
YOSHIDA Toyofumi	Ishin	1x	n/a	吉田豊史

Facing a divided field, the LDP's TABATA Hiroaki, who received more than 59% of the vote against Ishin's YOSHIDA Toyofumi and the JCP's AOYAMA Ryōsuke in 2017, will no doubt benefit from a CDP candidate also joining the race.

CALL: LDP hold

Toyama #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
UEDA Eishun	LDP	0	TBD	上田英俊
KOSHIKAWA Yasuharu	CDP	0	n/a	越川康晴

UEDA Eishun, a veteran local politician, will replace the retiring MIYAKOSHI Mitsuhiro, and will face off against KOSHIKAWA Yasuharu, a political neophyte. UEDA will secure the seat.

CALL: LDP hold

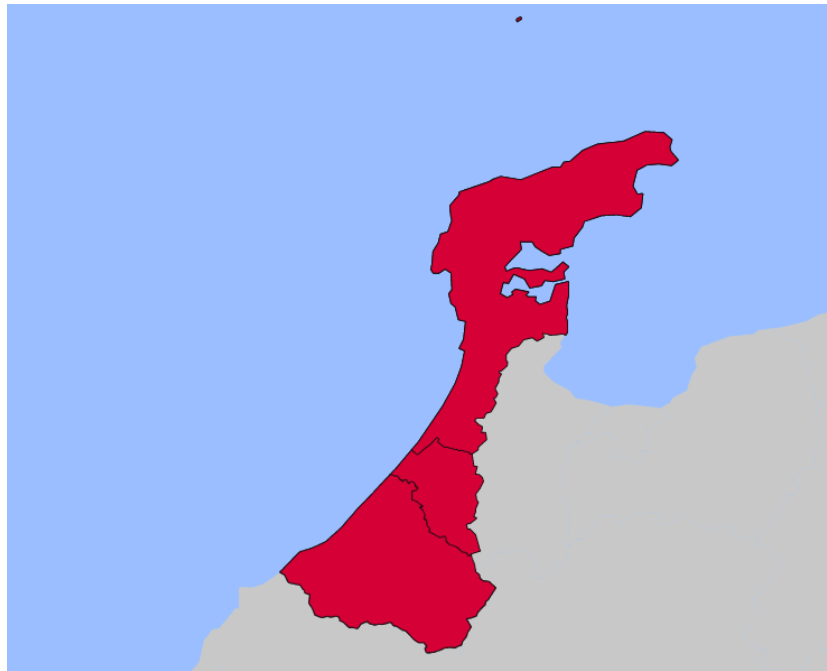
Toyama #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TACHIBANA Keiichirō	LDP	4x	No faction	橘慶一郎
SAKAMOTO Hiroshi	JCP	0	n/a	坂本洋史

In 2014, the LDP's TACHIBANA Keiichirō faced off against the JCP's SAKAMOTO Hiroshi and received 81% of the vote. A similar result is assured.

CALL: LDP hold

ISHIKAWA



Ishikawa #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KOMORI Takuo	LDP	0	TBD	小森卓郎
ARAI Atsushi	CDP	0	n/a	あらい淳志
KAMEDA Ryōsuke	JCP	0	n/a	亀田良典
KOBAYASHI Makoto	Ishin	0	n/a	こばやし誠

The LDP's HASE Hiroshi, a former professional wrestler, had finished first or second in every race in Ishikawa-1 since 2000. However, he is not seeking reelection and is instead seeking Ishikawa's governorship. The LDP has nominated KOMORI Takuo, a

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former finance ministry official, to replace him. Against a divided opposition field, he should win comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

Ishikawa #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SASAKI Hajime	LDP	3x	Hosoda	佐々木紀
SAKAMOTO Hiroshi	JCP	0	n/a	坂本浩
YAMAMOTO Yasuhiko	Independent	0	n/a	山本保彦

Ishikawa-2, which had been represented by former prime minister MORI Yoshirō until his retirement, has been held by the LDP for the entirety of its existence. Facing a JCP candidate, SASAKI Hajime should win another term easily.

CALL: LDP hold

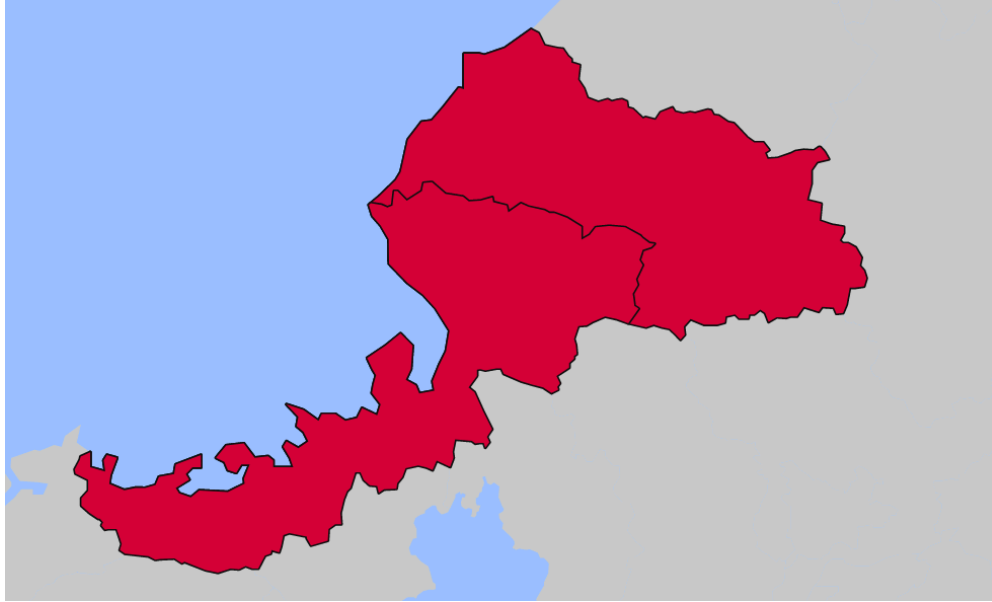
Ishikawa #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NISHIDA Shōji	LDP	1x	Kishida	西田昭二
KONDŌ Kazuya	CDP	2x	n/a	近藤和也
KURACHI Shōichi	Independent	0	n/a	倉知昭一

The LDP's NISHIDA Shōji won his first term in 2017, edging out the CDP's KONDŌ Kazuya – then running as a Party of Hope candidate – by just over one percentage point. Kondō had won a narrow (0.1%) victory in 2009 and struggled to regain his seat in 2012 and 2014, but did win a PR seat in 2017. While polls suggest that Kondō has kept the race close, Nishida may prevail again.

CALL: LDP hold

FUKUI



Fukui #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
INADA Tomomi	LDP	5x	Hosokawa	稲田朋美
NODA Tomihisa	CDP	0	n/a	野田富久

INADA Tomomi has won this seat comfortably, and a unified opposition will probably not make much difference in the outcome.

CALL: LDP hold

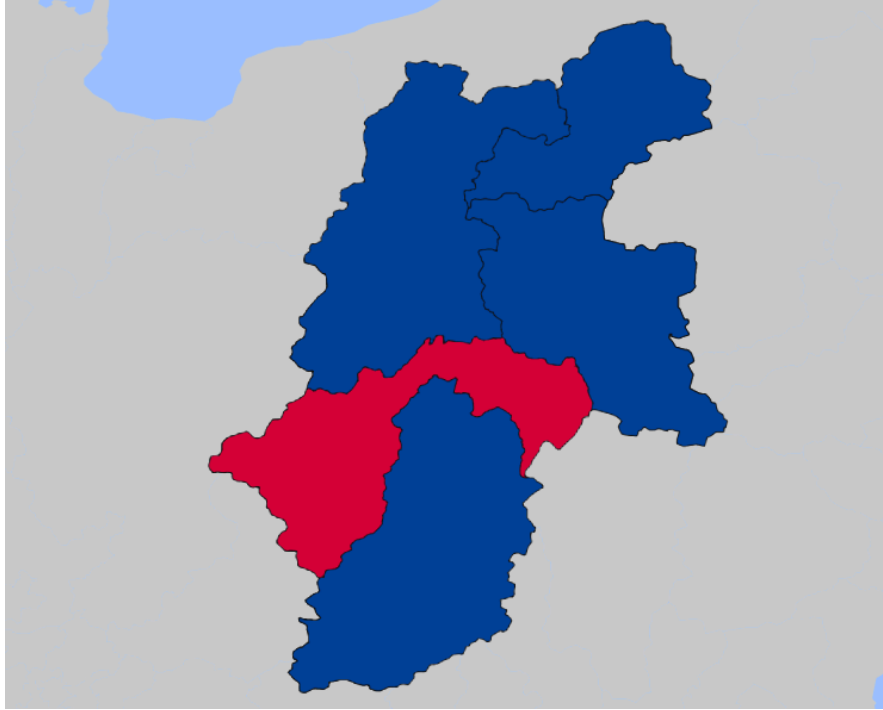
*****Fukui #2*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAKAGI Tsuyoshi	LDP	7x	Hosokawa	高木毅
SAIKI Takeshi	CDP	2x	n/a	齊木武志

The LDP's TAKAGI Tsuyoshi won five elections running in Fukui-3 before the district was eliminated by redistricting. Since moving over to Fukui-2 in 2014, he has won with 61.5% in 2014 and 54.2% in 2017. A unified opposition could narrow the race, but Takagi's strength – he even won in 2009 – and an experienced contender in the CDP's SAIKI Takeshi could make for a closer race.

CALL: LDP hold

NAGANO



Nagano #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHINOHARA Takashi	CDP	6x	n/a	篠原孝
WAKABAYASHI Kenta	LDP	UH 1x	Hosoda	若林健太

The CDP's SHINOHARA Takashi has contested this district in every election since 2003, winning PR seats in 2003 and 2005, and winning the district in every election since 2009. He is on track to win again, against former LDP upper house member WAKABAYASHI Kenta.

CALL: CDP hold

Nagano #2

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHIMOJŌ Mitsu	CDP	4x	n/a	下条みつ
MUTAI Shinsuke	LDP	3x	Aso	務台俊介
TEZUKA Daisuke	Ishin	0	n/a	手塚 大輔

In Nagano-2, the CDP's SHIMOJŌ Mitsu and the LDP's MUTAI Shinsuke have battled since 2009, with Shimojō winning in 2009 and 2017 and Mutai winning in 2012 and 2014. 2017 was the first time the loser won a PR seat, when Mutai finished with 30.43% to Shimojō's 35.47%. This time, polls show that Shimojō's margin of victory could be greater, not least thanks to the absence of more left-wing opposition candidates.

CALL: CDP hold

Nagano #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
IDE Yōsei	LDP	3x	Aso	井出庸生
KŌZU Takeshi	CDP	0	n/a	神津健
IKE Takao	NHK	0	n/a	池高生

IDE Yōsei was elected in 2017 from the Party of Hope, became an independent, and then joined with the LDP after rejecting the merger between the CDP and the Democratic Party for the People. Having won in 2017 with 53% of the vote, Ide is a potentially formidable candidate and enjoys a slight lead in polls. It is possible, however, that CDP's KŌZU Takeshi will be able to tap into the support of nonaligned voters to surpass Ide.

CALL: CDP pickup

Nagano #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
GOTŌ	LDP	6x	No faction	後藤茂之

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Shigeyuki				
NAGASE Yukiko	JCP	0	n/a	長瀬由希子

GOTŌ Shigeyuki, recently named minister of health, labor, and welfare in the Kishida government, lost in 2009 but has otherwise held Nagano-4 since 2000. Facing only a JCP candidate, he will win a seventh term.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Nagano #5*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MIYASHITA Ichirō	LDP	5x	Hosoda	宮下一郎
SOGA Itsurō	CDP	0	n/a	曾我逸郎

While the LDP's MIYASHITA Ichirō has generally won this seat comfortably since succeeding his father in 2003 – with the exception of 2009 – in 2017 his vote share fell below 50% against CDP and Party of Hope candidates. Polls suggest that Soga has an advantage among independents, which could make the difference in what appears to be a close race.

CALL: CDP pickup

TOKAI BLOCK

12,334,552 voters (October 2021)
21 PR seats
32 Constituencies

TOKAI SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

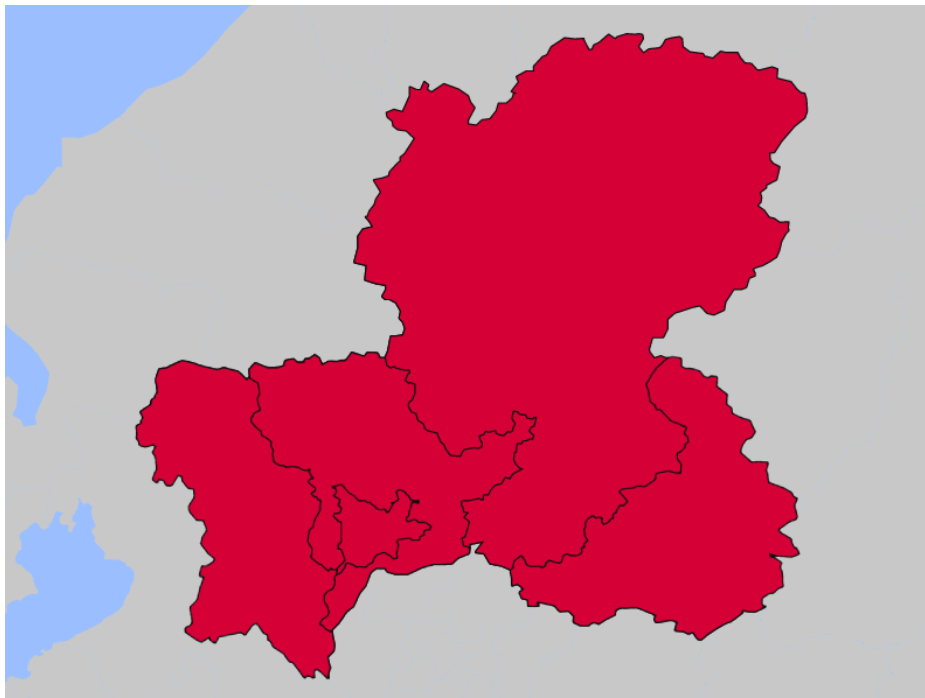
Party	Total	Change
LDP	19	-4
CDP	12	+6
DPFP	1	0
Independents	0	-2

My base case has the CDP making some gains but the LDP will claw back some of its losses by picking up seats being vacated by opposition-affiliated independents in Tokai, Japan's industrial heartland. While the opposition has run strongly in the block in the past – the DPJ won all 15 seats in Aichi in 2009 – the LDP has recruited strong candidates and the division of the DPJ and the retirement of prominent opposition politicians will make it difficult for the opposition to regain lost ground.

TOKAI PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	9	+1
CDP	6	+1
Komeito	2	-
JCP	2	+1
Ishin	2	+1

GIFU



Gifu #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NODA Seiko	LDP	9x	No faction	野田聖子
KAWAMOTO Keisuke	CDP	0	n/a	川本けいすけ
YAMAKOSHI Tooru	JCP	0	n/a	山越徹
TSUCHIDA Masamitsu	Independent	0	n/a	土田正光

NODA Seiko's seat is safe, particularly against a divided opposition.

CALL: LDP hold

Gifu #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TANAHASHI Yasufumi	LDP	8x	Aso	棚橋泰文
ŌTANI Yuriko	DPFP	0	n/a	大谷由里子
MIO Keiji	JCP	0	n/a	三尾圭司

The LDP's TANAHASHI Yasufumi has won Gifu-2 for the entirety of its existence, most recently by overwhelmingly large margins. He will win again, facing a divided opposition.

CALL: LDP hold

Gifu #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MUTŌ Yōji	LDP	4x	Aso	武藤容治
SAKAGUCHI Naoto	CDP	2x	n/a	阪口直人

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MUTŌ Yōji won for the first time in 2005, lost in 2009, and has won every election since 2012, all with at least 50% of the vote. In this election, he faces the CDP's SAKAGUCHI Naoto, who won a Wakayama seat in 2009 and a PR seat in 2012, but has been out of the Diet since. Mutō will likely win reelection comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

Gifu #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KANEKO Shunpei	LDP	1x	Kishida	金子俊平
IMAI Masato	CDP	4x	n/a	今井雅人
SAEKI Tetsuya	Ishin	0	n/a	佐伯 てつや

The LDP's KANEKO Shunpei succeeded his father, a cabinet minister in the Koizumi and Aso governments, in 2017, taking 49% to 42% for IMAI Masato, then a Party of Hope candidate, who won a PR seat. While Imai, now running as a CDP candidate, will benefit from the absence of a JCP candidate (the JCP took more than 8% in 2017), Ishin's SAEKI Tetsuya could take enough of a share of the vote to prevent Imai's victory.

CALL: LDP hold

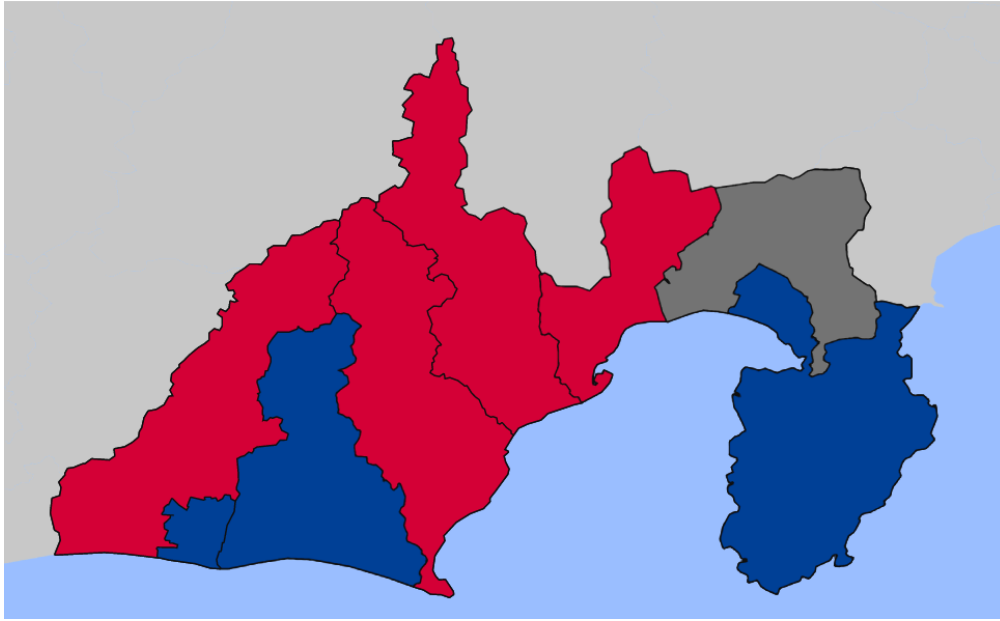
Gifu #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FURUYA Keiji	LDP	10x	No faction	古屋圭司
IMAI Ruru	CDP	0	n/a	今井るる
OZEKI Shōko	JCP	0	n/a	小関祥子
YAMADA Ryōji	Ishin	0	n/a	山田良司

FURUYA Keiji has won every election in Gifu-5 except for 2009, when he had to settle for a PR seat. Against a divided field, he will win reelection comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

SHIZUOKA



Shizuoka #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KAMIKAWA Yōko	LDP	6x	Kishida	上川陽子
ENDŌ Yukihiro	CDP	0	n/a	遠藤行洋
AOYAMA Masayuki	Ishin	1x	n/a	青山雅幸
TAKAHASHI Miho	DPFP	1x	n/a	高橋美穂

The LDP's KAMIKAWA Yōko received nearly 47% of the vote in 2017 against a virtually identical field, and polls show that she will win with similar results this year.

