

Our Issues Countries Policy Recommendations Explore the Map

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2018

Moldova

PARTLY FREE

61

/100

<u>Political Rights</u>	26 /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	35 /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

62 /100 **Partly Free**

Global freedom statuses are calculated on a weighted scale. [See the methodology.](#)

Note

The numerical ratings and status listed above do not reflect conditions in Transnistria, which is examined in a separate report.

Overview

Moldova has a competitive electoral environment. Rights of assembly, speech, and religion are largely protected. Nonetheless, the pervasive corruption in the government sector, links between major political parties and vested economic interests, and deficiencies in the rule of law continue to hamper democratic governance.

Key Developments in 2017

- The parliament passed a controversial electoral law in July, which opposition parties allege is designed to keep oligarch Vlad Plahotniuc and his Democratic Party in power.
- In June, opposition politician Grigore Petrenco received a four-and-a-half-year suspended sentence for “organizing mass disturbances” in 2015, a charge that the opposition claimed was politically motivated.
- The 2017 Moldovan LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) march was stopped by police concerned about the potential for violent clashes with counterprotesters. President Igor Dodon, who attended the counterprotest, drew criticism for making inflammatory remarks about the LGBT community.

Political Rights

A. Electoral Process

A1 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?	4/4
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A prime minister nominated by the president exercises the most authority over governance. Moldova held its first direct presidential election in 2016, after shifting back from an indirect system. Now, the president is elected by direct popular vote to a four-year term. If a candidate receives more than 50 percent of votes in the first round, they are elected. If no candidate reaches the 50 percent threshold, the two candidates who received the most votes compete in a second round. In the 2016 election's second round, Socialist Party candidate Igor Dodon defeated Maia Sandu of the Action and Solidarity Party in a tight race. This followed a first round in which nine candidates competed. International observers concluded that the election was largely credible. However, state resources were occasionally misallocated and transparency in campaign funding was lacking.

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?	3/4
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Voters elect the 101-seat unicameral parliament by proportional representation for four-year terms. Although observers praised the most recent parliamentary elections in 2014 as genuinely competitive and generally well administered, there were some significant deficiencies. The pro-Russian Patria Party was disqualified days before the vote on the grounds that it received campaign funds from abroad. The distribution of overseas polling places favored residents of European Union (EU) countries over those living in Russia. Nevertheless, the constitutional court approved the election results, rejecting challenges by opposition parties.

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?	3/4
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The administration of elections is conducted professionally and impartially, despite a lack of resources.

In July 2017, the parliament changed electoral rules from the previous proportional system to a mixed system with both single-member constituencies and seats allocated proportionally. The new system will be in place for the next parliamentary elections in November 2018. Opposition parties



On Moldova

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Country Facts

Global Freedom Score

60/100 Party Free

Other Years

2020

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