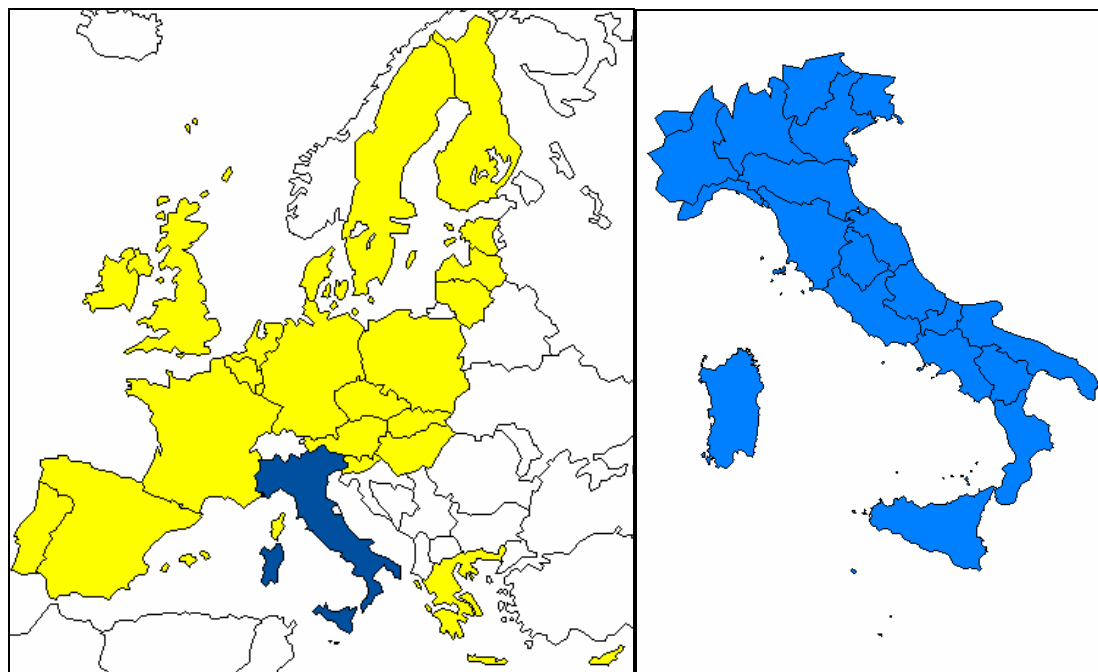




## Contents

- The administrative and political organisation of the Republic of Italy ..... 2
- Italy's 20 regions ..... 2
- The last national elections ..... 3
  - Results of the legislative elections held on 13 and 14 April 2008 in Italy ..... 3
- The different local elections ..... 3
  - 26-27 May and 9-10 June 2002 selected municipal and provincial elections in Italy ... 3
  - 25-26 May and 8-9 June 2003 selected municipal and provincial elections in Italy ..... 4
  - 12-13 June and 26-27 June 2004 selected municipal, provincial and regional elections in Italy ..... 5
  - 3 April and 17-18 April 2005 selected regional and provincial elections in Italy ..... 6
  - 28-29 May and 11-12 June 2006 Selected municipal, provincial and regional elections in Italy ..... 10
  - 27-28 May and 10-11 June 2007: local elections ..... 12
  - 13-14 and 27-28 April 2008 regional, provincial and municipal elections in Italy ..... 13
- Date of the next local elections: June 2009 ..... 15



ITALY'S 20 REGIONS



## ▪ **The administrative and political organisation of the Republic of Italy**

### ✓ National level:

Italy has a bicameral parliament, comprising a Chamber of Deputies (630 members elected for five-year terms on a proportional basis) and a Senate (315 members).

### ✓ Territorial level

Regions: 20. Fifteen have ordinary status, and five (Aosta Valley, Trentino-Alto-Adige, Sicily, Sardinia and Friuli-Venezia-Giulia) have special charters (greater autonomy and individual Constitutions), due either to the fact that they are islands or for linguistic reasons. Italian regions can show their charter. They are run by elected regional councils. According to article 117 of the Italian Constitution, the regions have legislative power in all areas that are not expressly the domain of the central government.

Regional elections are organised using a semi-majority system. Every voter casts a double vote, the first for 80% of regional councillors (elected on a proportional basis) and the second for the president of the regional council and the remaining 20% of seats.

The constitutional reform adopted 2005 made the Senate a federal assembly, representing the regions at national level, with 252 members (instead of the current 315) and legislative powers in specific domains. The reform also gives the regions new powers in the fields of healthcare, local security and education as of 2006. Given opposition from the left, the reform is likely to be the object of a referendum by 2007 at the latest.

Provinces: 103. Italy's provinces are run by an elected provincial council. They are responsible for planning, protection of the environment, development of the local economy, employment, education and transport.

Provincial elections are organised using a proportional system, with a majority premium of 60%, the remaining seats being attributed in accordance with the D'Hondt method. The provincial council president is elected on a majority basis.

Municipalities: 8,103. These are run by an elected municipal council and mayor (*sindaco*), and in charge of sanitary services, urban planning, housing, etc.