CALL: LDP hold

Shizuoka #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
IBAYASHI Tatsunori	LDP	3x	Aso	井林辰憲

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FUKUMURA Takashi	CDP	0	n/a	福村隆
YAMAGUCHI Yuki	JCP	0	n/a	山口祐樹

IBAYASHI Tatsunori, who won with 43% in 2012 but has received nearly 60% in both 2014 and 2017, will benefit from a divided opposition field to win a fourth term.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Shizuoka #3*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MIYAZAWA Hiroyuki	LDP	3x	Hosoda	宮澤博行
KOYAMA Nobuhiro	CDP	2x	n/a	小山展弘

KOYAMA Nobuhiro, running as an independent, took 37% in 2017 to MIYAZAWA Hiroyuki's 44.5%, while a Party of Hope candidate took another 18%. With no other opposition candidates in the race, Koyama, who won the district in 2009, appears poised to unseat Miyazawa.

CALL: CDP pickup

Shizuoka #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FUKAZAWA Yōichi	LDP	1x	Kishida	深澤陽一
TANAKA Ken	DPFP	0	n/a	田中健
NAKAMURA Kenichi	Ishin	0	n/a	中村 けんいち

The LDP's FUKAZAWA Yōichi received more than 60% of the vote in a 2020 by-election to fill the seat vacated by the late MOCHIZUKI Yoshio. TANAKA Ken also ran as the opposition candidate in that race and received only 35%. The LDP's history of success in the district points to another victory for Fukazawa.

CALL: LDP hold

Shizuoka #5

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HOSONO Gōshi	Independent (LDP)	7x	Nikai	細野豪志
YOSHIKAWA Takeru	LDP	2x	Kishida	吉川赳
ONO Norikazu	CDP	0	n/a	小野のりかず
CHIDA Hikaru	Love Earth	0	n/a	千田 光

Shizuoka-5 is one of the sites of the battle within the LDP between Nikai and other party bosses, with Nikai's backing former DPJ rising star HOSONO Gōshi, who won the district as a Party of Hope candidate in 2017 and subsequently joined the LDP, against Kishida faction member YOSHIKAWA Takeru, who finished second to Hosono and won a PR seat (although only after a higher finisher resigned to run for another office). The veteran Hosono has a stronger base within the district and appears likely to capture a greater share of the vote, not withstanding the divided LDP vote.

CALL: LDP hold

Shizuoka #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
WATANABE Shu	CDP	8x	n/a	渡辺周
KATSUMATA Takaaki	LDP	3x	Nikai	勝俣孝明
YAMASHITA Kōki	Ishin	0	n/a	山下こうき

The CDP's WATANABE Shu has won every election in Shizuoka-6 since its creation, most recently as a Party of Hope candidate. His victories in 2012, 2014, and 2017 were all relatively close, the margin falling to 0.27% in 2017, enabling the LDP's KATSUMATA Takaaki to win PR seats in the past three elections. Polls indicate that the race could be close again, although perhaps not as narrow as in 2017.

Call: CDP hold

Shizuoka #7

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KIUCHI Minoru	LDP	5x	No faction	城内実
HIYOSHI Yūta	CDP	1x	n/a	日吉雄太

KIUCHI Minoru has won victories with large vote shares, including nearly 71% in 2014 and 66% in 2017. While HIYOSHI Yūta won a PR seat with a third-place finish in 2017 as an Ishin candidate, it will be difficult to catch Kiuchi this year.

Call: LDP hold

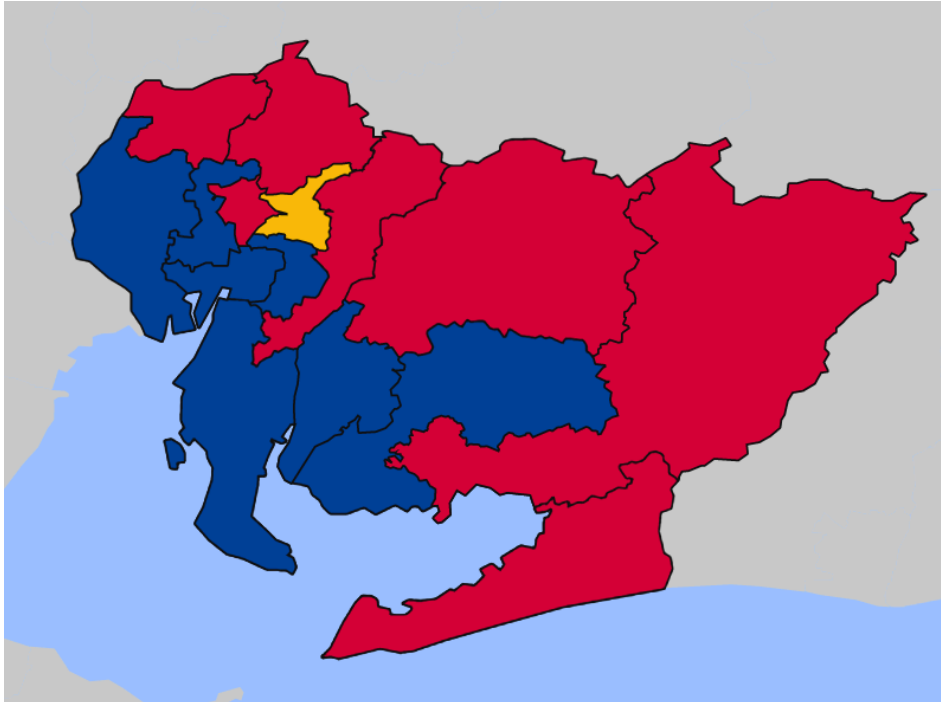
*****Shizuoka #8*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHIONOYA Ryū	LDP	9x	Hosoda	塩谷立
GENMA Kentarō	CDP	1x	n/a	源馬謙太郎

SHIONOYA Ryū has, with several interruptions, represented Shizuoka in the House of Representatives since 1990. In the past three elections, he has faced GENMA Kentarō, who has run as an Ishin and Party of Hope candidate, winning a PR seat in 2017 with 39% of the vote. While Shionoya has received nearly 51% of the vote in the past two elections, polls suggest that Genma could ride public discontent – which contributed to the LDP's upper house by-election loss on 24 October – into an upset victory.

Call: CDP pickup

AICHI



Aichi #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KUMADA Hiromichi	LDP	3x	Suga group	熊田裕通
YOSHIDA Tsunehiko	CDP	2x	n/a	吉田統彦
KADOTA Setsuyo	NHK	0	n/a	門田節代

Although the CDP's YOSHIDA Tsunehiko won a PR seat running against the LDP's KUMADA Hiromichi, taking 32% of the vote to Kumada's 41% (with a Party of Hope candidate taking nearly 27%), polls suggest that Kumada, who has won with only around 40% in each of his victories thanks to divided fields, could best Yoshida again, although by a closer margin.

Call: LDP hold

Aichi #2

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FURUKAWA Motohisa	DPFP	8x	n/a	古川元久
NAKAGAWA Takamoto	LDP	0	TBD	中川貴元

The DPFP's FURUKAWA Motohisa, once a DPJ rising star, has represented Aichi-2 since 2000 without interruption. He will retain the seat again.

Call: DPFP hold

Aichi #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KONDŌ Shōichi	CDP	8x	n/a	近藤昭一
IKEDA Yoshitaka	LDP	3x	Hosoda	池田佳隆

The CDP's KONDŌ Shōichi has lost only two elections – 1996 and 2012 – since the creation of this constituency, and in both defeats he was revived through PR. In 2017, he defeated the LDP's IKEDA Yoshitaka by roughly ten percentage points, although Ikeda won a PR seat. A similar outcome is likely.

Call: CDP hold

*****Aichi #4*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KUDŌ Shōzō	LDP	3x	Aso	工藤彰三
MAKI Yoshio	CDP	6x	n/a	牧義夫
NAKATA Chiyo	Ishin	0	n/a	中田ちよ

The CDP's MAKI Yoshio won four elections – 2000, 2003, 2005, and 2009 – as a DPJ candidate before losing in 2012 as a candidate of the splinter Japan Future Party. He won PR seats in 2014 and 2017, running against the LDP's KUDŌ Shōzō as an

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Ishin and Party of Hope candidate respectively. Kudō's victories over Maki have not been overwhelming, having been aided by divided opposition fields. Ishin's NAKATA Chiyo could play that spoiler role this year, but Maki may have the edge nevertheless.

Call: CDP pickup

Aichi #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KANDA Kenji	LDP	3x	Hosoda	神田憲次
NISHIKAWA Atsushi	CDP	0	n/a	西川あつし
MISAKI Maki	Ishin	0	n/a	岬まき

Aichi-5 is being vacated by the CDP's AKAMATSU Hirotaka, who had won every election save 2005 and 2012 in the constituency. His secretary, NISHIKAWA Atsushi, will be running in his stead, against the LDP's KANDA Kenji, who won in 2012 and took PR seats in 2014 and 2017. Kanda looks like a stronger candidate against the newcomer NISHIKAWA, but the overall trend could favor Nishikawa.

Call: CDP hold

Aichi #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NIWA Hideki	LDP	5x	Aso	丹羽秀樹
MATSUDA Isao	CDP	1x	n/a	松田功
UCHIDA Ken	JCP	0	n/a	内田謙

The LDP's NIWA Hideki won Aichi-6 in 2005, lost in 2009, returned in a by-election in 2011, and has held the seat ever since. With the CDP's MATSUDA Isao, who was a purely PR candidate in 2017, having to contend with a JCP candidate, Niwa should win reelection comfortably.

Call: LDP hold

Aichi #7

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SUZUKI Junji	LDP	5x	Hosoda	鈴木淳司
MORIMOTO Kazuyoshi	CDP	1x	n/a	森本和義
SUYAMA Hatsumi	JCP	0	n/a	須山初美

This seat had been held by YAMAO Shiori, a prominent opposition politician whose career was derailed by scandal. She still won Aichi-7 as an independent in 2017, winning by only 834 votes over the LDP's SUZUKI Junji, but was orphaned by the CDP-DPPF merger and appeared to be drifting rightward before announcing that she would not seek reelection. Her retirement is a gift to Suzuki, who won the seat in 2005 and 2012 and secured PR seats in 2014 and 2017. Even without a JCP candidate in the race, Suzuki has the edge over the CDP's MORIMOTO Kazuyoshi, who won Aichi-15 in 2009; with a JCP candidate in the race, his victory is assured.

Call: LDP pickup

Aichi #8

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ITŌ Tadahiko	LDP	4x	Nikai	伊藤忠彦
BANNO Yutaka	CDP	5x	n/a	伴野豊

The LDP's ITŌ Tadahiko bested the CDP's BANNO Yutaka, running as an independent, by less than 1% of the vote in 2017. Banno had won the constituency as a DPJ candidate in 2003 and 2009, and won PR seats in 2000, 2005, and 2014. With no other candidates in the race – the JCP took roughly 8.5% in 2017 – Banno could be poised to retake the seat.

Call: CDP pickup

Aichi #9

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAGASAKA Yasumasa	LDP	3x	Aso	長坂康正

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OKAMOTO Mitsunori	CDP	5x	n/a	岡本充功
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The district of former prime minister KAIFU Toshiki – who won it as a candidate of both the LDP and non-LDP opposition parties – it has been represented by the LDP's NAGASAKA Yasumasa since 2012, when he defeated the DPJ's OKAMOTO Mitsunori. Okamoto has won PR seats four times, most recently in 2017 when he received nearly 41% of the vote to Nagasaka's 47.5%. However, in this election, Okamoto appears set to leverage his experience as a medical doctor and public interest in the pandemic to unseat Nagasaka.

Call: CDP pickup

Aichi #10

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ESAKI Tetsuma	LDP	7x	Nikai	江崎鐵磨
FUJIWARA Norimasa	CDP	0	n/a	藤原規眞
SUGIMOTO Kazumi	Ishin	3x	n/a	杉本和巳
ITAKURA Masafumi	JCP	0x	n/a	板倉正文
YASUI Misako	Reiwa	0	n/a	安井 美沙子

The LDP's ESAKI Tetsuma lost elections in Aichi-10 in 2000 and 2009 but has otherwise represented this constituency since its creation. In recent years, he has benefited from divided fields, enabling him to win with considerably less than 50% of the vote. With four opposition candidates in the race – including SUGIMOTO Kazumi, who won the constituency as a DPJ candidate in 2009 and a PR seat as an Ishin candidate in 2017, when he finished third – Esaki will likely win again.

Call: LDP hold

Aichi #11

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YAGI Tetsuya	LDP	3x	Ishiba	八木哲也

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HONDA Nobuhiro	JCP	0	n/a	本田信弘
UMEMURA Tadashi	Independent	0	n/a	梅村忠司

Aichi-11 is open following the retirement of FURUMOTO Shinichirō, who held the seat as a DPJ and then Party of Hope member from 2003 until now. Furumoto had not joined with the CDP, and, seeing Toyota's union, a key constituency negotiating with the LDP, he believed that his chances of reelection were slim. The opposition's backing the JCP's HONDA Nobuhiro suggests that the LDP's YAGI Tetsuya, who finished second and won PR seats in 2012, 2014, and 2017, will win easily.

Call: LDP pickup

Aichi #12

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHIGETOKU Kazuhiko	CDP	3x	n/a	重徳和彦
Aoyama Shuhei	LDP	3x	Hosoda	青山周平

The CDP's SHIGETOKU Kazuhiko won Aichi-12 outright in 2017 as an independent after winning it as an Ishin candidate in 2014 and winning a PR seat as an Ishin candidate in 2012. Having won the district by 16% over the LDP's AOYAMA Shuhei, Shigetoku should retain the seat easily.

Call: CDP hold

Aichi #13

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ŌNISHI Kensuke	CDP	4x	n/a	大西健介
ISHII Taku	LDP	0	TBD	石井拓

The CDP's ŌNISHI Kensuke won Aichi-13 in 2009, lost by 0.6% in 2012 and took a PR seat, and regained the district in 2014, keeping it as a Party of Hope candidate in 2017. While his margins have been slender, he is still the favorite to retain the seat against LDP newcomer ISHII Taku.

Call: CDP hold

Aichi #14

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
IMAEDA Sōichirō	LDP	3x	Aso	今枝宗一郎
TANAKA Katsunori	CDP	0	n/a	田中克典
NOZAWA Yasuyuki	JCP	0	n/a	野沢康幸

The LDP's IMAEDA Sōichirō won Aichi-14 in 2012 when he was 28, receiving 44.75% of the vote. He has steadily increased his vote share in subsequent elections, winning 55.27% of the vote in 2017 against the CDP's TANAKA Katsunori, then running as a Party of Hope candidate, and a JCP candidate. Facing a similar field this year, he will likely win comfortably.

Call: LDP hold

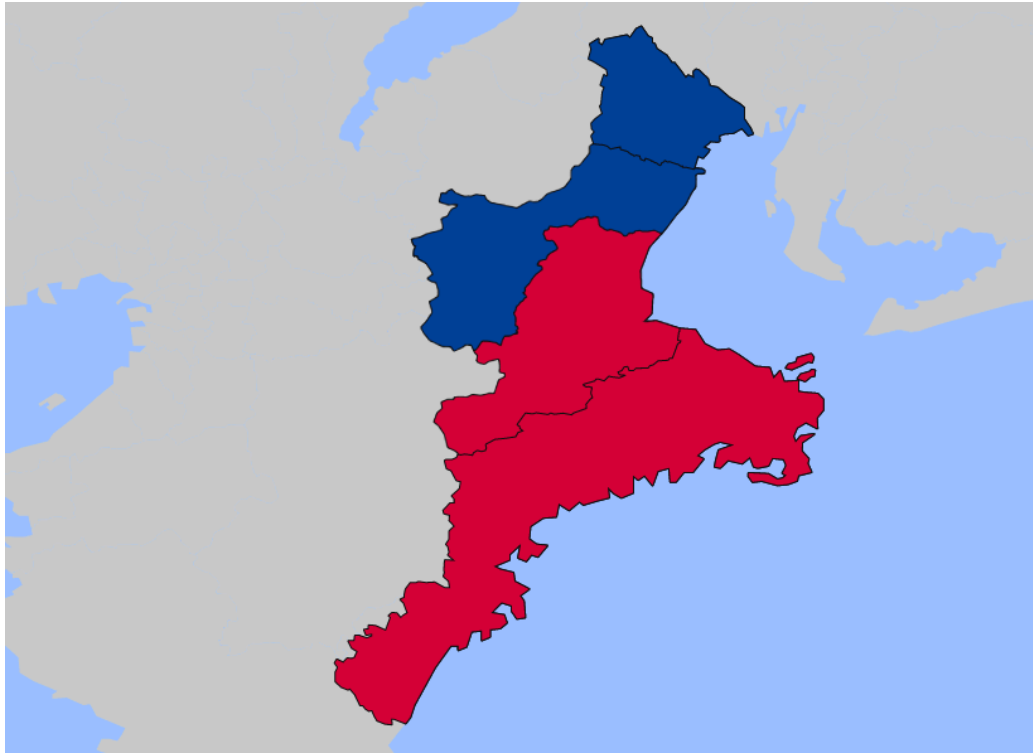
Aichi #15

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NEMOTO Yukinori	LDP	3x	Hosoda	根本幸典
SEKI Kenichirō	CDP	1x	n/a	関健一郎
SUGAYA Ryū	Reiwa	0	n/a	すがや竜

The LDP's NEMOTO Yukinori received nearly 50% in 2017, with the CDP's SEKI Kenichirō winning roughly 40% of the vote and taking a PR seat. The presence of Reiwa's SUGAYA Ryū in the race will make it difficult for Seki to close the gap.

