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Right-Wing Wins Majority in Sweden's Election

This is The Weekly Letter for September 18, 2022. [About this newsletter](#)

Big Story

A bloc of right-leaning parties has won a narrow majority in Sweden's general election. Although the Social Democratic Party of incumbent Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson won the most votes of any single party, left-wing parties won only 173 parliamentary seats in total to 176 seats for right-wing parties.

The next government will likely be led by Ulf Kristersson of the center-right Moderate Party. However, the most notable result was the performance of the Sweden Democrats, a far-right party with neo-Nazi roots. The party, which has moderated and attempted to soften its image over the years, won 20.5% of [the vote](#), the second-highest share. Because of the party's extreme politics, the Sweden Democrats are not expected to participate in the government likely to be led by Kristersson. However, the other right-wing parties will need the Sweden Democrats' support to maintain their majority, and that means the far-right party will have significant political influence.

A *New York Times* [article](#) notes that the major issues for voters in the election "appeared to have been health care, immigration and integration, [the energy crisis](#) that has been prompted in large part by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and law and order — in particular, the increasing [prevalence of gun crime](#) in a country normally known for high living standards." The Sweden Democrats blamed migration for crime and other issues facing the country.

The Sweden Democrats' gains may not end up being the most significant result for the far-right this month. Giorgia Meloni of the far-right Brothers of Italy party may become Italy's next Prime Minister following a general election on September 25. The Sweden Democrats and the Brothers of Italy have both attempted to move toward the political mainstream while retaining a nationalist, xenophobic and culturally exclusionary perspective.



Sources/further reading:

The New York Times: [Rise of Far-Right Party in Sweden Was Both Expected and Shocking](#)

Politico EU: [Swedish center-right leader Ulf Kristersson claims election win, faces tough coalition talks](#)

The Observer: [God, family, fatherland – how Giorgia Meloni has taken Italy's far right to the brink of power](#)

The Mehdi Hasan Show (Video): [Fascism Is On The Rise In Europe.. Not Just In The U.S.](#)

Opinion

Michele L. Norris: Migrant relocation stunts [underestimate Americans' empathy](#). (Washington Post, 9/16)

Christopher Rhodes: Wokeness is a concept [worth defending](#). (Al Jazeera, 9/11)

Aziz Huq: Are [federal courts](#) apolitical? Americans are increasingly skeptical. (Politico, 9/9)

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