## ▪ **Italy's 20 regions**

- Piedmont (4.288.866 inhabitants)
- Lombardy (8.924.870 inhabitants)
- Veneto (4.433.060 inhabitants)
- Liguria (1.658.513 inhabitants)
- Emilia-Romagna (3.924.456 inhabitants)
- Tuscany (3.523.238 inhabitants)
- Marches (1.443.172 inhabitants)
- Umbria (825.310 inhabitants)
- Latium (5.202.098 inhabitants)



- Abruzzo (1.270.591 inhabitants)
- Molise (331.446 inhabitants)
- Campania (5.762.518 inhabitants)
- Apulia (4.082.953 inhabitants)
- Basilicata (609.238 inhabitants)
- Calabria (2.075.842 inhabitants)
- Friuli-Venezia-Giulia (1.188.897 inhabitants)
- Aosta Valley e (118.723 inhabitants)
- Trentin Haut-Adige (913.169 inhabitants)
- Sicily (5.094.735 inhabitants)
- Sardinia (1.660.701 inhabitants)

## ▪ The last national elections

### - Results of the legislative elections held on 13 and 14 April 2008 in Italy

Turnout : 80,4 %

Parties	Votes	%	Seats
Silvio Berlusconi coalition	17,063,874	46.81	344
The People of Freedom	13,628,865	37.39	276
Lega Nord	3,024,522	8.3	60
Movement for Autonomy	410,487	1.13	8
Walter Veltroni Coalition	13,686,673	37.54	246
Democratic Party	12,092,998	33.17	217
Italy of Values	1,593,675	4.37	29
Union of the Centre	2,050,319	5.62	36
The Rainbow	1,124,418	3.08	0
The Right	885,229	2.43	0
Others	1,671,103	5	3

Analysis of the results : [www.robert-schuman.org/anglais/oe/calendrierelections/default.htm](http://www.robert-schuman.org/anglais/oe/calendrierelections/default.htm)

## ▪ The different local elections

### - 26-27 May and 9-10 June 2002 selected municipal and provincial elections in Italy

Some 12m Italian voters, one in four, were called to vote in selected municipal and provincial elections on 26-27 May and 9-10 June 2002, local elections being organised in stages in Italy. No elections were held in the country's major cities including Rome, Milan, Turin and Naples. The results did not represent an upheaval, but did balance things out a bit for the left, which had been beaten by Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing coalition in May 2001. The left increased its score slightly and won a majority in 15 out of the 28 biggest municipalities in which elections were held, including Verona and Genoa, where Giuseppe Pericu (Democrats of the Left, DS) won by a wide margin. The right won the province and town hall in Reggio di Calabria, Umberto Bossi's Northern League held on to its majority in Treviso. Turnout totalled 75.8%



for the municipal elections and 65.2% for the provincial elections, down slightly compared with the previous elections in 1998, despite the fact that polling stations were open partially on the Monday (until 1pm) in order to facilitate voting.

- **25-26 May and 8-9 June 2003**  
**selected municipal and provincial elections in Italy**

On 25 and 26 May 2003, slightly 12.5m voters were called to the polls in 489 municipalities (out of a total of 8,100 in Italy), of which 92 with populations of more than 15,000 (for which there was only one round), as well as 12 provinces (out of a total of 103) and two of the country's 20 regions (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and Aosta Valley).

A record number of lists were registered for these elections. Left-wing parties joined forces, the Olive Tree coalition presenting joint lists with the Communist Refoundation Party in 11 out of 12 provinces. In contrast, the House of Freedoms was divided, particularly in the northern part of the country, with Umberto Bossi's Northern League opting to go it alone in its zone of influence (Treviso, Brescia and Vicenza). Last of all, a few lists emanating from the movement against the war in Iraq fielded candidates.

The left won a majority in first-round voting for the province of Rome, with Enrico Gasbarra, deputy to mayor Walter Veltroni, winning 53.5% of the vote and beating the right-wing hopeful, Silvano Moffa (National Alliance), despite a campaign visit by prime minister Silvio Berlusconi. The opposition's win in the capital was particularly important given the province's electoral weight (3m of the 12.5m called to the polls). The left won five of the 12 provinces in the first round (Rome, Massa in Tuscany, Foggia in Apulia, Benevento in Campania and Enna in Sicily) and the right four (Palermo, Agrigento, Catania and Messina, all four in Sicily). In Palermo, outgoing regional president Francesco Musotto won a third mandate with 60.30% of the vote, compared with 36.50% for the left.

In the municipal election, the left won a majority in first-round voting in Pisa and Massa (Tuscany) and the right in Messina (Sicily). The divided state of the governing coalition forced the right into run-off polls in the entire northeast part of the country, as the Northern League's strong scores (16.3% in Brescia, 9.6% in Vicenza and 44.9% in Treviso, compared with only 11.2% for the official candidate of the right), stopping the right from winning absolute majorities in the first round. Turnout totalled 41.1% in the first round of the municipal elections (compared with 44.5% in the previous poll in 1999) and 29.7% in the provincial elections (31.1% four years earlier).

For the regional elections in Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and Aosta Valley, there was a single round of voting on 8 and 9 June. In Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, left-wing candidate, Ricardo Illy, mayor of Trieste between 1993 and 2001, head of coffee maker Illy and member of the Daisy (a centre left party within the Olive Tree coalition), won 53.3% of the vote, compared with 43.1% for Northern League candidate Alessandra Guerra. The loss of this rich region caused severe tension among the allies within the governing coalition. Northern League leader Umberto Bossi accused his partners (Forza Italia, National Alliance and Union of Christian and Centre Democrats) of having caused his candidate to lose and of being responsible for the loss of the region. "When we stand alone, we win", said Mr Bossi in an interview in *Corriere della Sera*. "But we were unable to go it alone in Friuli. And some people within the centre right did not vote for the League's candidate." He added, "The problem is not the League, but the packs of Romano-centrists, people with dirty hands and Christian Democrats that thrive within Forza Italia and the coalition, and who oppose change."