Call: LDP hold

MIE



Mie #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAMURA Norihiisa	LDP	8x	Ishiba	田村憲久
MATSUDA Naohisa	CDP	1x	n/a	松田直久
YAMADA Izumi	NHK	0	n/a	山田いずみ

After redistricting altered constituency boundaries, the LDP's TAMURA Norihisa moved from Mie-4 to Mie-1 in 2017. Tamura, who served as minister of health, labor, and welfare under Abe and Suga, won by nearly eight points over the CDP's MATSUDA Naohisa, who had won a PR seat as an Ishin candidate in 2014 but was running as an independent in 2017. Polls show that Tamura enjoys a large lead this year.

Call: LDP hold

Mie #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAKAGAWA Masaharu	CDP	8x	n/a	中川正春
KAWASAKI Hideto	LDP	0	TBD	川崎秀人

With his father's retirement, the LDP's KAWASAKI Hideto is running to win a district that has been held by NAKAGAWA Masaharu since its creation. The elder Kawasaki had previously run in Mie-1 but moved due to redistricting and lost to Nakagawa by nearly eight points in 2017. Polls suggest that Nakagawa is in a closer fight with the younger Kawasaki, but should still prevail.

Call: CDP hold

Mie #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
OKADA Katsuya	CDP	10x	n/a	岡田克也
ISHIHARA Masataka	LDP	0	TBD	石原正敬

Longtime opposition heavyweight OKADA Katsuya enjoys a sizable lead in the polls and should win comfortably.

Call: CDP hold

Mie #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SUZUKI Eikei	LDP	0	TBD	鈴木英敬
BŌNO Shūji	CDP	0	n/a	坊農秀治
NAKAGAWA Tamihide	JCP	0	n/a	中川民英

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SUZUKI Eikei, a former METI official who won three terms as Mie's governor from 2011-2021 (including reelection by large margins in 2015 and 2019), is running as the LDP's candidate, replacing the retiring MITSUYA Norio. Polls show that Suzuki enjoys a sizable lead, with BŌNO Shūji not helped by a JCP candidate also in the race.

Call: LDP hold

KINKI BLOCK

17,129,776 voters (October 2021)
28 PR seats
47 Constituencies

KINKI SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

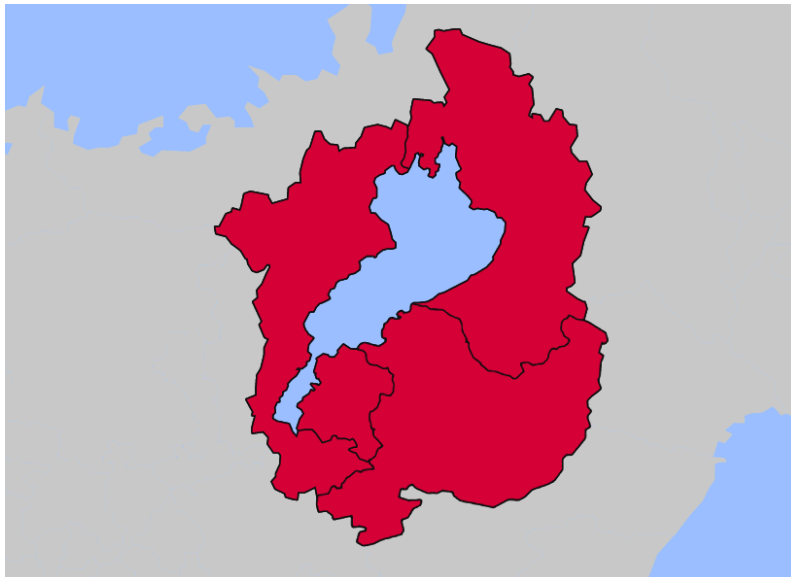
Party	Total	Change
LDP	19	-13
CDP	5	+2
DPFP	2	0
Ishin	14	+11
Komeito	6	0
NHK	0	-1
Independent	1	+1

My base case for the Kinki block assumes that Ishin's fortunes will result in its flipping a significant number of seats – at least nine from the LDP and another one from the CDP – to become the single largest party in the block. However, Ishin's impact will not be entirely detrimental for the LDP: in Hyogo, it is more likely that Ishin candidates will simply split the non-LDP vote and enable incumbents to win comfortably.

KINKI PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	9	-
CDP	4	-1
Komeito	4	-
JCP	3	+1
Ishin	8	+3

SHIGA



Shiga #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ŌOKA Toshitaka	LDP	3x	Nikai	大岡敏孝
SAITŌ Alex	DPFP	0	n/a	斎藤アレックス
HIDAKA Chie	NHK	0	n/a	日高千穂

Since his first electoral victory in 2012, the LDP's ŌOKA Toshitaka has won by narrow margins in Shiga-1: three, six, and three percentage points in 2012, 2014, and 2017. Facing SAITŌ Alex, a Spanish-born DPFP candidate who worked for MAEHARA Seiji, he appears to enjoy a steady lead in the polls.

Call: LDP hold

Shiga #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
UENO Kenichirō	LDP	4x	Ishihara	上野賢一郎
TAJIMA Issei	CDP	4x	n/a	田島一成

After winning three elections as a DPJ candidate in 2003, 2005, and 2009, TAJIMA Issei was unseated in 2012 by UENO Kenichirō and was only able to win a PR seat in races against Ueno in 2014. While Tajima will benefit from the unified opposition field, Ueno is favored in the polls.

Call: LDP hold

Shiga #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAKEMURA Nobuhide	LDP	3x	Suga group	武村展英

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<i>TAKAI Takashi</i>	Reiwa	3x	n/a	高井崇志
SAITŌ Kōhei	JCP	0	n/a	斎藤耕平
NAOYAMA Hitoshi	Ishin	0	n/a	直山仁

The LDP's TAKEMURA Nobuhide first won election to the Diet in 2012 with a three-point victory over the DPJ incumbent. In 2014 and 2017, he raised his vote total and vote share, taking over 53% in both elections. Polls suggest that with a divided opposition field, Takemura will win comfortably again.

Call: LDP hold

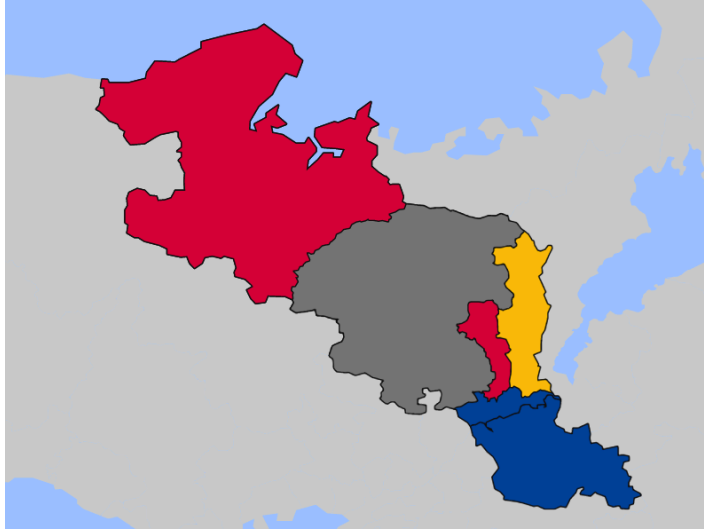
Shiga #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KOTERA Hiroo	LDP	1x	Nikai	小寺裕雄
TOKUNAGA Hisashi	CDP	UH 1x	n/a	徳永久志

KOTERA Hiroo won his first term as a Diet member in 2017, defeating then-Party of Hope candidate TOKUNAGA Hisashi by a 47.8%-38.55% margin with a JCP candidate also in the race. With no JCP candidate, Tokunaga, now a CDP candidate, could threaten Kotera's reelection prospects, but polls point to a comfortable lead for the incumbent.

Call: LDP hold

KYOTO



Kyoto #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
<i>KOKUTA Keiji</i>	JCP	9x	n/a	穀田恵二
KATSUME Yasushi	LDP	0	TBD	勝目康
HORIBA Sachiko	Ishin		n/a	堀場 さち子

Kyoto-1 is being vacated by the retiring IBUKI Bunmei, former LDP faction leader and speaker of the House of Representatives. The main opposition candidate for the seat is the JCP's KOKUTA Keiji, who won a seat from Kyoto under the old electoral system in 1993 and then ran strongly enough in all eight elections under the new system to win a PR seat. Kokuta may nevertheless face an uphill battle to win the seat outright, although the race with LDP contender KATSUME Yasushi, a former ministry of internal affairs and communications official, could be close.

Call: LDP hold

Kyoto #2

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MAEHARA Seiji	DPFP	9x	n/a	前原誠司
<i>SHIGEMOTO Mamoru</i>	LDP	1x	Nikai	繁本護
CHISAKA Takuaki	JCP	0	n/a	地坂拓晃
NAKA Tatsuya	Reiwa	0	n/a	中辰哉

MAEHARA Seiji, once a leading light of the opposition, is no longer the power that he once was. Nevertheless, he remains a formidable candidate within his constituency and should win comfortably against the LDP's SHIGEMOTO Mamoru, who managed to win a PR seat in 2017 despite running almost 19 points behind Maehara.

Call: DPFP hold

Kyoto #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
IZUMI Kenta	CDP	7x	n/a	泉健太
<i>KIMURA Yayoi</i>	LDP	2x	Suga group	木村弥生
INOUE Hiroaki	Ishin	0	n/a	井上博明

The CDP's IZUMI Kenta won his first election as a twenty-nine-year-old DPJ candidate in 2003, and has returned to the Diet in every subsequent election, although he had to settle for PR seats in 2012 and 2014. However, when a sex scandal forced out the LDP incumbent, Izumi regained the seat with 65% of the vote in a 2016 by-election and then won it again with 38.3% of the vote to 34.3% for the LDP's KIMURA Yayoi in 2017. In 2017, Izumi had to contend with a JCP candidate, who took 16% of the vote; this time, he will benefit from the progressive alliance, strengthening his chances of reelection.

Call: CDP hold

Kyoto #4

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TANAKA Hideyuki	LDP	3x	Suga group	田中英之
YOSHIDA Kōichi	JCP	0	n/a	吉田幸一
KITAGAMI Keirō	Independent	3x	n/a	北神圭朗

Kyoto-4 features a close race between the LDP's TANAKA Hideyuki, who has won the seat comfortably since 2012, and independent KITAGAMI Keirō, who won the seat for the DPJ in 2009 and PR seats on two separate occasions. Kitagami ran as a Party of Hope candidate and subsequently declined to join any of the Democratic successor parties. Nevertheless, Kitagami appears poised to win the seat again.

Call: Independent pickup

Kyoto #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HONDA Tarō	LDP	1x	Tanigaki group	本田太郎
YAMAMOTO Wakako	CDP	1x	n/a	山本和嘉子
INOUE Kazunori	Independent	1x	n/a	井上一徳
YAMAUCHI Ken	JCP	0	n/a	山内健

The LDP's HONDA Tarō succeeded the retiring TANIGAKI Sadakazu in the Kyoto-5 in 2017, taking more than 43% of the vote in a five-way race. Neither INOUE Kazunori, who won a PR seat for the Party of Hope in 2017, nor YAMAMOTO Wakako, who won a seat for the CDP solely as a PR candidate is likely to defeat him in this election.

Call: LDP hold

Kyoto #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YAMANOI	CDP	7x	n/a	山井和則

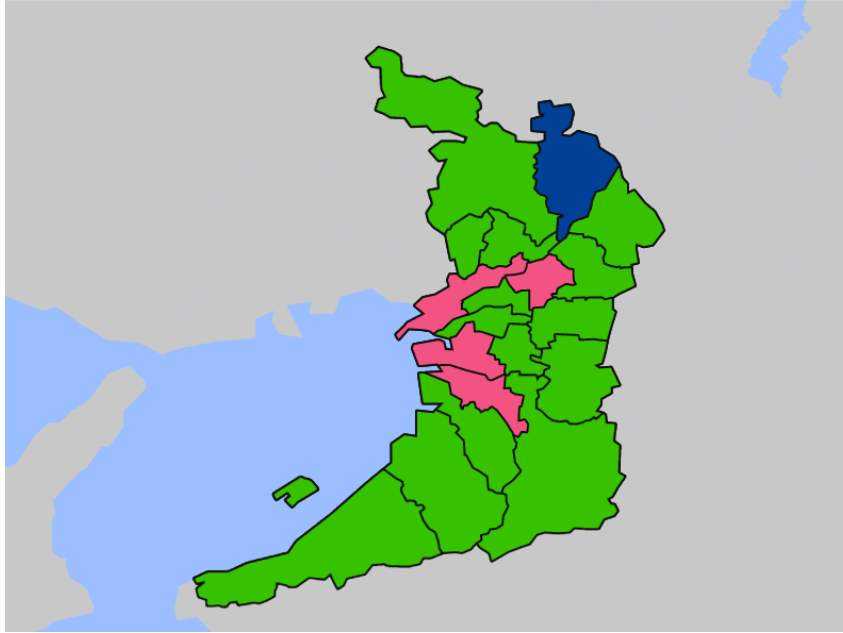
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<i>Kazunori</i>				
SHIMIZU Kōichirō	LDP	2x	TBD	清水鴻一郎
NAKAJIMA Hideki	Ishin	0x	n/a	中嶋秀樹

Turmoil in the local LDP chapter could hand Kyoto-6 to the opposition. A sex scandal for LDP incumbent ANDŌ Hiroshi led the party to withdraw its support for him; in his place, the party will run SHIMIZU Kōichirō, a physician who had previously run and won PR seats as an LDP and Ishin candidate (and also served in the prefectural assembly). But the CDP's YAMANOI Kazunori is a strong contender, who lost by less than one percentage point to Andō in 2017 and won a PR seat, the first time Yamanoi had lost the seat after winning from 2003-2014.

Call: CDP pickup

OSAKA



OSAKA #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ŌNISHI Hiroyuki	LDP	2x	Kishida	大西宏幸
<i>INOUE Hidetaka</i>	Ishin	3x	n/a	井上英孝
MURAKAMI Noriatsu	CDP	0x	n/a	村上賀厚
TAKEUCHI Yoshinori	JCP	0x	n/a	竹内祥倫

After winning Osaka-1 for Ishin in 2012 and 2014, INOUE Hidetaka had to settle for a PR seat after losing to the LDP's ŌNISHI Hiroyuki by 0.4 percentage points. Inoue, however, is the favorite in this race, enjoying a comfortable lead in polls.

Call: ISHIN pickup

OSAKA #2

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SATŌ Akira	LDP	5x	Kishida	左藤章
MORISHIMA Tadashi	Ishin	0	n/a	守島正
<i>OTSUJI Kanako</i>	CDP	1x	n/a	尾辻かな子

SATŌ Akira won by more than ten points over an Ishin candidate in 2017, taking 43% in a three-way race. However, polls suggest that an Ishin swing could propel newcomer MORISHIMA Tadashi to victory in Osaka-2

Call: ISHIN pickup

OSAKA #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SATŌ Shigeki	Komeito	9x	n/a	佐藤茂樹
HAGIHARA Hitoshi	CDP	1x	n/a	萩原仁
WATANABE Yui	JCP	0x	n/a	渡辺結
CHŪJŌ Eitarō	Independent	0x	n/a	中条栄太郎

Komeito's SATŌ Shigeki was shifted from the PR list to Osaka-3 by the coalition in 2012, and has won with more than 50% in each election, reaching 57% in 2014. He will win comfortably against a divided opposition this year.

Call: Komeito hold

OSAKA #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAKAYAMA Yasuhide	LDP	5x	Hosoda	中山泰秀
<i>SHIMIZU Tadashi</i>	JCP	2x	n/a	清水忠史

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<i>MINOBE Teruo</i>	Ishin	1x	n/a	美延映夫
YOSHIDA Osamu	CDP	4x	n/a	吉田治

The LDP's NAKAYAMA Yasuhide defeated Ishin's MINOBE Teruo by four points in 2017, and MINOBE – and the JCP's SHIMIZU Tadashi – were elevated to the Diet via PR after the resignation of lawmakers higher on the PR list in the Kinki block. In a four-way race – and with Ishin's support rising – Minobe is poised to unseat Nakayama.

Call: Ishin pickup

OSAKA #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KUNISHIGE Tooru	Komeito	3x	n/a	國重徹
MIYAMOTO Takashi	JCP	4x/ UH 1x	n/a	宮本岳志
ŌISHI Akiko	Reiwa	0x	n/a	大石晃子
KAGOIKE Junko	Independent	0x	n/a	籠池諄子

Komeito's KUNISHIGE Tooru first ran in Osaka-5 in 2012 and won with 53.8%. He subsequently was reelected with 57.5% in 2014, and 51.5% in a four-way race in 2017. He is poised to win again.

Call: Komeito hold

OSAKA #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ISA Shinichi	Komeito	3x	n/a	伊佐進一
MURAKAMI Fumiyoshi	CDP	3x	n/a	村上史好
HOSHI Kentarō	Independent	0x	n/a	星健太郎

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Komeito's ISA Shinichi won Osaka-6 for the first time with nearly 60% of the vote in 2012, and then reelected with 56.35% and 61% in 2014 and 2017 respectively. He is likely to win again.

Call: Komeito hold

OSAKA #7

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TOKASHIKI Naomi	LDP	4x	Takeshita	渡嘉敷奈緒美
NOGI Ryōsuke	CDP	0x	n/a	乃木涼介
KAWASOE Tatsuma	JCP	0x	n/a	川添健真
NISHIKAWA Hiroki	Reiwa	0x	n/a	西川ひろき
OKUSHITA Takemitsu	Ishin	0x	n/a	奥下剛光

Osaka-7 features a five-way race as LDP incumbent TOKASHIKI Naomi seeks her fifth victory in the constituency. Tokashiki bested Ishin's OKUSHITA Takemitsu for the seat in 2017, winning by more than eight points while the JCP took more than 20%. Okushita is a formidable opponent, and appears poised to unseat Tokashiki.

Call: Ishin pickup

OSAKA #8

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KŌRAI Keiichirō	LDP	0x	TBD	高麗啓一郎
MATSUI Hirofumi	CDP	0x	n/a	松井博史
URUMA Jōji	Ishin	0x	n/a	うるま譲司

Osaka-8 was vacated when LDP incumbent ŌTSUKA Takashi was forced out of the LDP due to violating Covid-19 control measures. This creates an opening for Ishin's URUMA Jōji, and polls show that Uruma could win easily.