In Aosta Valley, the Valdostain Union, a regional party, won 47.24% of the vote and kept power in coalition with the Democrats of the Left (members of the Olive Tree Coalition), which won 9.70% of the vote.

In the provincial elections, the left kept its hold on Caltanissetta and Syracuse in Sicily, and the right held on to Trapani (Sicily). Seven of the 12 provinces in which elections were held are now ruled by the left (compared with six previously) and five by the right (six previously). In the municipal poll, the left held power in Brescia and won office in the cities of Ragusa (Sicily) and Pescara (Abruzzo). The right held power in Treviso and Vicenza and took only one city from the opposition, Sondrio in Lombardy. Of the nine key municipalities, five are now governed by the left and four by the right, the opposite of the situation prior to the poll.

This represented a serious setback for the governing coalition. The voters sent a message to Rome, saying that Silvio Berlusconi's coalition government was already showing signs of running out of steam after two years in power. The coalition also had to deal with substantial divisions among its members after the elections.

#### - **12-13 June and 26-27 June 2004** **selected municipal, provincial and regional elections in Italy**

Roughly 70% of the electorate, or 36m voters, went to the polls on 12 and 13 June to elect the president and regional council of Sardinia, as well as the presidents and councils in 63 provinces, and the mayors and councils in 4,493 municipalities, including 30 key cities.

The left-wing opposition won the first round, taking the region of Sardinia, 38 of the 63 provinces and 18 of the 30 large cities in which elections were held, including Bologna. The right won three provinces and six town halls in large cities.

In Sardinia, Renato Soru, founder in the 1990s of ISP Tiscali but a neophyte in politics, beat Mauro Pili, Silvio Berlusconi's protégé, by a wide margin. Aged 47, Renato Soru campaigned on the revitalisation of the island's economy and pledged to close American military bases in Sardinia.

In Bologna, Sergio Cofferati, former leader of Italy's biggest trade union, CGIL, known as Mr No for his opposition to Silvio Berlusconi's government, also won in the first round, beating outgoing mayor Giorgio Guazzaloca.

Turnout totalled 75% in the first round.

The province of Milan, prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's stronghold, was one of the main stakes in the run-off poll on 26 and 27 June, when nearly 12m Italians (11.9m) went to the polls. Ombretta Colli, outgoing provincial president, member of Forza Italia (FI) and supported by Silvio Berlusconi, was beaten by the centre-left candidate, Filippo Penati, mayor of a Milan suburb. The prime minister's candidate won 45.8% of the vote, compared with 54.2% for her rival. The province of Milan was seen as an important test, as most of Mr Berlusconi's business interests are located in Milan (Fininvest and football club Milan AC), the country's economic capital. The Northern League (LN), Forza Italia's ally in the government, opted to stand alone in the first round and won 8.6% of the vote. Silvio Berlusconi subsequently reached an agreement with the League promising the adoption before the end of September of reform giving more power to the regions. This in turn irritated his other coalition partners, the National Alliance (AN) and the Union of Christian and Centre Democrats (UDC). Despite this agreement, League voters did not rally the government candidate in sufficiently large numbers in the run-off.



At local level, the left won town halls in Bergamo, Bari and Foggia, while the right held on to power in Syracuse. Leonardo Domenici (centre left) was re-elected mayor of Florence, winning 65.5% of votes cast on 27 June, having come very close to winning a majority in the first round, with 49.2% of the vote.

Only half the voters (52%) actually turned out to vote in the run-off poll, an exceptionally low rate for Italy, where voting was long compulsory and where it is still ingrained.

After these local elections, left-wing parties had majorities in 10 of the country's 20 regions and 52 of the 63 provinces in which voting was held. The government majority thus recorded another setback, after its poor showing the year before. The prime minister nevertheless ruled out a resignation and said that he was determined to complete his term, whatever the outcome of local elections.

### - **3 April and 17-18 April 2005 selected regional and provincial elections in Italy**

Some 41,732,115 voters, representing 80% of the Italian electorate, were called to the polls on 2-3 April and 17-18 April 2005 to elect new regional governments in 14 of Italy's 20 regions, two provinces (Viterbe, near Rome, and Caserta, near Naples) and 368 municipalities, including nine key cities. On 1 April, parties across the board decided to cancel remaining campaign activities as a sign of respect towards pope John-Paul II, who was in a critical condition.

Silvio Berlusconi's governing coalition, made up of Forza Italia (FI), Northern League (LN), National Alliance (AN) and the Union of Christian and Centre Democrats (UDC), suffered a severe setback in these regional elections. The coalition managed to save only two of the 14 regions in which elections were held, Lombardy and Veneto – and even in these two regions, the government parties' scores were down compared with the previous regional election. The opposition Union, bringing together left-leaning parties under the stewardship of former European Commission president Romano Prodi, won the other 12 regions (Piedmont, Abruzzo, Calabria, Apulia, Latium, Campania, Liguria, Umbria, Marches, Tuscany, Basilicata and Emilia-Romagna), putting it in power in 16 of the country's 20 regions, compared with six prior to the elections (Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Marches, Umbria, Campania and Basilicata).