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Call: Ishin pickup

OSAKA #9

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HARADA Kenji	LDP	4x	Takeshita	原田憲治
<i>ADACHI Yasushi</i>	Ishin	3x	n/a	足立康史
ISOBE Kazuya	Independent	0x	n/a	磯部和哉
ŌTSUBAKI Yūko	SDP	0x	n/a	大椿裕子

The race in Osaka-9 is effectively a two-way race between the LDP's HARADA Kenji and Ishin's ADACHI Yasushi. It is a rematch of 2017, when Harada won by less than a point (40.73%-39.84%); 2014, when Harada won by less than two points (41.33%-39.48%); and 2012, when Adachi won by more than five points (39.83%-34.34%). Polls show, however, that Adachi has a comfortable lead over his rival.

Call: Ishin pickup

OSAKA #10

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TSUJIMOTO Kiyomi	CDP	7x	n/a	辻元清美
<i>ŌKUMA Kazuhide</i>	LDP	2x	Aso	大隈和英
IKESHITA Taku	Ishin	0x	n/a	池下卓

Veteran opposition lawmaker TSUJIMOTO Kiyomi is seeking her eighth victory in Osaka-10. Polls suggest that Tsujimoto is the favorite, but Ishin newcomer IKESHITA Taku is running a strong campaign and could pass the LDP's ŌKUMA Kazuhide for second place.

Call: CDP hold

OSAKA #11

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HIRANO Hirofumi	CDP	7x	n/a	平野博文
<i>SATŌ Yukari</i>	LDP	3x/ UH 1x	Nikai	佐藤ゆかり
NAKATSUKA Hiroshi	Ishin	0x	n/a	中司宏

The CDP's HIRANO Hirofumi, a former chief cabinet secretary, dominated this constituency at the start of the century but since 2012 has struggled to win, finally prevailing in 2017 over the LDP's SATŌ Yukari and an Ishin candidate, taking 36.2% to Satō's 33.45%. This time, however, a wind in favor of Ishin could mean that Ishin newcomer NAKATSUKA Hiroshi passes both candidates to win the district.

Call: Ishin pickup

OSAKA #12

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FUJITA Fumitake	Ishin	1x	n/a	藤田文武
KITAKAWA Shinpei	LDP	0x	TBD	北川晋平
UTSUNOMIYA Yūko	CDP	0x	n/a	宇都宮優子
MATSUO Masanori	JCP	0x	n/a	松尾正利

Ishin's FUJITA Fumitake won an Osaka-12 by-election in 2019 and appears likely to win the seat again this year.

Call: Ishin hold

*****OSAKA #13*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MUNEKIYO Kōichi	LDP	2x	Hosoda	宗清皇一

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IWATANI Ryōhei	Ishin	0x	n/a	岩谷良平
KAMINO Junichi	JCP	0x	n/a	神野淳一

The LDP's MUNEKIYO Kōichi won with 41.2% against a divided field in 2017, but faces a more difficult campaign this year, with Ishin's IWATANI Ryōhei running a strong campaign as Ishin's strength grows. Polls show that Iwatani has pulled ahead as election day has approached.

Call: Ishin pickup

OSAKA #14

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAGAO Takashi	LDP	3x	Hosoda	長尾敬
AOYAGI Hitoshi	Ishin	0x	n/a	青柳仁士
KOMATSU Hisashi	JCP	0x	n/a	小松久

The LDP's NAGAO Takashi won a narrow victory over Ishin in 2017 – taking 41.08% to Ishin's 40.23% – and is vulnerable to an Ishin challenger in this election. AOYAGI Hitoshi, a newcomer who used to be a public affairs officer at the UN responsible for the SDG program, has had a comfortable lead in polls.

Call: Ishin pickup

OSAKA #15

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
<i>URANO Yasuto</i>	Ishin	3x	n/a	浦野靖人
KANŌ Yōnosuke	LDP	0x	TBD	加納陽之助
TAME Kimihito	JCP	0x	n/a	爲仁史

The retirement of the LDP's TAKEMOTO Naokazu, who defeated Ishin's URANO Yasuto by four percentage points in 2017, creates an opening for Urano to win the district outright for the first time since 2012. Polls show that Urano should win

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comfortably over LDP newcomer KANŌ Yōnosuke, a former ministry of land, infrastructure, transportation, and tourism official.

Call: Ishin pickup

OSAKA #16

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KITAGAWA Kazuo	Komeito	9x	n/a	北側一雄
<i>MORIYAMA Hiroyuki</i>	CDP	2x	n/a	森山浩行
NISHIWAKI Kyōko	NHK	0x	n/a	西脇京子

In a head-to-head battle between Komeito's KITAGAWA Kazuo and the CDP's MORIYAMA Hiroyuki in 2017, Kitagawa won reelection by over eight points, with Moriyama's winning a PR seat. Polls suggest that Kitagawa could win by a similar margin again.

Call: Komeito hold

OSAKA #17

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
BABA Nobuyuki	Ishin	3x	n/a	馬場伸幸
<i>OKASHITA Shōhei</i>	LDP	2x	Nikai	岡下昌平
MORI Ryūsei	JCP	0x	n/a	森流星

Ishin's BABA Nobuyuki won Osaka-17 for the third consecutive election in 2017. While his margins have been fairly slender – the LDP's OKASHITA Shōhei won PR seats in 2014 and 2017 – his victories point to a staying power that will be difficult for the LDP to overcome.

Call: Ishin hold

OSAKA #18

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ENDŌ Takashi	Ishin	3x	n/a	遠藤 敬
<i>KAMITANI Noboru</i>	LDP	2x	Nikai	神谷 昇
KAWATO Yasushi	CDP	0x	n/a	川戸 康嗣
MOCHIZUKI Ryōsuke	JCP	0x	n/a	望月 亮佑

The dynamics in Osaka-18 look similar to Osaka-17. Ishin's ENDŌ Takashi has won three consecutive elections, with the LDP's KAMITANI Noboru settling for PR seats in 2014 and 2017. With the CDP and JCP both running candidates, it will be hard for either to assemble a large enough plurality to upset either the LDP or Ishin. Kamitani will struggle to break Endō's lead.

Call: Ishin hold

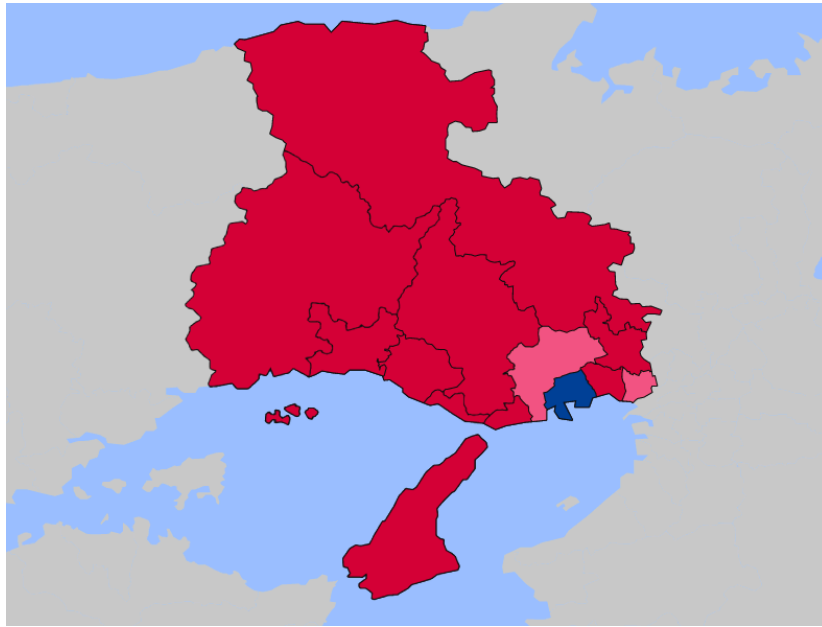
OSAKA #19

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
<i>TANIGAWA Tomu</i>	LDP	2x	Hosoda	谷川 とむ
NAGAYASU Takashi	CDP	3x	n/a	長安 豊
KIMURA Miki	JCP	0x	n/a	木村 みき
ITŌ Nobuhisa	Ishin	2x	n/a	伊東 信久

Osaka-19 was won by Ishin's MARUYAMA Hodaka in 2017, but Maruyama was expelled from Ishin in 2019 after drunken misbehavior during a trip to the Kurile Islands, Russia's control of which is disputed by Japan. He joined the anti-NHK protest party, and announced that he would not seek another term. While Maruyama's exit may have created another chance for other parties, Ishin's ITŌ Nobuhisa, who finished third in Osaka-11 in 2017, appears to have an advantage over the LDP's TANIGAWA Tomu, with the JCP and CDP again splitting the progressive vote.

Call: Ishin pickup

HYOGO



Hyogo #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MORIYAMA Masahito	LDP	4x	Kishida	盛山正仁
ISAKA Nobuhiko	CDP	2x	n/a	井坂信彦
ICHITANI Yūichirō	Ishin	0x	n/a	一谷 勇一郎
TAKAHASHI Shingo	Independent	0x	n/a	高橋進吾
KIHARA Kuniya	Independent	0x	n/a	木原功仁哉

The LDP's MORIYAMA Masahito returned to the Diet in 2012 after beating ISAKA Nobuhiko, then running as a Minna no To candidate, by less than two points. He lost to Isaka (running as an Ishin candidate) in 2014 by seven points but won a PR seat, and then beat Isaka (running as a Party of Hope candidate) in 2017 by seven points to win the seat again. Isaka, now running as a CDP candidate, is in a dead heat with Moriyama but could be catching a favorable tailwind in the final days.

CALL: CDP pickup

Hyogo #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AKABANE Kazuyoshi	Komeito	8x	n/a	赤羽一嘉
FUNAKAWA Jirō	CDP	0	n/a	舩川治郎
MIYANO Tsuruo	JCP	0x	n/a	宮野鶴生

Komeito's AKABANE Kazuyoshi lost Hyogo-2 in 2009 but has otherwise won without interruption. Against a divided opposition he is likely to be reelected.

CALL: Komeito hold

Hyogo #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SEKI Yoshihiro	LDP	4x	Hosoda	関芳弘
SATŌ Yasuki	DPFP	0x	n/a	佐藤泰樹
AKADA Katsunori	JCP	0x	n/a	赤田勝紀
WADA Yūichirō	Ishin	0x	n/a	和田有一朗

Facing a divided field, the LDP's SEKI Yoshihiro should be reelected comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

Hyogo #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FUJII Hisayuki	LDP	3x	Suga group	藤井比早之
IMAIZUMI Mao	CDP	0	n/a	今泉真緒
AKAGI Masayuki	Ishin	0x	n/a	赤木正幸

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Like in Hyogo-3, the CDP and Ishin will divide the non-LDP vote, enabling FUJII Hisayuki to win a fourth term comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

Hyogo #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TANI Kōichi	LDP	6x	Nikai	谷公一
KAJIWARA Yasuhiro	CDP	2x	n/a	梶原康弘
ENDŌ Ryōta	Ishin	0x	n/a	遠藤良太

KAJIWARA Yasuhiro, who defeated the LDP's TANI Kōichi as a DPJ candidate in 2009 and won a PR seat as an Ishin candidate in 2012, is attempting to regain the seat as a CDP candidate. ENDŌ Ryōta will also take a share of the non-LDP vote as an Ishin candidate. Polls point to a narrower race than in Hyogo-3 or Hyogo-4, but the divided field should still favor Tani.

CALL: LDP hold

Hyogo #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ŌGUSHI Masaki	LDP	3x	Suga group	大串正樹
SAKURAI Shū	CDP	1x	n/a	桜井周
ICHIMURA Kōichirō	Ishin	3x	n/a	市村浩一郎

The LDP's ŌGUSHI Masaki defeated the CDP's SAKURAI Shū by roughly ten points in 2017, although the latter secured a PR seat. Polls suggest another race in which the results could be narrow but the LDP will benefit from the divided non-LDP vote.

CALL: LDP hold

Hyogo #7

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YAMADA Kenji	LDP	3x	Aso	山田賢司
YASUDA Mari	CDP	0x	n/a	安田真理
MIKI Kee	Ishin	1x	n/a	三木圭恵

The LDP's YAMADA Kenji took 44.5% in a four-way race in 2017, with Ishin's MIKI Kee finishing second. Even without a JCP candidate in the race, the outcome will likely be similar, with the CDP's YASUDA Mari struggling to pass Miki for second.

CALL: LDP hold

Hyogo #8

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAKANO Hiromasa	Komeito	3x	n/a	中野洋昌
KOMURA Jun	JCP	0x	n/a	小村潤
TSUJI Megumu	Reiwa	2x	n/a	辻恵

Komeito's NAKANO Hiromasa will win comfortably against a divided opposition field led by the JCP's KOMURA Jun.

CALL: Komeito hold

Hyogo #9

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NISHIMURA Yasutoshi	LDP	6x	Hosoda	西村康稔
FUKUHARA Yukari	JCP	0x	n/a	福原由加利

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LDP veteran NISHIMURA Yasutoshi will win a large victory over the JCP's FUKUHARA Yukari.

CALL: LDP hold

Hyogo #10

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TOKAI Kisaburō	LDP	9x	No faction	渡海紀三朗
OKI Keiko	CDP	0x	n/a	隠樹圭子
HORII Kenji	Ishin	0x	n/a	堀井建智

The LDP's TOKAI Kisaburō's political career stretches back to 1986, and with the exception of 2009, he has represented Hyogo-10 since 2000, winning nearly 60% of the vote in 2017. He will win again against a divided field.

CALL: LDP hold

Hyogo #11

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MATSUMOTO Takeaki	LDP	7x	Aso	松本剛明
OTA Kiyoyuki	JCP	0x	n/a	太田清幸
SUMIYOSHI Hiroki	Ishin	0x	n/a	住吉ひろき

The LDP's MATSUMOTO Takeaki, formerly a DPJ member who served as foreign minister in the Kan government, left the DPJ in opposition to its cooperation with the JCP in 2015 and received the LDP's endorsement in 2017, winning the seat he had previously held as a DPJ representative. He will likely win again.

CALL: LDP hold

Hyogo #12

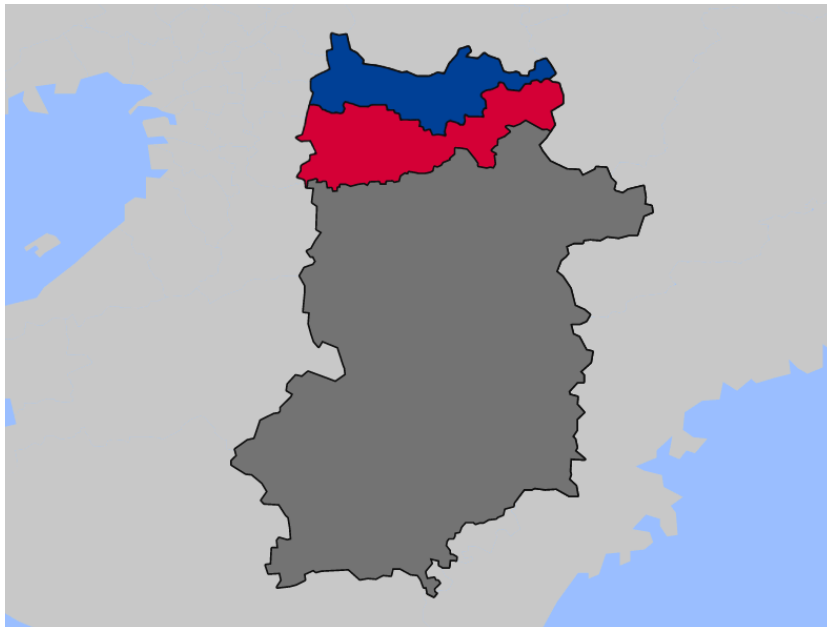
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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YAMAGUCHI Tsuyoshi	LDP	6x	Nikai	山口 壯
SAKAI Takanori	CDP	0x	n/a	酒井 孝典
IKEHATA Kōtarō	Ishin	0x	n/a	池畑 浩太郎

YAMAGUCHI Tsuyoshi, recently named environment minister under Kishida, received nearly 63% of the vote in 2017 and is poised to win by a significant margin again.

CALL: LDP hold

NARA



Nara #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KOBAYASHI Shigeki	LDP	2x	Nikai	小林 茂樹

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MABUCHI Sumio	CDP	6x	n/a	馬淵澄夫
MAEKAWA Kiyoshige	Ishin	UH 2x	n/a	前川清成

The LDP's KOBAYASHI Shigeki and the CDP's MABUCHI Sumio have battled for control of Nara-1 since 2012, when Mabuchi defeated Kobayashi by four points, with Kobayashi winning a PR seat; Mabuchi defeating Kobayashi by seven points in 2014; and Kobayashi edging out Mabuchi – running as a Party of Hope candidate – by one point in 2017. Mabuchi appears to enjoy the advantage in this election.

CALL: CDP pickup

Nara #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAKAICHI Sanae	LDP	8x	No faction	高市早苗
IOKU Misato	CDP	0x	n/a	猪奥美里
MIYAMOTO Jirō	JCP	0x	n/a	宮本次郎

LDP policy chief TAKAICHI Sanae has won her last two elections with 60% of the vote and, with the opposition divided, she will win comfortably again.

CALL: LDP hold

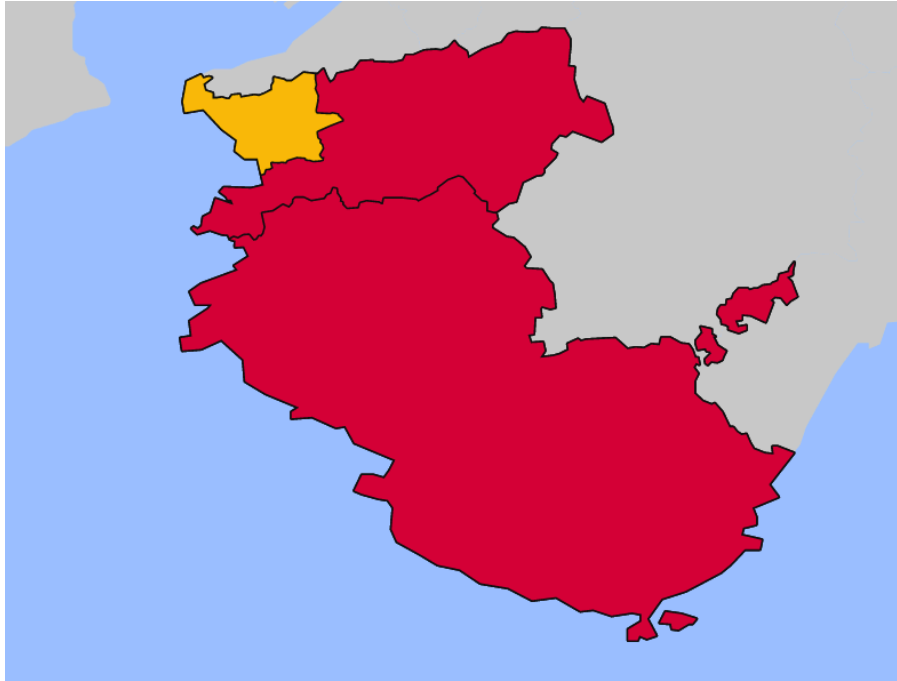
Nara #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TANOSE Taidō	Independent*	3x	Ishihara	田野瀬太道
NISHIKAWA Masakatsu	JCP	0x	n/a	西川正克
KATŌ Takashi	NHK	0x	n/a	加藤孝
TAKAMI Shōji	Independent	0x	n/a	高見省次

TANOSE Taidō was expelled from the 'LDP as punishment for a scandal involving violations of Covid-19 public safety protocols. He enjoys a comfortable lead in the polls, and, assuming he wins, he is likely to be readmitted to the LDP.

CALL: LDP hold

WAKAYAMA



Wakayama #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KISHIMOTO Shūhei	DPFP	4x	n/a	岸本周平
<i>KADO Hirofumi</i>	LDP	3x	Nikai	門博文

The DPFP's KISHIMOTO Shūhei has held Wakayama-1 without interruption since 2009, beating the LDP's KADO Hirofumi in each of the last three, with Kado winning a PR seat each time. Kishimoto actually expanded his margin of victory to nearly 11 points in 2017, and is favored to perform well again.

CALL: DPFP hold

Wakayama #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ISHIDA Masatoshi	LDP	7x	No faction	石田真敏
FUJII Mikio	CDP	0x	n/a	藤井幹雄
TOKORO Junko	Ishin	0x	n/a	ところ順子
TOONISHI Manami	NHK	0x	n/a	遠西 愛美

The LDP's ISHIDA Masatoshi, who received nearly 60% in 2017, has a comfortable lead against a divided field.

CALL: LDP hold

Wakayama #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NIKAI Toshihirō	LDP	12x	Nikai	二階俊博
HATANO Yoshiro	JCP	0x	n/a	畑野良弘
HONMA Nana	Kunimori	0x	n/a	本間奈々
NEGORO Hideki	Independent	0x	n/a	根来英樹

LDP heavyweight NIKAI Toshihirō is on track to win his thirteenth parliamentary term, despite his weakening position within the LDP following Suga's resignation and his ouster from the LDP's secretary-generalship.

CALL: LDP hold

CHUGOKU BLOCK

6,070,438 voters (October 2021)
11 PR seats
20 Constituencies

CHUGOKU SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

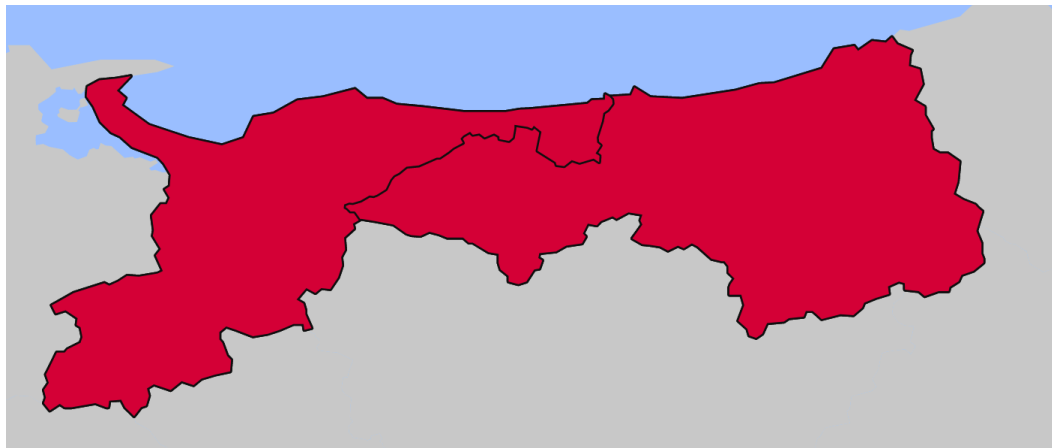
Party	Total	Change
LDP	18	-1
CDP	1	-
Komeito	1	+1

My base case is that the ruling coalition's dominance in Chugoku remains unperturbed. While the LDP will lose one seat to Komeito – the fallout of the downfall of KAWAI Katsuyuki – the coalition's overall strength at the western end of Honshu will be untouched.

CHUGOKU PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	5	-
CDP	2	-
Komeito	2	-
JCP	1	+1
Ishin	1	+1

TOTTORI



Tottori #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name

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ISHIBA Shigeru	LDP	11x	Ishiba	石破茂
OKADA Masakazu	JCP	0	n/a	岡田正和

ISHIBA Shigeru won with more than 80% of the vote against a JCP challenger in 2017. Expect a similar result this time.

CALL: LDP hold

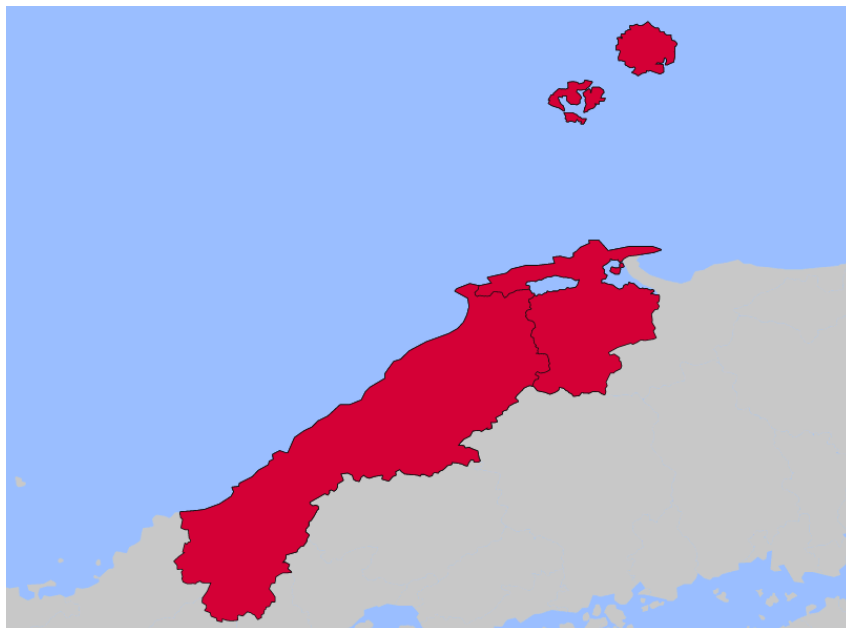
Tottori #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AKAZAWA Ryōsei	LDP	5x	Ishiba	赤沢亮正
YUHARA Shunji	CDP	1x	n/a	湯原俊二

The LDP's AKAZAWA Ryōsei won by a comfortable margin in 2017 over YUHARA Shunji, running as a Party of Hope candidate. After winning a PR seat finishing second in Tottori-2 as a DPJ candidate in 2009, Yuhara has finished a distant second, with Akazawa taking more than 50% of the vote. A similar result is likely this time.

CALL: LDP hold

SHIMANE



Shimane #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HOSODA Hiroyuki	LDP	10x	Hosoda	細田博之
KAMEI Akiko	CDP	1x/UH 1x	n/a	亀井亜紀子

HOSODA Hiroyuki, titular head of the LDP's largest faction, will likely win comfortably against the CDP's KAMEI Akiko, who managed to win a PR seat in 2017 despite trailing Hosoda by roughly twenty points. Kamei is effectively vying to narrow the gap and win another PR seat.

CALL: LDP hold

Shimane #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAKAMI Yasuhiro	LDP	0x	TBD	高見康裕
YAMAMOTO Homaru	CDP	0x	n/a	山本誉
MUKOSE Shinichi	JCP	0x	n/a	向瀬慎一

The death of TAKESHITA Wataru in September created a vacancy in Shimane-2. The LDP promptly nominated TAKAMI Yasuhiro, a prefectural assembly member, to fill run in Takeshita's place. Facing a divided opposition field, including YAMAMOTO Homaru, who ran a losing campaign in 2014 as an SDP candidate, Takami should win comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

OKAYAMA



Okayama #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AISAWA Ichirō	LDP	11x	Tanigaki group	逢沢一郎
HARADA Kensuke	CDP	0x	n/a	原田謙介
YOE Yukio	JCP	0x	n/a	余江雪央

AISAWA Ichirō has won Okayama-1 without interruption since its creation, including in 2009, often with well over 50% of the vote. Against a divided opposition, he will win again.

CALL: LDP hold

Okayama #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YAMASHITA Takashi	LDP	3x	Ishiba	山下貴司
<i>TSUMURA Keisuke</i>	CDP	6x	n/a	津村啓介

The LDP's YAMASHITA Takashi and the CDP's TSUMURA Keisuke will contend for Okayama-2 for the fourth straight election, and for the first time they will be the only two candidates in the race. Yamashita has won three times since 2012, with Tsumura winning PR seats each time, although Yamashita's margin of victory has been more than 10 points in each election. Polls suggest that the race could be narrower, but Yamashita still has the advantage.

CALL: LDP hold

Okayama #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ABE Toshiko	LDP	5x	Aso	阿部俊子
MORIMOTO Sakae	CDP	0x	n/a	森本栄
OZAKI Hiroko	JCP	0x	n/a	尾崎宏子
HIRANUMA Shōjirō	Independent	0x	n/a	平沼正二郎

The 2017 race in Okayama-3 featured a battle between ABE Toshiko, who first ran as an LDP candidate in 2005 as an “assassin” against postal rebel HIRANUMA Takeo, and Hiranuma's son, HIRANUMA Shōjirō. The younger Hiranuma had hoped to secure the LDP's endorsement after his father bowed out due to ill health, but failed, forcing him to run as an independent against Abe. His bid fell short, as Abe broke the Hiranuma family's control of the district by edging out Shōjirō by fewer than 4,000 votes. Either Hiranuma or Abe will win, suggesting that either way the party will hold the seat.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Okayama #4*****

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HASHIMOTO Gaku	LDP	4x	Takeshita	橋本岳
YUNOKI Michiyoshi	CDP	5x	n/a	柚木道義
NAKAGAWA Tomoharu	Independent	0x	n/a	中川智晴

HASHIMOTO Gaku, son of the late HASHIMOTO Ryūtarō, has contended with the CDP's YUNOKI Michiyoshi in five straight elections. Yunoki won in 2005 and 2009, forcing Hashimoto to settle for PR seats; Hashimoto has won since 2012, winning by just over ten points each time. However, in the past two races, JCP candidates have taken nearly 8% of the vote, suggesting that a unified opposition could narrow the gap. Hashimoto, however, is still likely to prevail.

CALL: LDP hold

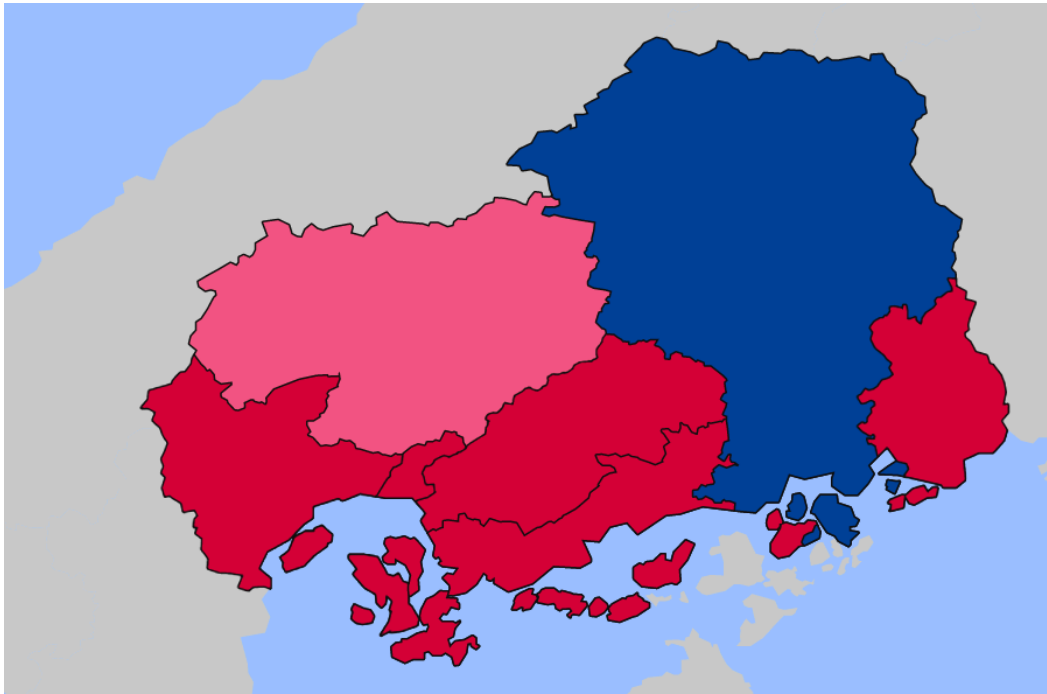
Okayama #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KATŌ Katsunobu	LDP	6x	Takeshita	加藤勝信
HATA Tomoko	CDP	UH 1x	n/a	はたともし
MIIMI Yoshiaki	JCP	0x	n/a	美見芳明

KATŌ Katsunobu, chief cabinet secretary in the Suga administration, received more than 70% of the vote against a Party of Hope and JCP candidate in 2017. He will win comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

HIROSHIMA



Hiroshima #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KISHIDA Fumio	LDP	9x	Kishida	岸田文雄
ARITA Yūko	CDP	0x	n/a	有田ゆうこ
ŌNISHI Osamu	JCP	0x	n/a	大西理
KAMIDE Keiichi	Seiko	0x	n/a	上出圭一

Prime Minister Kishida will win his district comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

Hiroshima #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HIRAGUCHI Hiroshi	LDP	4x	Takeshita	平口洋
Ōi Akai	CDP	0x	n/a	大井赤亥

The LDP's HIRAGUCHI Hiroshi, since returning to the Diet in 2012 after losing in 2009, has won by significant margins against divided fields, winning close to or more than 50% in each, including 48% against three major opposition candidates. CDP newcomer Ōi, a political scientist, does not appear to have made significant inroads against Hiraguchi.

CALL: LDP hold

Hiroshima #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SAITŌ Tetsuo	Komeito	9x	n/a	斉藤鉄夫
RYAN Mayumi	CDP	0x	n/a	ライアン真由美
SEGI Hirochika	Ishin	0x	n/a	瀬木寛親
YAJIMA Shūhei	NHK	0x	n/a	矢島秀平
TAMADA Noritaka	Independent	0x	n/a	玉田 憲勲
ŌYAMA Hiroshi	Independent	0x	n/a	大山宏

The race to fill the seat vacated by KAWAI Katsuyuki, the Abe aide sentenced to three years in prison for vote buying on behalf of his wife KAWAI Anri's upper house campaign has attracted many candidates, including two independents, but the race may have been effectively sealed when Komeito successfully pressured the LDP to back SAITŌ Tetsuo's candidacy. The longtime Komeito lawmaker has won nine straight elections – eight as a purely PR candidate under the new electoral system – and was recently named minister of land, infrastructure, transportation, and tourism in the

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Kishida government. The CDP's RYAN Mayumi might run close, but Saitō should win comfortably.

CALL: Komeito pickup

Hiroshima #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHINTANI Masayoshi	LDP	3x	Takeshita	新谷正義
UENO Kanji	CDP	0x	n/a	上野寛治
SORAMOTO Seiki	Ishin	1x	n/a	空本誠喜
NAKAGAWA Toshinao	Independent	2x	n/a	中川俊直

LDP incumbent SHINTANI Masayoshi won Hiroshima-4 in 2017 after winning two terms as a solely PR candidate. He moved into Hiroshima-4 in 2017 after the LDP's NAKAGAWA Toshinao, son of former secretary-general NAKAGAWA Hidenao, was forced out due to sex scandals. Shintani received 43% in a six-candidate field, and is well positioned to win again.

CALL: LDP hold

Hiroshima #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHINTANI Masayoshi	LDP	3x	Takeshita	新谷正義
UENO Kanji	CDP	0x	n/a	上野寛治
SORAMOTO Seiki	Ishin	1x	n/a	空本誠喜
NAKAGAWA Toshinao	Independent	2x	n/a	中川俊直

LDP incumbent SHINTANI Masayoshi won Hiroshima-4 in 2017 after winning two terms as a solely PR candidate. He moved into Hiroshima-4 in 2017 after the LDP's NAKAGAWA Toshinao, son of former secretary-general NAKAGAWA Hidenao, was

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forced out due to sex scandals. Shintani received 43% in a six-candidate field, and is well positioned to win again.

CALL: LDP hold

Hiroshima #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TERADA Minoru	LDP	5x	Kishida	寺田 稔
NOMURA Kōjirō	CDP	0x	n/a	野村 功次郎

The LDP's TERADA Minoru has won the last three elections by landslide proportions, receiving 67% in 2017, nearly 78% in 2014, and 63% in 2012. Polls point to another big win.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Hiroshima #6*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SATŌ Kōji	CDP	3x/UH 1x	n/a	佐藤 公治
KOJIMA Toshifumi	LDP	3x	Kishida	小島 敏文

The seat once held by LDP postal rebel KAMEI Shizuka, SATŌ Kōji, running as a Party of Hope candidate against the LDP's KOJIMA Toshifumi, who won PR seats in 2012 and 2014 after finishing second to Kamei, pulled off a sizable victory, taking 50% of the vote. Satō had previously won PR seats finishing second to Kamei, and he will try to cement his hold on the district. Polls show an exceedingly close race, but Satō could have an advantage.