The governing coalition presented a weak front to voters, weakened for one thing by the country's poor economic performance and for another thing by parliament's 23 March approval of a federal reform modifying 50 articles of the Italian Constitution and giving more power to the regions.

After two years of stagnation (-0.4%), Italy recorded the slowest rate of economic growth in the EU in 2004 (1%). Its trade account was in deficit for the first time in 12 years and the Bank of Italy released a survey finding that Italian industry had lost 25% of its competitiveness in the five preceding years. The GDP growth forecast for 2005 is 1.2%, and the budget deficit is expected to reach 3.6% of GDP.

The left-wing opposition, particularly in the southern part of the country, also accused the government of having imposed a constitutional reform that weakens national solidarity and favours the country's northern regions. The constitutional reform also increases the powers of the head of government, who is to shed his former title of *Presidente del Consiglio* (cabinet chairman) and will be styled "prime minister". It limits the powers of the legislative assembly and makes the Senate a federal assembly, representing local autonomies. It gives the regions



new powers in healthcare, local police and education. In order to come into effect, the reform still needs a vote of confirmation by both houses of parliament. And should the opposition manage to collect the 500,000 signatures necessary to call a referendum, Italian voters could even have the last word on this change to their Constitution. If the reform is adopted, powers would be transferred to the regions starting in 2006, the other measures would only come into effect in 2011.

The Northern League conditioned its support for the government on this reform. In early March, Roberto Maroni, labour minister, and Roberto Calderoli, reform minister, both threatened to resign if the constitutional reform was not passed before Easter, denouncing “the non-respect of the coalition’s founding pact”. The National Alliance and the Union of Christian and Centre Democrats, which are most popular in the country’s central and southern regions, have started pressing for it to be abandoned.

In Latium, outgoing president Francesco Storace (AN) won only 47.4% of the vote and was beaten by the left-wing candidate Piero Marrazzo (50.7%), a former RAI journalist. Fernando Storace said on the eve of the poll that, if he lost power, Romano Prodi would eventually succeed Silvio Berlusconi as the country’s leader. Despite the fact that he did not want to become personally involved in the campaign, Mr Berlusconi campaigned in support the coalition candidate in Rome, where Francesco Storace was also competing against Alessandra Mussolini. The granddaughter of Benito Mussolini broke with her party, the National Alliance, in December 2003, in the wake of declarations by its leader, Gianfranco Fini, condemning fascism as “absolute evil” and terming Italy’s Social Republic, set up by Mussolini in 1943, a “shameful page” in the country’s history. Accused of having forged the signatures necessary to run, Alessandra Mussolini, who has created her own party, Social Alternative, had to withdraw her list before finally being allowed to stand after appeal to the Council of State. She won 1.9% of the vote in this poll. The left emerged victorious in Latium, winning control of both the regional government and the town hall in Rome.

Nichi Vendola, candidate of the Communist Refoundation Party (RC), catholic and homosexual (founder and active member of homosexual defence associations), created an upset in Apulia, a traditionally conservative region, by creeping ahead of Raffaele Vitto (FI), with 49.9% of the vote face against 49.1% for the coalition candidate. Nichi Vendola had to fight primary elections in order to impose his candidacy, which right-wing parties took as a pledge of their success.

The left won nine other regions. In Liguria, Claudio Burlando (52.6%) beat industrialist Sandro Biasotti, the region’s outgoing president (46.6%). In Piedmont, Mercedes Bresso (50.9%) beat outgoing president, Enzo Ghigo (47.1%). In Calabria, where the outgoing president was not running, opposition candidate Agazio Loiero won 59% of the vote and beat government candidate Sergio Abramo by a wide margin, leaving him only 39.7% of votes cast. Agazio Loiero campaigned against the constitutional reform giving new powers to the regions, notably in the areas of healthcare and education. “Rich regions like Lombardy will have excellent healthcare systems, while Calabria will be left to fend for itself”, was his message to voters. He criticised the reform, saying that it “demolishes the system of national equality and impoverishes the south”. In Emilia-Romagna, Vasco Errani (62.7%) beat Carlo Monaco (35.2%) by a wide margin. In Tuscany, Claudio Martini (57.4%) beat Alessandro Antichi (32.8%). In Umbria, Maria Ritta Lorenzetti (63%) thrashed Pietro Laffranco (33.6%). In Abruzzo, Ottaviano del Turco (58.1%) gained a majority, leaving his rival Giovanni Pace with only 40.6% of the vote. In Marches, Gian Mario Spacca won 57.7% of votes cast,



compared with 38.6% for Francesco Massi. Lastly, in Campania, Antonio Bassolino (61.6%) won by a wide margin against Italo Bocchino (34.4%).

The right won in two regions. In Veneto, Giancarlo Galan took 50.5% of votes cast, against 42.4% for Massimo Carraro. In Lombardy, Roberto Formigoni (FI) held on to his region, winning 53.4% of the vote against 43.6% for Riccardo Sarfatti. As he did not wish to be identified with the government, Mr Formigoni initially opted to present his list under his own name before being called to order by Silvio Berlusconi.

Turnout totalled 71.4% on 2-3 April, 1.7 points less than in the previous regional elections.

### Results of the regional elections in Italy, 2-3 April 2005

Turnout: 71.4%

Region	Percentage of the vote won by The Union (left)	Percentage of the vote won by the House of Freedoms (right)
Piedmont	47.1	50.9
Lombardy	53.4	43.6
Veneto	50.5	42.4
Liguria	46.6	52.6
Emilia-Romagna	35.2	62.7
Tuscany	32.8	57.4
Marches	38.6	57.7
Umbria	33.6	63
Latium	47.4	50.7
Abruzzo	40.6	58.1
Campania	34.4	61.6
Apulia	49.1	49.9
Calabria	39.7	59

Source: RAI

In the provincial elections, opposition candidate Alessandro de Franciscis won in Caserta in the first round with 52.4% of the vote, beating Nicola Cosentino, who took 45.5% of votes cast. In Viterbo province, the left coalition candidate, Alessandro Masoli, emerged victorious on 18 April in the run-off, with 52.3% of the vote, compared with 47.7% for his rival Francesco Battistoni.

In the municipal elections, a duel opposed two left-wing opposition personalities in Venice; the candidate of the Daisy, philosopher Massimo Cacciari, narrowly beat Felice Casson (Greens-Party of Italian Communists) by 1,340 votes. In Lombardy, in Mantua, Fiorenza Brioni, Union candidate, beat Roberto Vassalle (House of Freedoms), with 54.5% of the vote against 45.5% for his right-wing opponent. In Lodi, Lorenzo Guerini (The Union) won 54.1% of votes cast, compared with 44.1% for his right-wing rival Mauro Rossi; in Pavia, Piera Capitelli (The Union) beat Giorgio Rondini (54.5% vs 45.5%). In contrast, right-wing candidate Rossana di Bello won the contest in Taranta, in Apulia, with 57.8% of votes cast, beating Ludovico Vico (34.3%).

In Basilicata, the regional elections were held two weeks after the 13 other regions, the poll having been delayed after a far-left list, People's Unity, lodged a complaint with the Council



of State – which was upheld – about its exclusion by a local court from the electoral campaign. Vito de Filippo, candidate of the left-wing coalition, won easily, with 67% of the vote, compared with 28.8% for his rival Cosimo Latronico.

### Results of the regional elections in Italy, 17-18 April 2005

Region	Percentage of the vote won by The Union (left)	Percentage of the vote won by the House of Freedoms (right)
Basilicata	67	28.8

Source: RAI

This electoral defeat brought to the fore tensions and divisions within the governing coalition. Prime minister Silvio Berlusconi nevertheless declared his aim of completing his five-year mandate at the head of the country, thereby breaking the record of longevity of an Italian head of government since the end of the Second World War. This was despite the fact that his party, Forza Italia, with only 18.4% of the vote, had recorded its lowest level of support since its creation in 1994. National Alliance also lost support; the Northern League was the only coalition member to hold its vote steady. Silvio Berlusconi put the coalition's poor showing down to his refusal to campaign personally, and minimised the importance of regional elections. While he said a few days before the poll that "the regional elections will have no impact on the government", there was little doubt, after the election, that "the country [had] sent a message, which, due to its dimension, has a clear significance. I have heard this message and intend to provide an appropriate response".

On the left, the success in these regional elections was thought likely to promote greater unity among the very heterogeneous coalition partners and to strengthen the leadership of former European Commission president, Romano Prodi.

On 20 April, Mr Berlusconi's government resigned after four Union of Christian and Centre Democrats ministers (as well as the vice-minister and the secretary of state, members of Bobo Craxi's and Gianni de Michelis's New Italian Socialist Party) decided to bale out the National Alliance had threatened to do the same thing. "The voters are calling on the centre-right to make profound change. The UDC believes it to be its duty not to go on as if nothing had happened. Leaving things as they are would not help either the coalition or the country", said deputy prime minister and minister without portfolio, party leader Marco Follini.

The new government, appointed on 23 April, was considered, due to the return of former finance minister Giulio Tremonti (FI), as a victory for the Northern League. Driven out of the government in July 2004 by National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini, Giulio Tremonti was appointed deputy prime minister and minister without portfolio, giving him the same rank as Mr Fini. Fernando Storace, beaten in the elections in his region of Latium, also entered the government, as health minister. Rocco Buttiglione (UDC), removed at the end of 2004 from the post of European Commissioner for Justice and Liberties, for which he had been nominated by the Italian government, and a former minister for European affairs, became minister for culture.

According to an exit poll carried out by research institute Censis, the vote at these regional elections expressed "the discontent of Italy's middle classes". Voters swinging from the right to the left were said to be primarily women, young people and residents of the southern part of the country.



- **28-29 May and 11-12 June 2006**  
**Selected municipal, provincial and regional elections in Italy**

Roughly a quarter of Italian voters were called to the polls on 28-29 May and 11-12 June for elections at the municipal (election of the mayors of 1,267 towns including the country's four biggest cities, Rome, Turin, Milan and Naples), provincial (in 8 of the 21 provinces: Mantua, Treviso, Pavia, Imperia, Ravenna, Lucca, Campobasso and Reggio Calabria) and regional (Sicily) levels. The Union, which includes the Democrats of the Left (DS), The Daisy, the Communist Refoundation Party (RC), the Greens and the Italian Communist Party (PdCI), won the municipal and provincial polls, taking 14 out of 23 municipalities and 5 out of 8 provinces. The Left won 53 of the 101 biggest municipalities (+12), against 45 (-9) for the House of Freedoms, which includes Forza Italia (FI), National Alliance (AN), the Northern League (LN) and the Union of Christian and Centre Democrats (UDC). A total of 29 municipalities swung from Right to Left, and 12 from Left to Right. In total, the Left won 19 major cities (+6), against 7 for the Right (-6).