CALL: CDP hold

Hiroshima #7

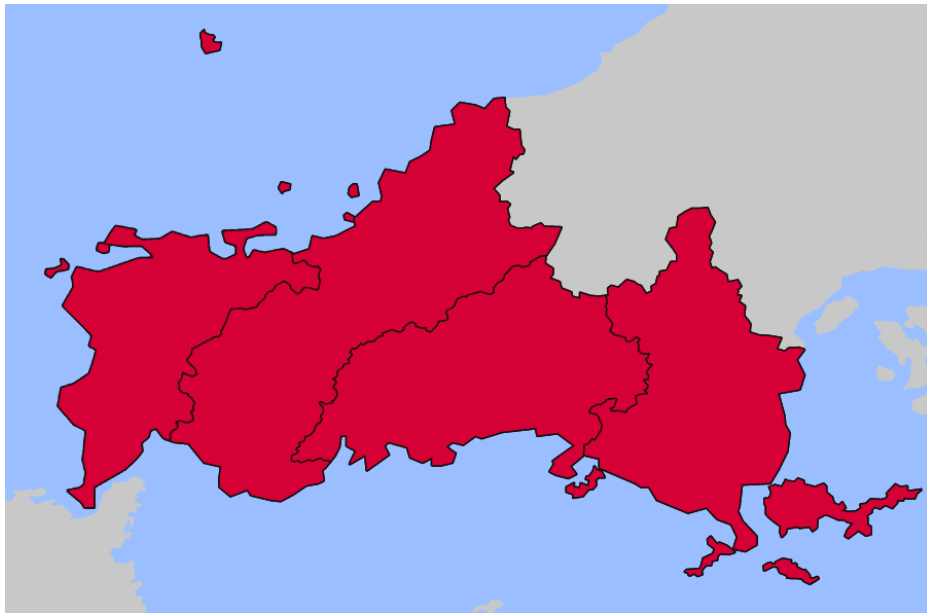
Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name

KOBAYASHI Fumiaki	LDP	3x	Kishida	小林史明
SATŌ Hironori	CDP	0x	n/a	佐藤広典
MURAI Akemi	JCP	0x	n/a	村井明美

KOBAYASHI Fumiaki has been at or near 60% of the vote in the past two elections, and in 2017 faced a Party of Hope and JCP candidate. He should win by a sizable margin again.

CALL: LDP hold

YAMAGUCHI



Yamaguchi #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KŌMURA Masahiro	LDP	1x	Aso	高村正大
ŌUCHI Kazuya	CDP	0x	n/a	大内一也

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KŌMURA Masahiro, succeeding his retiring father Masahiko in 2017, received nearly 70% of the vote. His seat is safe.

CALL: LDP hold

Yamaguchi #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KISHI Nobuo	LDP	3x/UH 2x	Hosoda	岸信夫
MATSUDA Kazushi	JCP	0x	n/a	松田一志

KISHI Nobuo, defense minister and brother of former prime minister Abe, received nearly 74% in 2017, facing the JCP's MATSUDA Kazushi. This year's results should be similar.

CALL: LDP hold

Yamaguchi #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HAYASHI Yoshimasa	LDP	UH 5x	Kishida	林芳正
SAKAMOTO Fumiko	CDP	0x	n/a	坂本史子

After a brief intra-party struggle, HAYASHI Yoshimasa, the long-time upper house representative who has wanted to jump to the lower house, forced incumbent KAWAMURA Takeo to retire instead of risk splitting the vote between LDP candidates. The LDP nomination secured, Hayashi now stands to win 70% or more of the vote.

CALL: LDP hold

Yamaguchi #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KISHI Nobuo	LDP	3x/UH 2x	Hosoda	岸信夫

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MATSUDA Kazushi	JCP	0x	n/a	松田一志
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KISHI Nobuo, defense minister and brother of former prime minister Abe, received nearly 74% in 2017, facing the JCP's MATSUDA Kazushi. This year's results should be similar.

CALL: LDP hold

Yamaguchi #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ABE Shinzō	LDP	9x	Hosoda	安倍晋三
TAKEMURA Katsushi	Reiwa	0x	n/a	竹村かつし
ŌNO Yoriko	Independent	0x	n/a	大野頼子

The former prime minister has won his constituency with well over 70% in the past three elections and should do so again.

CALL: LDP hold

SHIKOKU BLOCK

3,181,278 voters (October 2021)
6 PR seats
11 Constituencies

SHIKOKU SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

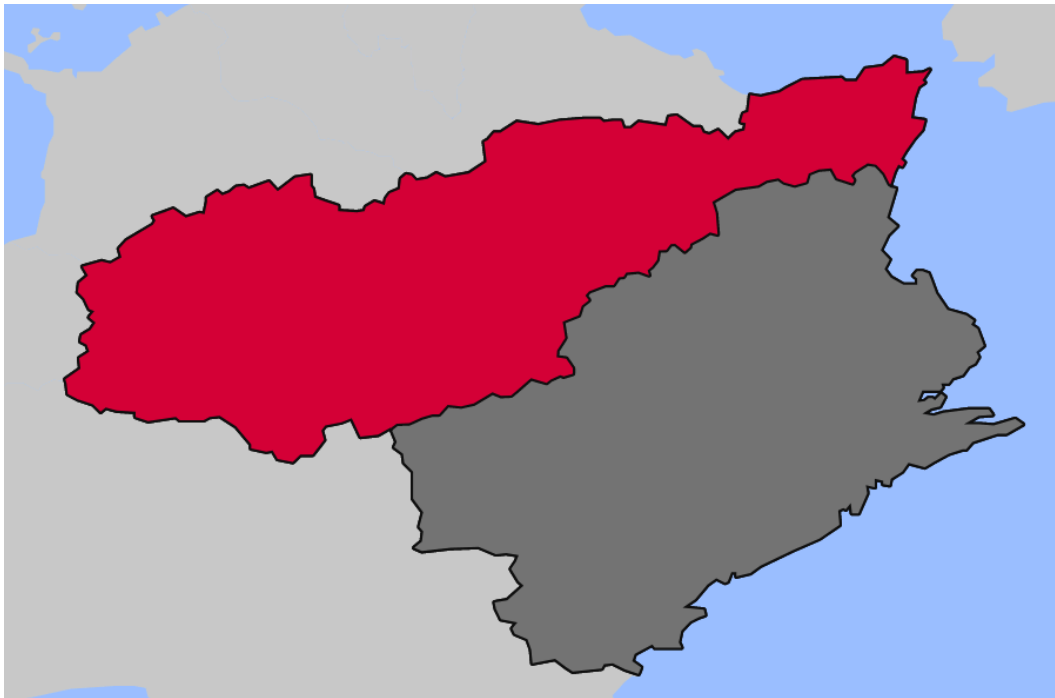
Party	Total	Change
LDP	7	-1
CDP	2	-
DPFP	1	-
Independent	1	+1

My base case

SHIKOKU PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	3	-
CDP	2	+1
Komeito	1	-

TOKUSHIMA



Tokushima #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name

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GOTŌDA Masazumi	LDP	7x	Ishiba	後藤田正純
YOSHIDA Tomoyo	Ishin	0x	n/a	吉田とも代
NIKI Hirobumi	Independent	1x	n/a	仁木博文
SATŌ Yukitoshi	Independent	0x	n/a	佐藤 行俊

The LDP's GOTŌDA Masazumi and NIKI Hirobumi have a rivalry that began in the former Tokushima-3 district, going head to head in every election from 2003 to 2012, with Niki losing each time and only managing to win a PR seat in 2009. When the district was eliminated through redistricting, both moved over to Tokushima-1, which had previously been represented by DPJ heavyweight SENGOKU Yoshito. In Tokushima-1, Gotōda beat Niki again in 2014 and 2017, winning by roughing 12 percentage points both times.

Now an independent – he ran with the Party of Hope in 2017 – Niki is trying to unseat Gotōda again without the option of revival via the PR system. Remarkably in light of this history, Niki could be set to prevail.

CALL: Independent pickup

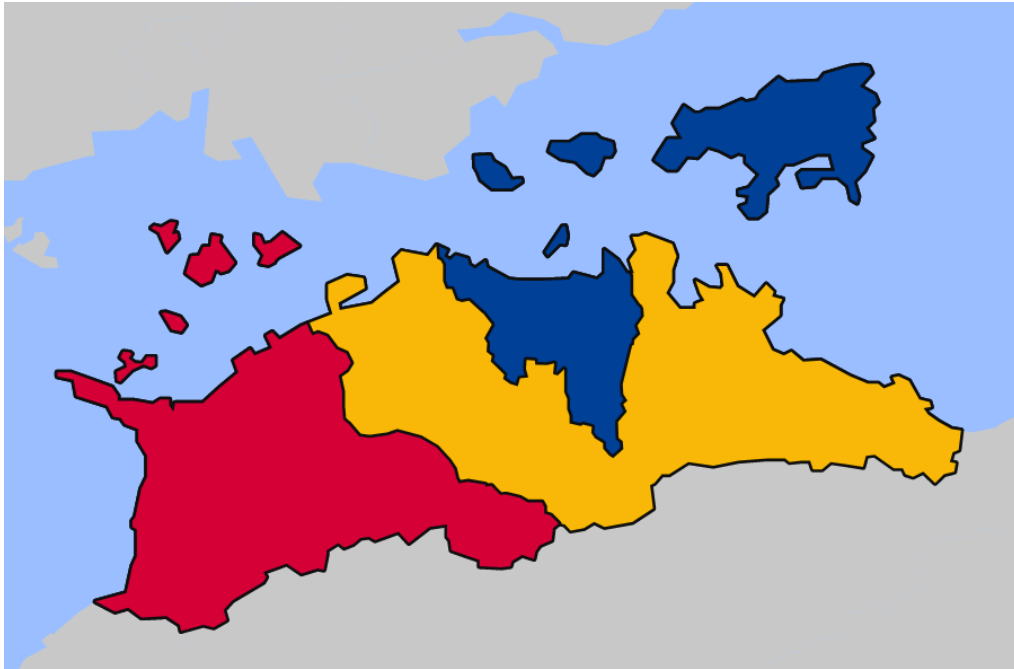
Tokushima #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YAMAGUCHI Shunichi	LDP	10x	Aso	山口俊一
NAKANO Mayumi	CDP	0x	n/a	中野真由美
KUBO Takayuki	JCP	0x	n/a	久保孝之

The presence of both the CDP's NAKANO Mayumi and the JCP's KUBO Takayuki in the race is an indicator of the strength of LDP incumbent YAMAGUCHI Shunichi, who has taken more than 70% of the vote in the past two elections, albeit facing only a JCP candidate.

CALL: LDP hold

KAGAWA



Kagawa #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HIRAI Takuya	LDP	7x	Kishida	平井卓也
<i>OGAWA Junya</i>	CDP	5x	n/a	小川淳也
MACHIKAWA Junko	Ishin	0x	n/a	町川順子

The LDP's HIRAI Takuya, who had served as digital affairs minister under Suga, won reelection in 2017 by just over a percentage point over OGAWA Junya, then running as a Party of Hope candidate, earning him a PR seat. Ogawa had previously won PR seats in 2005, 2012, and 2014, and defeated Hirai outright in 2009. Despite the presence of Ishin's MACHIKAWA Junko in the race, Ogawa's standing in the polls has increased as election day has approached, suggesting that he could succeed in defeating Hirai again.

CALL: CDP pickup

Kagawa #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAMAKI Yūichirō	DPFP	4x	n/a	玉木雄一郎
SETO Takakazu	LDP	2x	Aso	瀬戸隆一

DPFP leader TAMAKI Yūichirō has won Kagawa-2 continuously since the DPJ wave election of 2009, with the LDP's SETO Takakazu finishing second in 2012, 2014, and 2017. While Seto had won PR seats in 2012 and 2014, he failed to do so in 2017, although his vote total and vote share were almost unchanged. In both elections, though, Tamaki won comfortably taking around 55% of the vote to Seto's 40%.

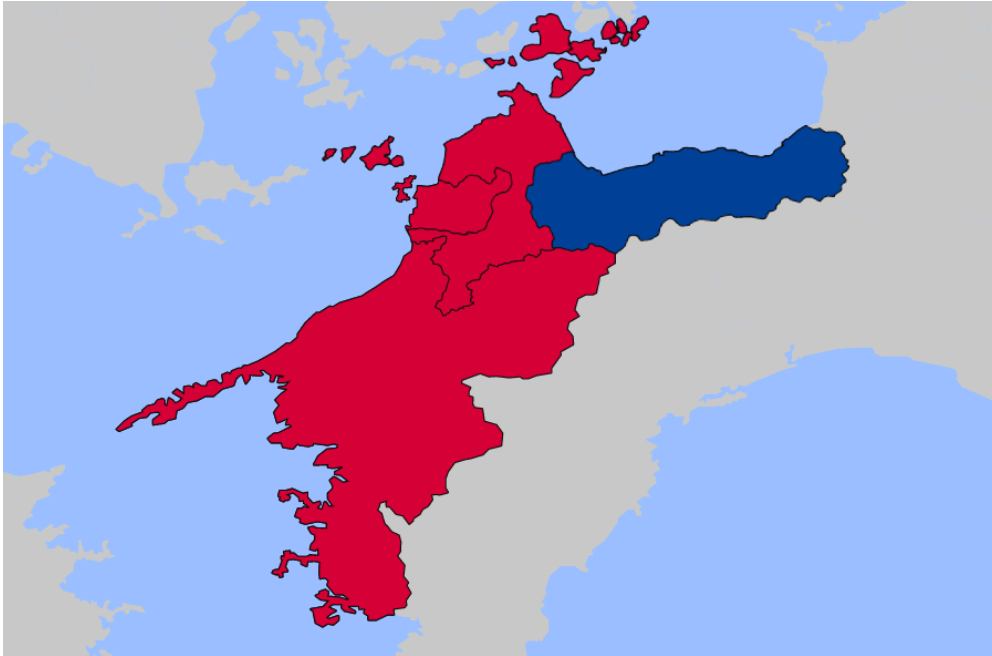
CALL: DPFP hold

Kagawa #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ŌNO Keitarō	LDP	3x	No faction	大野敬太郎
OZAKI Junichirō	JCP	0	n/a	尾崎淳一郎

The LDP's ŌNO Keitarō won his third term in 2017 with nearly 70% of the vote, facing only an SDP candidate. The outcome will look similar this year.

CALL: LDP hold

EHIME**Ehime #1**

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHIOZAKI Akihisa	LDP	0	TBD	塩崎彰久
TOMOCHIKA Toshirō	CDP	UH 1x	n/a	友近聡朗

The LDP's SHIOZAKI Akihisa is bidding to succeed his father, SHIOZAKI Yasuhisa, who represented Ehime-1 since 2000. He is opposed by the CDP's TOMOCHIKA Toshirō, a retired footballer who served a term as a DPJ member of the upper house from 2007-2013. Polls suggest that the younger Shiozaki will win easily.

CALL: LDP hold

Ehime #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MURAKAMI	LDP	11x	No faction	村上誠一郎

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Seiichirō				
ISHII Tomoe	DPFP	0x	n/a	石井智恵
KATAOKA Rō	JCP	0x	n/a	片岡朗

The veteran MURAKAMI Seiichirō has won comfortably if not overwhelmingly against divided fields – the last time he surpassed 50% of the vote was 2005 – and should do so again in this election.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Ehime #3*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SHIRAISHI Yōichi	CDP	2x	No faction	白石洋一
IHARA Takumi	LDP	UH 1x	Hosoda	井原巧

The CDP's SHIRAISHI Yōichi won Ehime-3 in 2009 as a DPJ candidate but then failed to return to the Diet until 2017, when he took 53% of the vote and defeated the son of the LDP candidate he had failed to beat. He has been locked into a close race with former LDP upper house member IHARA Takumi. Incumbency and the national trend may favor Shiraishi, but the outcome will be narrow either way.

CALL: CDP hold

Ehime #4

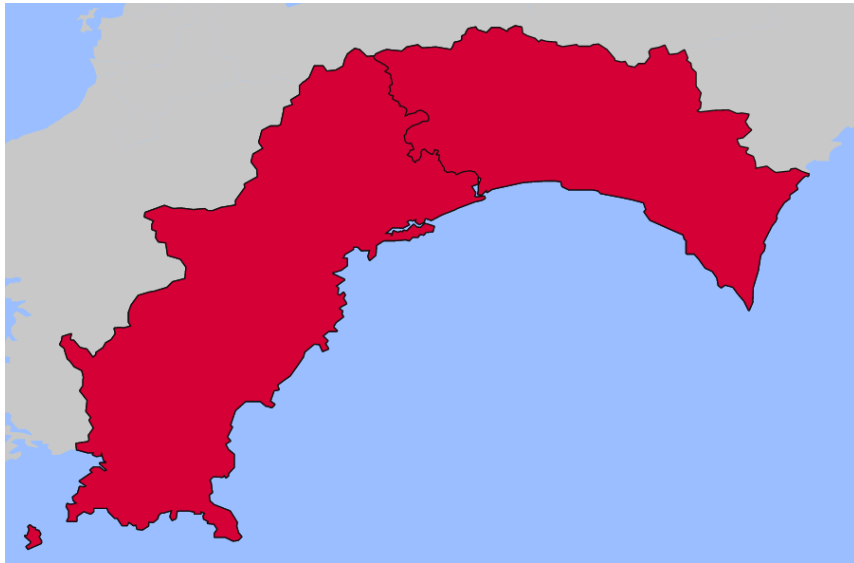
Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HASEGAWA Junji	LDP	0x	TBD	長谷川 淳二
SAKURAUCHI Fumiki	Independent*	1x / UH 1x	Nikai	桜内文城
NISHII Naohito	JCP	0x	n/a	西井直人
FUJISHIMA Torihisa	Independent	0x	n/a	藤島利久

MAEDA Tatsuo	Independent	0x	n/a	前田龍夫
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SAKURAUCHI Fumiki previously ran in Ehime-4 as an Ishin, Next Generation Party, and Party of Hope candidate, winning a PR seat in 2012 as an Ishin candidate. He also won an upper house seat in 2010 as a Minna no to member, but only served two years. After losing in 2017, he appealed to Nikai for the LDP's endorsement, but, failing to achieve that, decided to run as an independent anyway in the hope of winning the seat and joining the party. Polls suggest, however, that the LDP's HASEGAWA Junji should win the seat being vacated by the retiring YAMAMOTO Kōichi easily.

CALL: LDP hold

KOCHI



Kochi #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NAKATANI Gen	LDP	10x	Tanigaki group	中谷元
<i>TAKEUCHI Norio</i>	CDP	1x/UH 1x	n/a	武内則男
NAKAJIMA Yasuharu	NHK	0x	n/a	中島康治
KAWADA Eiji	Independent	0x	n/a	川田 永二

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Former defense minister NAKATANI Gen has surpassed 50% against divided opposition fields in recent elections, and, while the CDP's TAKEUCHI Norio, a former upper house member who won a seat via the CDP's PR list in 2017, will benefit from no other major opposition candidates, Nakatani is nevertheless a strong incumbent who will be difficult to unseat.

CALL: LDP hold

Kochi #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HIROTA Hajime	CDP	1x	n/a	広田一
OZAKI Masanao	LDP	0x	Nikai	尾崎正直
HIROTA Shinichirō	NHK	0x	n/a	広田晋一郎

The CDP's HIROTA Hajime knocked off a veteran LDP incumbent, YAMAMOTO Yūji, in 2017 by thirteen points. However, in this election, rather than nominate Yamamoto, the LDP has backed former Kochi governor OZAKI Masanao, who governed from 2007-2019. Ozaki has a commanding lead in the polls and will likely retake the seat for the LDP.