At the municipal level, former deputy prime minister and minister for culture (1996-1998), Walter Veltroni (DS), was re-elected mayor of Rome by a wide margin, winning 61.4% of the vote, compared with 37.1% for his opponent, former agriculture minister Gianni Alemanno (AN), who complained about the lack of support received from Silvio Berlusconi. In Turin, incumbent mayor Sergio Chiamparino (DS) also enjoyed a clear victory with 66.6% of the vote, compared with 29.5% for his rival Rocco Buttiglione (Union of Christian Democrats, CDI). Lastly, in Naples, Rosa Russo Iervolino (The Daisy) was re-elected with 57.1% of the vote, against 37.8% for Franco Malvano (FI), former municipal police chief. Letizia Moratti (FI), a former education minister and wife of oil magnate Gianmarco Moratti, kept Milan for the Right, winning 52% of the vote, compared with 47% for her rival Bruno Ferrante, the city's former prefect, although it should be noted that this was the Left's best score in the city for 13 years. Letizia Moratti took over from Gabriele Albertini (FI), who had served two terms as mayor of Italy's economic capital and its fourth-biggest city.

The Right also won in Cagliari, in Sardinia, with 53.6% of the vote, against 38.7% for the Left, as well as in Belluno. However, The Union won the cities of Siena, Caserta, Reggio Calabria, Ancona, Arezzo, Crotona (with 77.8% of the vote), Rovigo, Treviso and Ravenna (with 68.9% of votes cast).

In the provincial elections, right-wing forces won in Pavia, Treviso and Imperia. In Imperia, their score totalled 60.5%. The Union won the provinces of Ravenna (with 70.2% of the vote), Mantua, Lucca, Reggio Calabria and Campobasso.

In Sicily, where regional elections were held, sitting regional president Salvatore Cuffaro (UDC) was re-elected with 53.08% of the vote, compared with 41.63% for Rita Borsellino, sister of Paolo Borsellino, an anti-mafia judge killed on 19 July 1992 when his car was blown up. Ms Borsellino is a former chairman of Libera, an anti-mafia association and entered politics in late 2005. The Left nevertheless progressed in the country's southernmost region, and Salvatore Cuffaro, known as "Kissy-Kissy" due to his fondness for kissing his voters, lost 8 points in comparison with the previous regional poll.

Turnout – these elections took place only a month and a half after the 9 and 10 April 2006 legislative poll – totalled 71.2% for the municipal elections, 59.6% for the provincial elections and 59.17% for the regional elections in Sicily. The low turnout in comparison with previous polls no doubt penalised the Right.



“These local elections will be the first expulsion notice for the Left, the government and the so-called majority”, said former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi a few days before the election. “Was that the Right’s revenge?”, said his replacement Romano Prodi when the results were announced.

### Results of municipal elections in Italy on 28-29 May and 11-12 June 2006

Turnout: 71.2%

City	Percentage of votes cast for The Union (Left)	Percentage of votes cast for the House of Freedoms (Right)
Rome	61.4	37.1
Turin	66.6	29.5
Naples	57.1	37.8
Milan	47	52
Sienna	54.9	12.8
Caserta	53.2	46.8
Reggio Calabria	58.6	39.9
Cagliari	38.7	53.6
Ancona	58.1	22.7
Ravenna	68.9	22.1
Treviso	57.3	30.2
Benevento	56.1	42.4
Belluno	46.3	53.7
Arezzo	59.2	39.8
Crotone	77.8	20.9
Catanzaro	50.8	49.2
Caserta	53.2	46.8
Rovigo	50	50
Grosseto	51.8	37.2

Source: Corriere della Sera

### Results of provincial elections in Italy on 28-29 May and 11-12 June 2006

Turnout: 59.6%

City	Percentage of votes cast for The Union (Left)	Percentage of votes cast for the House of Freedoms (Right)
Ravenna	70.2	21.5
Mantua	53.5	45
Pavia	46.4	50.3
Treviso	30.2	57.3
Lucco	53.3	38.1
Reggio Calabria	58.6	39.9
Imperia	37.4	60.5
Campobasso	52.3	44.1

Source: Corriere della Sera



## Results of regional elections in Italy on 28-29 May and 11-12 June 2006

Turnout: 59.17%

Region	Percentage of votes cast for The Union (Left)	Percentage of votes cast for the House of Freedoms (Right)
Sicily	41.63	53.08

Source: Corriere della Sera

### - 27-28 May and 10-11 June 2007: local elections

Some 10m Italians, or one-fifth of the country's electorate, went to the polls the 27-28 May and 10-11 June 2007 in municipal and provincial elections. Polls were held in 859 towns, including 26 regional capitals, out of the country's 8,000; 7 of the country's 104 provinces also voted.

In the provinces, voters preserved the status quo: the House of Freedoms, which includes Silvio Berlusconi's party Forza Italia (FI), National Alliance (AN) and Northern League (LN), held on to the four provinces it governed prior to the elections (Vercelli, Varese, Como and Vicenza); The Union, made up of governing parties – the Democrats of the Left (DS), The Daisy and Communist Refoundation (RC) – won La Spezia, Genoa and Ancona.