CALL: LDP pickup

KYUSHU BLOCK

11,874,411 voters (October 2021)
20 PR seats
35 Constituencies

KYUSHU SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

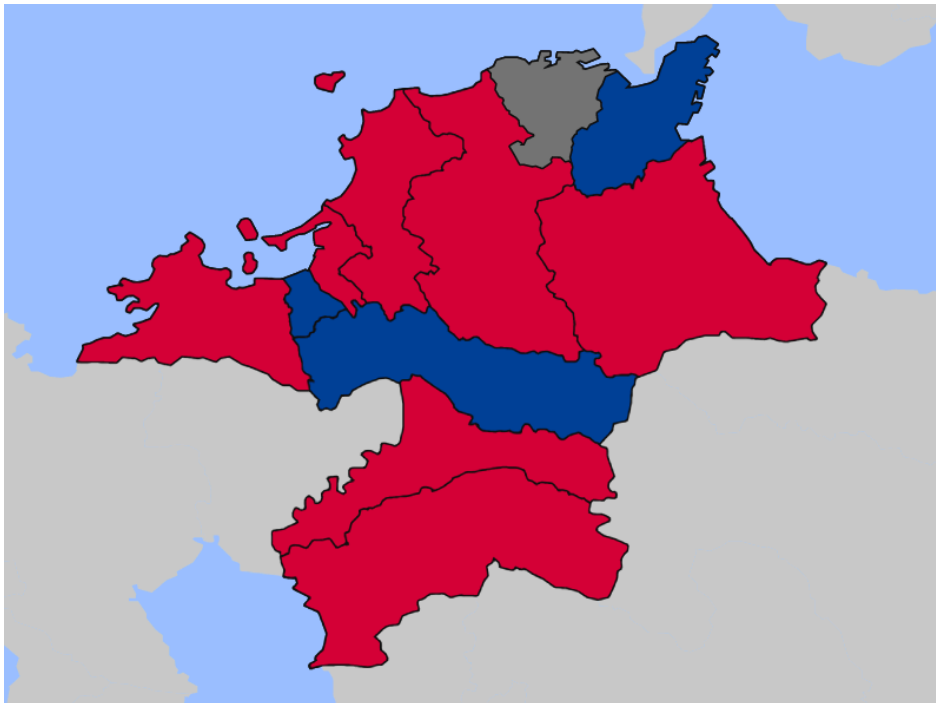
Party	Total	Change
LDP	18	-10
CDP	11	+7
Independent	3	+3
DPFP	1	-
JCP	1	-
SDP	1	-

My base case is that the ruling coalition's dominance in Chugoku remains unperturbed. While the LDP will lose one seat to Komeito – the fallout of the downfall of KAWAI Katsuyuki – the coalition's overall strength at the western end of Honshu will be untouched.

KYUSHU PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Party	Total	Change
LDP	9	+2
CDP	6	+3
Komeito	3	-
JCP	1	-
Ishin	1	-

FUKUOKA



Fukuoka #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
INOUE Takahiro	LDP	3x	Aso	井上貴博
TSUBOTA Susumu	CDP	0x	n/a	坪田晋
KIMURA Takuji	JCP	0x	n/a	木村拓史
YAMAMOTO Gōsei	Ishin	1x	n/a	山本剛正

Running against a divided field, the LDP's INOUE Takahiro will win a fourth term comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Fukuoka #2*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ONIKI Makoto	LDP	3x	Ishihara	鬼木誠
<i>INATOMI Shūji</i>	CDP	2x	n/a	稲富修二
SHINKAI Takashi	Ishin	0x	n/a	新開崇司

The CDP's INATOMI Shūji won Fukuoka-2 as a DPJ candidate in 2009, and, after losing in 2012 and 2014, managed to win a PR seat with a second-place finish to the LDP's ONIKI Makoto. Oniki was behind Inatomi by 3.5%, with the JCP taking nearly 8% of the vote. Ishin's SHINKAI Takashi will have an impact on the outcome, but polls suggest that Inatomi could prevail.

CALL: CDP pickup

Fukuoka #3

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KOGA Atsushi	LDP	3x	Kishida	古賀篤
<i>YAMAUCHI Kōichi</i>	CDP	4x	n/a	山内康一

The LDP's KOGA Atsushi, a former finance ministry official, first won Fukuoka-3 and has won comfortably since winning his first term in 2012. In 2017, facing YAMAUCHI Kōichi, Koga received nearly 60% of the vote – although Yamauchi still managed to win a PR seat – and polls suggest Koga will again win easily.

CALL: LDP hold

Fukuoka #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MIYAUCHI Hideki	LDP	3x	Nikai	宮内秀樹
MORIMOTO Shintarō	CDP	0x	n/a	森本慎太郎
TAKEUCHI Nobuaki	SDP	0x	n/a	竹内信昭
ABE Hiroki	Ishin	0x	n/a	あべ ひろき

In a four-candidate field, the LDP's MIYAUCHI Hideki is the clear favorite to win a fourth term, not least since the entry of the SDP's TAKEUCHI Nobuaki into the race could undermine the CDP's MORIMOTO Shintarō.

CALL: LDP hold

Fukuoka #5

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HARADA Yoshiaki	LDP	8x	Aso	原田義昭
TSUTSUMI Kaname	CDP	0x	n/a	堤かなめ

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The LDP's HARADA Yoshiaki, who has won every post-reform election in Fukuoka-5 save 2009, could be vulnerable to coordination between the CDP and JCP. He took 50.5% of the vote in 2017 against Party of Hope and JCP candidates, with the JCP receiving 10%. Now, facing only prefectural assembly member TSUTSUMI Kaname, he is at risk of losing his seat according to the latest polling.

CALL: CDP pickup

Fukuoka #6

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HATOYAMA Jirō	LDP	2x	Nikai	鳩山二郎
TANABE Toru	CDP	0x	n/a	田辺徹
KŌNO Kazuhiro	JCP	0x	n/a	河野一弘
KUMAMARU Eiji	NHK	0x	n/a	熊丸英治
KUSAKA Yoshiaki	Independent	0x	n/a	組坂善昭

HATOYAMA Jirō, son of the late HATOYAMA Kunio, won Fukuoka-6 in a 2016 by-election, again in 2017, and is on track to win a third election by a large margin against a crowded field.

CALL: LDP hold

Fukuoka #7

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FUJIMARU Satoshi	LDP	3x	Kishida	藤丸敏
AOKI Tsuyoshi	CDP	0x	n/a	青木剛志

FUJIMARU Satoshi succeeded the retiring KOGA Makoto in 2012 and has won Fukuoka-7 by large margins, reaching 70.5% against a JCP candidate in 2014. While the CDP's AOKI Tsuyoshi will run a closer race against Fujimaru, the incumbent is likely to hold the seat.

CALL: LDP hold

Fukuoka #8

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ASŌ Tarō	LDP	13x	Aso	麻生太郎
KAWANO Shōko	JCP	0x	n/a	河野祥子
ŌSHIMA Kusuo	Reiwa	UH 2x	n/a	大島九州男

The former prime minister and finance minister will win his seat easily.

CALL: LDP hold

*****Fukuoka #9*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MIHARA Asahiko	LDP	8x	Takeshita	三原朝彦
MAJIMA Shōzō	JCP	0x	n/a	真島省三
OGATA Rintarō	Independent	2x	n/a	緒方林太郎

The LDP's MIHARA Asahiko defeated OGATA Rintarō, then running as a Party of Hope candidate, by six points in 2017. Ogata, however, rejected membership in the various post-DPJ opposition parties but is still running as an independent against Mihara. Polls show that Ogata enjoys a lead – potentially a considerable lead – against the veteran LDP incumbent.

CALL: Independent pickup

*****Fukuoka #10*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YAMAMOTO Kōzō	LDP	8x	Kishida	山本幸三

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<i>Kii Takashi</i>	CDP	3x	n/a	城井崇
NISHIDA Chikara	Ishin	0x	n/a	西田主税
ŌNISHI Hiromasa	Independent	0x	n/a	大西 啓雅

The LDP's YAMAMOTO Kōzō defeated the CDP's Kii Takashi by less than four points in 2017 – and the JCP took 15.5% of the vote. CDP-JCP coordination in Fukuoka could doom Yamamoto, even with an Ishin candidate running. While the vote will be close, Kii could prevail against the incumbent.

CALL: CDP pickup

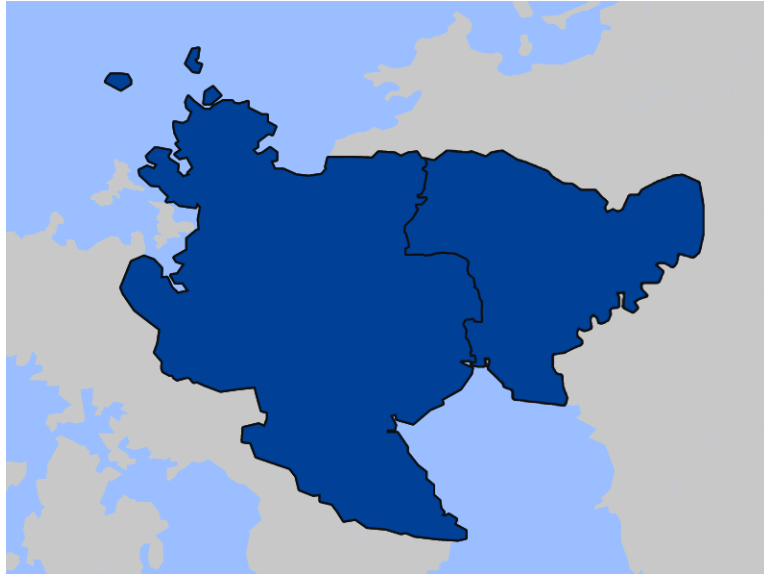
Fukuoka #11

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAKEDA Ryōta	LDP	6x	Nikai	武田良太
SHIKI Reiko	SDP	0x	n/a	志岐 玲子
MURAKAMI Tomonobu	Independent	0x	n/a	村上智信

In 2017, the LDP's TAKEDA Ryōta finished with 55% against MURAKAMI Tomonobu, running as a Party of Hope candidate, and a SDP candidate. Facing a similar field this year – except Murakami is running as an independent – the outcome will look similar.

CALL: LDP hold

SAGA



Saga #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
HARAGUCHI Kazuhiro	CDP	8x	n/a	原口一博
<i>IWATA Kazuchika</i>	LDP	3x	n/a	岩田和親

The CDP's HARAGUCHI Kazuhiro and the LDP's IWATA Kazuchika have battled for Saga-1 in three straight elections, with the loser securing a PR seat each time. Iwata won for the first time in 2012, but Haraguchi regained the seat in 2014 by just over a percentage point and then won again in 2017 by fourteen points. Haraguchi is likely to defeat Iwata again.

CALL: CDP hold

Saga #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name

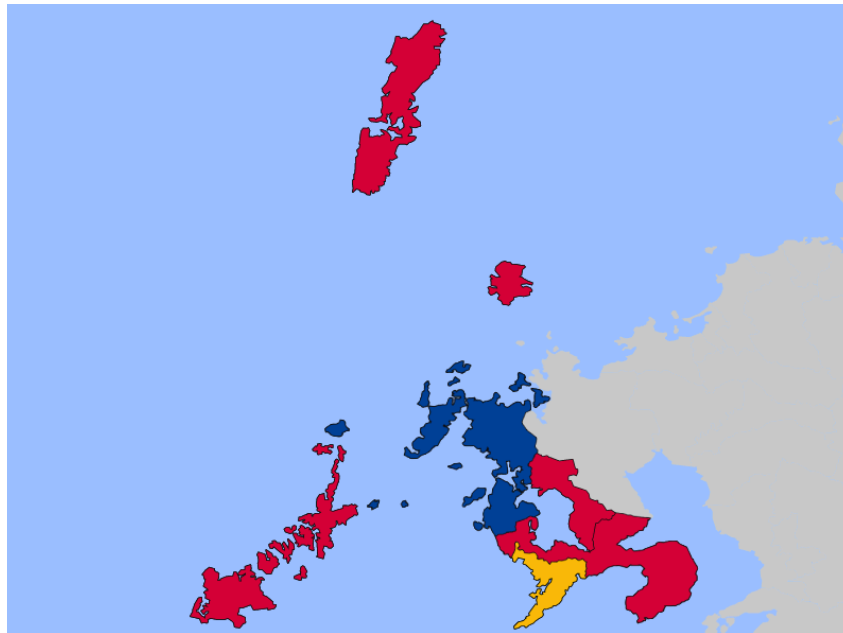
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ŌGUSHI Hiroshi	CDP	5x	n/a	大串博志
<i>FURUKAWA Yasushi</i>	LDP	2x	Takeshita	古川康

The LDP's FURUKAWA Yasushi defeated ŌGUSHI Hiroshi in 2014 to win his first election; Ōgushi had previously won a PR seat in 2005 and Saga-2 in 2009 as a DPJ candidate. However, in 2017, Ōgushi turned the tables and defeated Furukawa by three points. In both 2014 and 2017, the loser won a PR seat. Ōgushi will likely hold the seat this time.

CALL: CDP hold

NAGASAKI



Nagasaki #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NISHIOKA Hideo	DPFP	1x	n/a	西岡秀子
HATSUMURA Takiichirō	LDP	0x	n/a	初村滝一郎

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YASUE Ayako	JCP	0x	n/a	安江綾子
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NISHIOKA Hideo, a Party of Hope candidate from a political family, defeated an LDP incumbent by more than 10,000 votes in 2017, a comfortable victory for a newcomer. Nishioka will now be defending the seat from the LDP's HATSUMURA Takiichirō, previously one of Abe's secretaries, and will also have to contend with the JCP's YASUE Ayako. Polls show, however, that Nishioka's seat is secure.

CALL: DPFP hold

Nagasaki #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MATSUDAIRA <i>Kōichi</i>	CDP	1x	n/a	松平浩一
KATŌ Ryūshō	LDP	0x	n/a	加藤竜祥

KATŌ Kanji, the LDP incumbent, announced his retirement earlier this year, citing ill health. His son, KATŌ Ryūshō, who has worked as his father's (and Abe's) secretary, was nominated by the LDP to replace him. The younger Katō will face the CDP's MATSUDAIRA Kōichi, who won a seat in 2017 running solely as a PR candidate in the Hokuriku-Shinetsu block. Katō's base looks secure.

CALL: LDP hold

Nagasaki #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TANIGAWA Yaichi	LDP	6x	Hosoda	谷川弥一
YAMADA Katsuhiko	CDP	0x	n/a	山田勝彦
ISHIMOTO Hiroyuki	Kaishin-to	0x	n/a	石本 啓之
YAMADA Hiroshi	Independent	0x	n/a	山田博司

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TANIGAWA Yaichi first won Nagasaki-3 in 2003 and, other than losing in 2009, has held it ever since. In 2017, he received nearly 60% of the vote; in 2014, more than 72% against a JCP candidate. Facing the CDP's YAMADA Katsuhiko, the only progressive alliance candidate, the race has been closer. However, while Yamada will reduce Tanigawa's margin of victory, the incumbent is still likely to win.

CALL: LDP hold

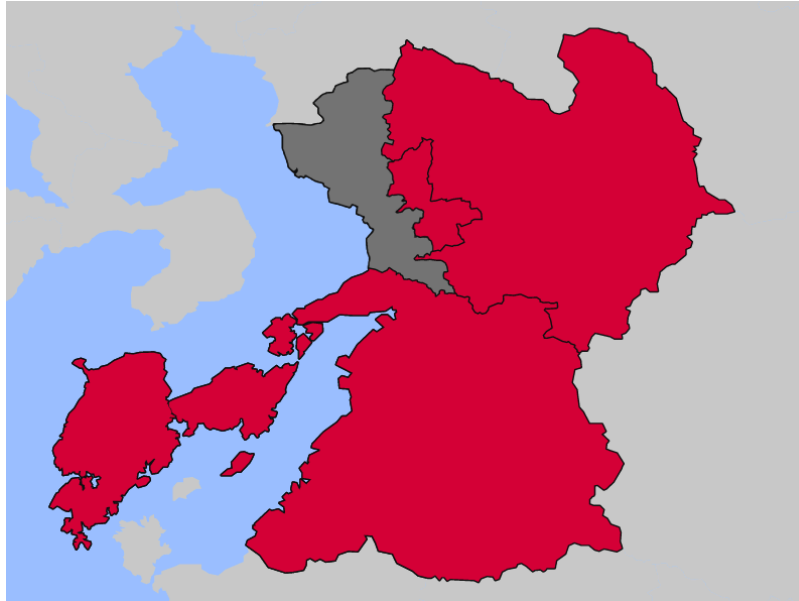
Nagasaki #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KITAMURA Seigo	LDP	7x	Kishida	北村誠吾
SUETSUGU Seiichi	CDP	0x	n/a	末次精一活
HAGIWARA Hiroshi	Independent	0x	n/a	萩原活
TANAKA Takaharu	Independent	0x	n/a	田中 隆治

The LDP's KITAMURA Seigo is another incumbent vulnerable to both opposition coordination and a slight shift in the national vote swing. In 2017, he received 50.79% of the vote against a Party of Hope candidate who took 42.02% -- and a JCP candidate who took 7.19%. With the opposition united in the district, Kitamura is vulnerable, and polls suggest that the CDP's SUETSUGU Seiichi, a former aide to OZAWA Ichirō, is favored heading into election day.

CALL: CDP pickup

KUMAMOTO



Kumamoto #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KIHARA Minoru	LDP	4x	Takeshita	木原稔
HAMADA Daizō	CDP	0x	n/a	濱田大造

KIHARA Minoru, who just completed a stint as an aide to former prime minister Suga, has won by comfortable if not overwhelming margins in Kumamoto-1, reaching a new peak in 2017 when he took 56.15% facing only a Party of Hope candidate. Facing the CDP's HAMADA Daizō, a prefectural assemblyman running in his first national election, Kihara should hold his seat by similar margins as in past elections.

CALL: LDP hold

Kumamoto #2

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Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NODA Takeshi	LDP	16x	Ishihara	野田 毅
HASHIDA Yoshiaki	JCP	0x	n/a	橋田 芳昭
NISHINO Daisuke	Independent*	0x	n/a	西野 太亮

Kumamoto-2 is effectively a two-way race between the eighty-year-old NODA Takeshi, who has served in the Diet since 1972, and NISHINO Daisuke, a forty-three-year-old former finance ministry official (budget bureau) who previously ran as an independent against Noda in 2017. Nishino is running on a platform calling for generational change, and would likely join the LDP if elected. His message appears to be resonating, however, and polls show that he is leading Noda.

CALL: Independent pickup*

Kumamoto #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
SAKAMOTO Tetsushi	LDP	6x	Ishihara	坂本 哲志
BABA Kōsei	SDP	0x	n/a	馬場 こうせい
HONMA Akiko	NHK	0x	n/a	本間 明子

The LDP's SAKAMOTO Tetsushi received more than 70% of the vote in races against JCP candidates in 2014 and 2017. Running against the SDP's BABA Kōsei this year, the result will be similar.

CALL: LDP hold

Kumamoto #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KANEKO Yasushi	LDP	7x	Kishida	金子 恭之

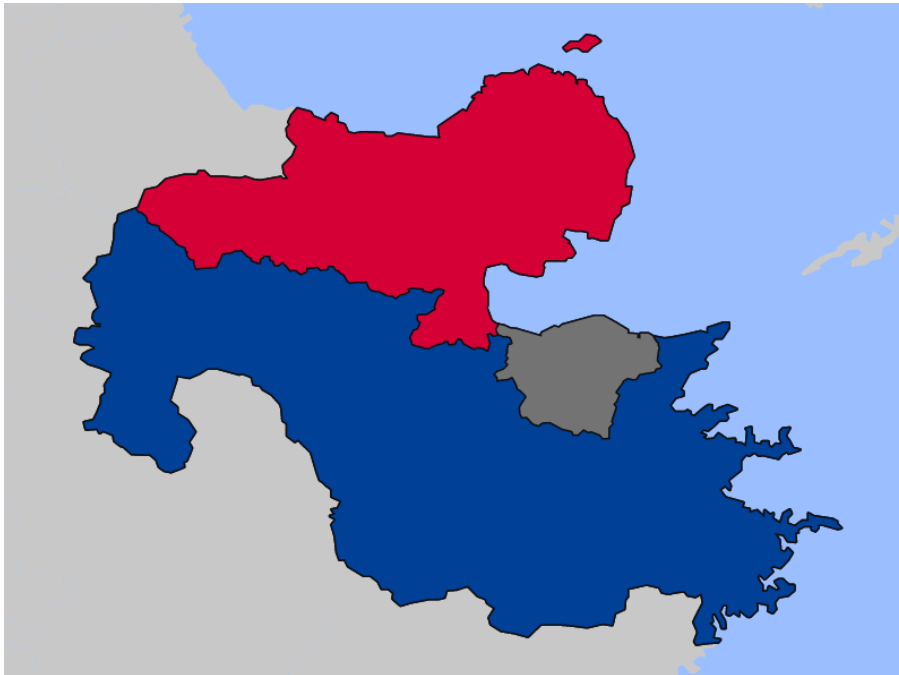
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YAGAMI <i>Masayoshi</i>	CDP	0x	n/a	矢上雅義
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Although the CDP's YAGAMI Masayoshi won a PR seat finishing second to the LDP's KANEKO Yasushi in 2017, Kaneko won with more than 60% of the vote. Newly appointed justice minister in the Kishida cabinet, Kaneko appears likely to win comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

OITA



Oita #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
<i>KIRA Shūji</i>	Independent	5x	n/a	吉良州司
TAKAHASHI Maiko	LDP	0x	n/a	高橋 舞子
YAMASHITA Kai	JCP	0x	n/a	山下 魁
NONAKA Misaki	NHK	0x	n/a	野中美咲

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NISHIMIYA Shigeki	Independent	0x	n/a	西宮重貴
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The retirement of the LDP's ANAMI Yōichi, who won in 201 and 2017, has created an opening for a possible change of hands. The LDP has nominated TAKAHASHI Maiko, a thirty-three-year-old former journalist. Although the opposition alliance's candidate is the JCP's YAMASHITA Kai, the most formidable contender is KIRA Shūji, who held the seat as a DPJ representative from 2003-2012 and again from 2014-2017. Kira declined to join either post-DPJ party and is running as an independent, but is nevertheless well positioned to win.

CALL: Independent pickup*****Oita #2*****

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ETŌ Seishirō	LDP	12x	Hosoda	衛藤征士郎
<i>YOSHIKAWA Hajime</i>	CDP	3x	n/a	吉川元

The LDP's ETŌ Seishirō has served in the Diet without interruption since 1977, first in a six-year term in the upper house before first winning election to the House of Representatives in 1983. He lost Oita-2 in 2009, losing to the SDP's SHIGENO Yasumasa by three points, but was revived via PR. He regained the seat in 2012, running against a new SDF candidate, YOSHIKAWA Hajime, but in subsequent elections, Yoshikawa steadily closed the gap with Etō (and winning a PR seat each time). In 2017, he lost by just over 11 points. Polling has shown a small but consistent lead for Yoshikawa over the incumbent.

CALL: CDP pickup**Oita #3**

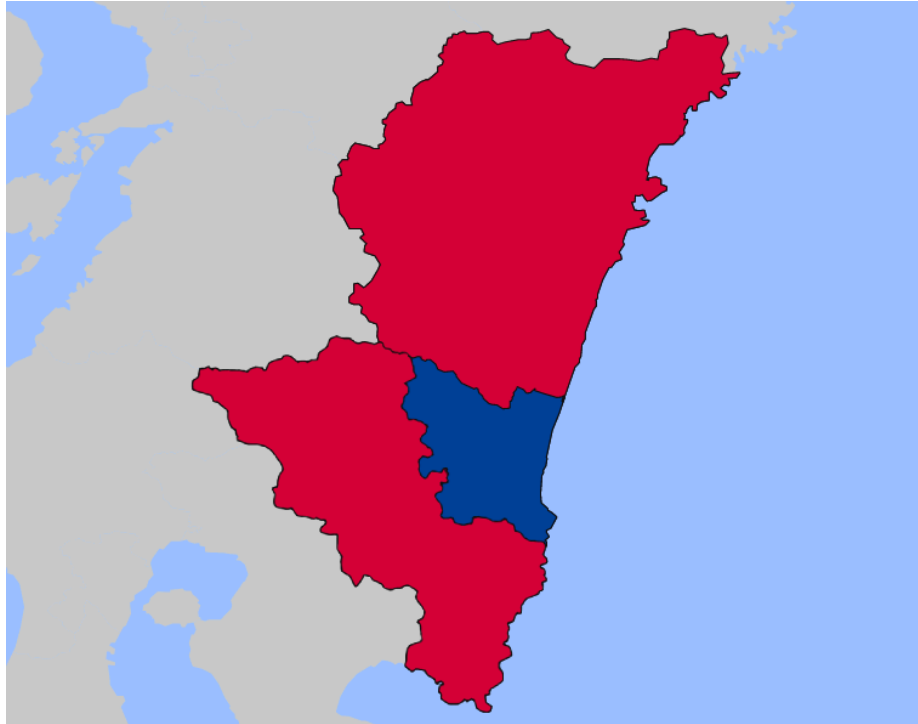
Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
IWAYA Takeshi	LDP	8x	Aso	岩屋毅
<i>YOKOMITSU Katsuhiko</i>	CDP	7x	n/a	横光克彦

The Oita-3 race looks similar to the Oita-2 race, pitting an established LDP incumbent, IWAYA Takeshi (a defense minister under Abe), against a former SDP candidate turned CDP candidate, YOKOMITSU Katsuhiko. The difference is that while

Yokomitsu has contested the district since 2003, winning outright in 2009 and taking PR seats in 2003, 2005, and 2018, there is little sense of an upward trajectory in Yokomitsu's support. There is little to suggest that he will be able to mobilize more voters in his favor this time around.

CALL: LDP hold

MIYAZAKI



Miyazaki #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
TAKEI Shinsuke	LDP	3x	Kishida	武井俊輔
WATANABE Sō	CDP	0x	n/a	渡辺 創
TOYAMA Itsuki	Ishin	UH 1x	n/a	外山 斎
WAKITANI Noriko	Independent	0x	n/a	脇谷のりこ

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The LDP's TAKEI Shinsuke has consistently won Miyazaki-1 by sizable margins, surpassing 50% in both 2014 and 2017. However, in June 2021, Takei was an accessory to a hit-and-run incident in Roppongi, as he was the passenger in a car driven by his government-funded secretary when the secretary struck a bicyclist and drove on without stopping or proffering aid – and without Takei telling the driver to stop. The Miyazaki chapter of the LDP announced it would not endorse his candidacy but they failed to find a replacement and Takei was endorsed by central party headquarters. The local chapter has informed its supporters that they are free to endorse other candidates.

As a result, the CDP's WATANABE Sō, a prefectural assembly member, has enjoyed a steady lead in the polls leading up to election day.

CALL: CDP pickup

Miyazaki #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
ETŌ Taku	LDP	6x	No faction	江藤拓
NAGATOMO Shinji	DPFP	0x	n/a	長友慎治

ETŌ Taku, agriculture minister at the end of the Abe government, has won consistently in Miyazaki-2 since succeeding his father ETŌ Takami in 2003, including a comfortable victory in 2009. He will hold the seat again this year.

CALL: LDP hold

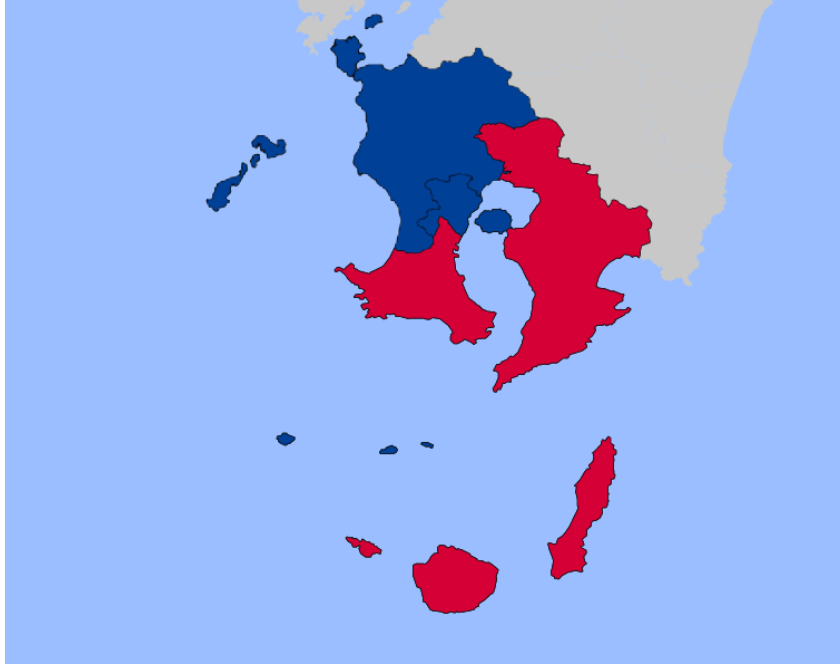
Miyazaki #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
FURUKAWA Yoshihisa	LDP	6x	Takeshita	古川禎久
MATSUMOTO Takashi	JCP	0x	n/a	松本隆
JŪROKUKI Shūhei	NHK	0x	n/a	重黒木優平

Facing a JCP candidate from the opposition alliance, the LDP's FURUKAWA Yoshihisa, justice minister in the Kishida government, will win reelection comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

KAGOSHIMA



Kagoshima #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KAWAUCHI Hiroshi	CDP	6x	n/a	川内博史
<i>MIYAJI Takuma</i>	LDP	2x	n/a	宮路拓馬

The CDP's KAWAUCHI Hiroshi has contested Kagoshima-1 in every election since 1996, winning the district outright in 2009 and 2017 and taking PR seats from 1996 to 2005. His victory in 2017 was by one point over the LDP's YASUOKA Okiharu, who passed away in 2019. Therefore, Kawauchi will face a new LDP challenger, MIYAJI Takuma, who has won two terms running solely on the PR list. The race will undoubtedly be close, but Kawauchi is the favorite.

CALL: CDP hold

Kagoshima #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
KANEKO Masuo	LDP	3x	Ishihara	金子万寿夫
MATSUZAKI Makoto	JCP	0x	n/a	松崎真琴
MITAZONO Satoshi	Independent	0x	n/a	三反園訓

LDP incumbent KANEKO Masuo first won Kagoshima-2 in a 2014 by-election and then again in the 2014 and 2017 general elections. He faces his first serious electoral challenge this year from MITAZONO Satoshi, who was Kagoshima's governor from 2016 to 2020. Mitazono had been the opposition-backed candidate in the 2016 gubernatorial race, which turned on opposition to the restart of the Sendai nuclear power plant in the prefecture. In 2020, he earned the support of the LDP and Komeito for his reelection but fell short in a seven-candidate race. He entered the Kagoshima-2 race despite fierce opposition from the local LDP, which criticized him for betraying the party after it lended its support in 2020. Polls show that the Kaneko and Mitazono are running neck-and-neck, but the incumbent may overcome the challenger.

CALL: LDP hold

Kagoshima #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
OSADO Yasuhiro	LDP	5x	Tanigaki group	小里泰弘
NOMA Takeshi	CDP	2x	n/a	野間健

After failing to win in 2009 as a People's New Party candidate, NOMA Takeshi bested an LDP incumbent as a PNP candidate in 2012 and then won again in 2014 as an independent. In 2017, he ran as a Party of Hope candidate and fell to OSADO Yasuhiro, who had previously run in Kagoshima-4 before redistricting shifted its

boundaries. Osado took 50.41% to Noma's 44.38%, but a JCP candidate also took 5.22%. Noma's winning history in the constituency and the opposition alliance both suggest that he has a good chance of retaking the seat; polling seems to confirm it.

CALL: CDP pickup

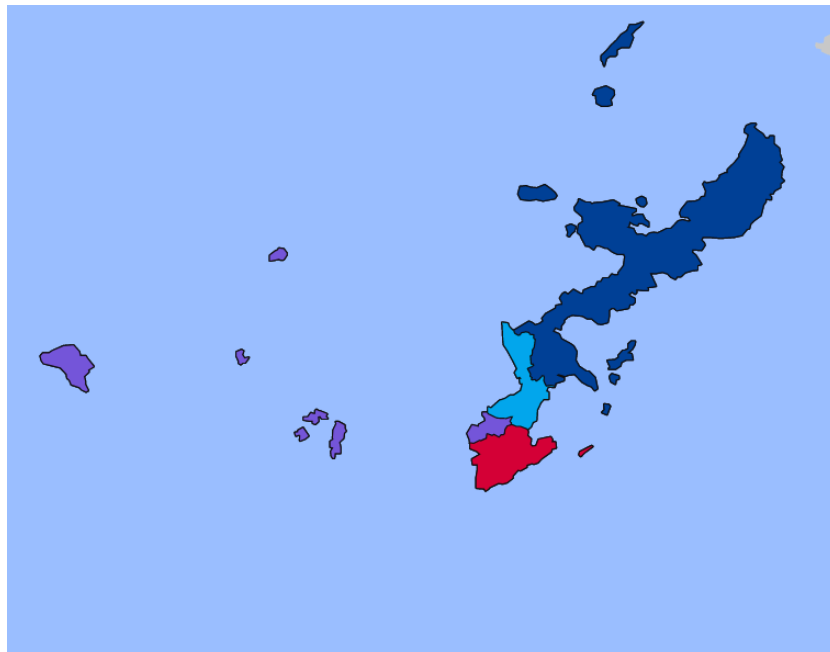
Kagoshima #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
MORIYAMA Hiroshi	LDP	6x/UH 1x	Ishihara	森山裕
YONENAGA Atsuko	SDP	0x	n/a	米永あつ子
MIYAGAWA Naoki	NHK	0x	n/a	宮川 直輝

The LDP's MORIYAMA Hiroshi took 70% against an SDP challenger in 2017 and against SDP and JCP challengers in 2014. He will be reelected comfortably.

CALL: LDP hold

OKINAWA



Okinawa #1

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
AKAMINE Seiken	JCP	7x	n/a	赤嶺政賢
<i>KOKUBA Kōnosuke</i>	LDP	3x	Kishida	國場幸之助
<i>SHIMOJI Mikio</i>	Independent	6x	n/a	下地幹郎

AKAMINE Seiken, the JCP's only incumbent in a single-member constituency, won by slender margins in 2014 and 2017 after winning PR seats in 2000, 2003, 2005, and 2012. For the third straight election, he will face the LDP's KOKUBA Kōnosuke, who won the seat in 2012, and SHIMOJI Mikio, running as an independent this year after winning PR seats as an Ishin candidate in 2014 and 2017 (and winning as an independent and PNP candidate in earlier elections). Neither rival is likely to unseat Akamine this year.

CALL: JCP hold

Okinawa #2

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
<i>MIYAZAKI Masahisa</i>	LDP	3x	Takeshita	宮崎政久
ARAKAKI Kunio	SDP	0x	n/a	新垣邦男
YAMAKAWA Yasuhiro	Ishin	0x	n/a	山川泰博
NAKAMURA Yukiya	NHK	0x	n/a	中村幸也

SDP incumbent TERUYA Kantoku, who had won the district since 2003, announced his retirement, creating an opportunity for the LDP's MIYAZAKI Masahisa, who was elevated to the Diet in a PR seat in 2018 due to the death of the person higher on the list than him. However, Miyazaki received only 41% of the vote to Teruya's 59% in 2017, a strong base for new SDP candidate ARAKAKI Kunio, mayor of Kitanakagushiku village from 2004 to 2021, to win the seat.

CALL: SDP hold

Okinawa #3

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
YARA Tomohiro	CDP	1x	n/a	屋良朝博
SHIMAJIRI Aiko	LDP	UH 2x	Takeshita	島尻安伊子

YARA Tomohiro won Okinawa-3 in a by-election after TAMAKI Denny was elected as Okinawa's governor. His opponent in the by-election was SHIMAJIRI Aiko, who had been an LDP upper house member from 2007-2016, and was actually the sitting minister for Okinawa affairs when she was defeated in the 2016 upper house election. Yara defeated her by thirteen points in 2019, and could win by a similar margin in this year's election.

CALL: CDP hold

Okinawa #4

Name (Incumbent; PR)	Party	Number of election wins	Faction (LDP)	Japanese name
NISHIME Kōsaborō	LDP	5x	Takeshita	西銘恒三郎
KINJŌ Tooru	CDP	0x	n/a	金城徹

NISHIME Kōsaborō, given the Okinawan affairs portfolio in the Kishida government, is the only LDP representative from Okinawa in either house of the Diet. He won the seat outright in 2017, after previously winning it in 2003, 2005, and 2012. His 2017 victory was slender, only four points over the eighty-year-old incumbent NAKASATO Toshinobu. Against a new challenger, KINJŌ Tooru, a former Naha city assembly member, Nishime is in a tough reelection fight but could still prevail by a slender margin.

CALL: LDP hold