At municipal level, the House of Freedoms posted a clear increase in its support, particularly in the northern part of the country. The cities of Alessandria, Monza, Gorizia and Asti swung from Left to Right in the first round on 27-28 May. In Verona, Northern League candidate Flavio Tosi, a 35-year-old engineer and president of a local small business association beat sitting mayor Paolo Zanella with 55.5%, again in the first round. In Reggio di Calabria, Giuseppe Scopelliti (AN) was re-elected with 65% of the vote. The House of Freedoms also won the cities of Trapani and Matera, and held on to Lucca, Parma, Latina, Ragusa and Oristano. In Palermo, in Sicily, sitting mayor Diego Cammarata beat the leftwing candidate, Léoluca Orlando, who had already served twice as mayor for a total of 15 years (1985-1990 and 1993-2000). The Union held on to its stronghold in Genoa, where MEP Marta Vincenzi, aged 60, won the municipal poll, albeit with a lower score than that won by his predecessor Giuseppe Pericu. In the provincial elections, Alessandro Giovanni Repeto beat Renata Oliveri, 51.4% and 48.5% respectively. The left won in Pistoia, Piacenza, Rieti and L'Aquila, the capitale of Abruzzo. It gained Taranto and Agrigento, a former rightwing stronghold, where Ippazio Stefano beat, with 76% of the vote, another leftwing candidate, Giovanni Florido.

Turnout totalled 73.9% for the municipal elections and 58% for the provincial pole, respectively 2.4 and 6.9 points less than in the previous elections of the same type in these cities and provinces.

“Clearly, I am not satisfied with the results we obtained in the north,” said prime minister Romano Prodi. “But I also know that we will one day reap the benefits of the new policies we have put into place. The problem is when you lose your popularity without having put any new policies for the country into place, as happened to the previous government. We have had to take unpopular decisions and to raise taxes in order to get the economy moving again. That clearly created problems in the north.” The prime minister did not campaign for the local elections, refusing to give them any importance other than local.

The Right, on the other hand, had clearly campaigned on the national government's record. Silvio Berlusconi was quick to call for the resignation of the “tax government”, as he calls the ruling coalition led by Romano Prodi. “It is not only the north, but all of Italy that sanctioned Romano Prodi,” said the former prime minister (2001-2006).



“Local elections are not a political test for the government,” said foreign minister Massimo d'Alema (DS), who accused Silvio Berlusconi of instrumentalising the vote. “Silvio Berlusconi lost all the local elections held when he was in power, and yet he never resigned, so he’s the last person in the world who could expect that of anybody else,” he said. “The 27-28 May and 10-11 June 2007 elections were not a return match,” said Piero Fassino, leader of the main party in the ruling coalition, the Democrats of the Left. It must be borne in mind that Silvio Berlusconi has never acknowledged Romano Prodi’s win in the 9 and 10 April 2006 legislative elections, consistently claiming that there were irregularities in the poll.

“The result of these elections will weigh heavily on the government in the future. In Italy, even the smallest and most peripheral election has national impact,” said sociologist Ilvo Diamanti.

### - 13-14 and 27-28 April 2008 regional, provincial and municipal elections in Italy

On 13-14 and 27-28 April 2008, 6m Italians went to the polls to elect their representatives in two regions (Sicily and Friuli-Venezia Giulia), five provinces and 43 municipalities. The first round of these local elections, initially planned for next June, coincided with the early legislative and Senate elections held on 13 and 14 April.

As it did at the national level in the parliamentary poll, the right won the two regional elections. In Sicily, a stronghold of the Italian right, Raffaele Lombardo, founder in 2005 of the Movement for Autonomy (MPA), which he intends to make the southern equivalent of the North League (LN), won 65.3% of the vote – a big victory over Anna Finocchiaro (Democratic Party, PD), who won 30.4% of votes cast. After the resignation of Sicily’s former president, Salvatore Cuffaro (Union of Christian and Centre Democrats, UDC), sentenced on 26 January 2008 to five years in prison for having informed Mafia bosses that they were under surveillance under a criminal investigation, Raffaele Lombardo was able to convince the right’s national leader, Silvio Berlusconi (People of Freedom, PdL), to choose him as candidate in exchange for help from the Movement for Autonomy in Senate elections in Campania and Calabria, regions in which the left had majority support. Sicily’s new president was thought likely to get work started again on the Strait of Messina Bridge, a suspension bridge linking the island to the mainland, the utility of which has been contested and which was shelved by the government of Romano Prodi (The Union, U) in 2006.

But the biggest surprise in these regional elections came from Renzo Tondo, who beat Riccardo Illy, heir to the Illy café fortune and mayor of Trieste from 1993 to 2001, in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, with 53.8% of votes cast, against 46.2% for his adversary.

In the provincial poll, the right won in Asti (where Giovanna Armosino beat Roberto Peretti), Foggia (Antonio Pepe beat Paolo Campo) and Catanzaro (Wanda Ferro beat Pietro Amato). The left won in the province of Rome and in Massa-Carrara, where Osvaldo Angeli beat Sandro Bondi.

In the municipal elections, left-wing parties won in the cities of Pisa, where Marco Filippeschi took 53.08% of the vote, compared with 46.91% for Patrizia Paoletti, Sondrio, Udine and Vicenza, where Achille Variati scraped in with 50.48% of the vote, ahead of Lia Sartori, with 49.51%.

The biggest battle in these local elections was played out in Rome, whose mayor, Walter Veltroni, leader of the left-wing parties and the Democratic Party, resigned on 13 February



2008, Italian electoral law prohibiting the mayors of cities with populations of more than 20,000 from running in legislative elections (roughly 150 other mayors also gave up office prior to the poll). Walter Veltroni gave the mayoralty to Francesco Rutelli, Culture Minister and deputy Prime Minister in the Prodi government, who was previously mayor of the national capital from 1993 to 2001. Mr Rutelli was up against Gianni Alemanno (National Alliance, AN), Agriculture Minister in the Berlusconi government, who had already been the right's standard-bearer in Rome in 2006, when he lost in the first round to Walter Veltroni, who won the highest score ever achieved in Rome (61.4% of the vote, compared with 37.1% for Mr Alemanno).

Two years later, Mr Alemanno enjoyed sweet revenge, winning the mayoralty with 53.6% of the vote in the second round, against 46.4% for Francesco Rutelli. This put an end to 30 uninterrupted years of leftwing municipal governments (except for a three-year period in 1985-1988).

In the first round, Francesco Rutelli did better than Gianni Alemanno, taking 45.8% of votes cast, against 40.7% for his main rival. A lot of political observers expected Mr Rutelli to win in the first round; the need for a runoff in that sense constituted the first surprise in this election municipale.

“What seemed to be a perfect power system has collapsed. This group that has held power for 15 years could no longer satisfy the city's needs. We are the rain that will clear Rome, washing away cronyism and the powerful groups that have blocked and paralysed our city. Walter Veltroni looked unbeatable, but in the space of two years we have turned things around. I think this is a very important signal”, said Gianni Alemanno after the results were announced. “This success caps our victory in the parliamentary elections and I am the happiest of all Italians”, said the incoming Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, who saluted the victory of his candidate, whose score of 53.6% beat the right's own forecasts. Francesco Rutelli took 46.4% of votes cast.

Turnout totalled 62.7% in the first round and 75% two weeks later.

Gianni Alemanno fought a hard campaign focused primarily on law and order, and housing. “It is absolutely necessary to change the system by expelling immigrants, nomads and non-Italian nationals who do not respect our laws”, he said, promising to expel 20,000 illegal immigrants who have had problems in the courts, to dismantle the 85 gypsy camps around Rome and to force their populations to go further afield. The National Alliance candidate also promised to build 25,000 subsidised houses. Francesco Rutelli pledged to reinforce surveillance and crime prevention, and promised to undertake a huge building programme, saying that the Town Hall would pay 1,400 euros to each of the 75,000 households in Rome that are unable to keep up with their mortgage repayments. The Democratic Party candidate regularly accused his adversary of exploiting law and order issues and playing on the fears of the city's inhabitants. Ten days before the first round, a Rom was charged with the rape and murder of 47-year-old Giovanna Reggiani, and a Romanian was arrested for the rape of a student from Lesotho. Crimes of this nature exasperated a large proportion of Roman voters, and Gianni Alemanno had no compunction about playing up on their fears during the campaign. His first official act was to visit Giovanna Reggiani's husband. “If you look at the numbers, Rome is one of the safest cities in Europe”, said Francesco Rutelli, adding: “Unfortunately, that is not enough for anyone. That is why we are here and why we want more respect for law and order.”

Calls by the far left to stop the election of a fascist mayor were not enough to save Francesco



Rutelli. Nor was the endorsement Mr Rutelli, a supporter of Lazio Rome, received from Francesco Totti, a player with the sworn enemy of AS Roma. Despite the support of Walter Veltroni, Fausto Bertinotti's Left-the Rainbow (Sinistra arcobaleno, a coalition of four parties: Communist Refoundation Party, Party of Italian Communists, the Greens and the Democratic Left) and Antonio Di Pietro's Italy of Values, Francesco Rutelli failed to save the left after its defeat in the parliamentary elections. "This is a very serious and very heavy defeat", said Walter Veltroni when the results were announced. "A win for the right would be humiliating", said former Foreign Minister Massimo d'Alema (PD) before the municipal poll. The only comfort for the left was Nicola Zingaretti's victory in the provincial election in Rome, against Alfredo Antoniozzi.

Aged 50, Gianni Alemanno was long a member of the Italian Social Movement (MSI), a neo-fascist party. In 1994, he was elected to parliament under the National Alliance banner. He was a leading figure, alongside leader Gianfranco Fini, in the party's shift to the centre. Between the two rounds of the municipal election, he rejected the support of Francesco Storace, a former leader of far-right party the Right, which won 3.3% of the vote in the first round. Mr Alemanno caused controversy by wearing two Celtic crosses around his neck. The Celtic cross is a far-right symbol in Italy, where a 1993 law assimilates it with the swastika. "The Celtic cross that I wear is a religious symbol blessed at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre", said the incoming mayor of Rome to daily newspaper *La Repubblica*.

#### Regional elections in Sicily, 14 April 2008

Turnout: 66.68%

Party	Percentage of votes cast	Seats
People of Freedom (PdL)	33.42	34
Democratic Party (PD)	18.76	20
Movement for Autonomy (MPA)	13.94	15
Union of Christian and Centre Democrats (UDC)	12.50	11

Source: Italian Interior Ministry

- **Date of the next local elections:** June 2009