

# CHILE

## PRE-ELECTION REPORT: PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

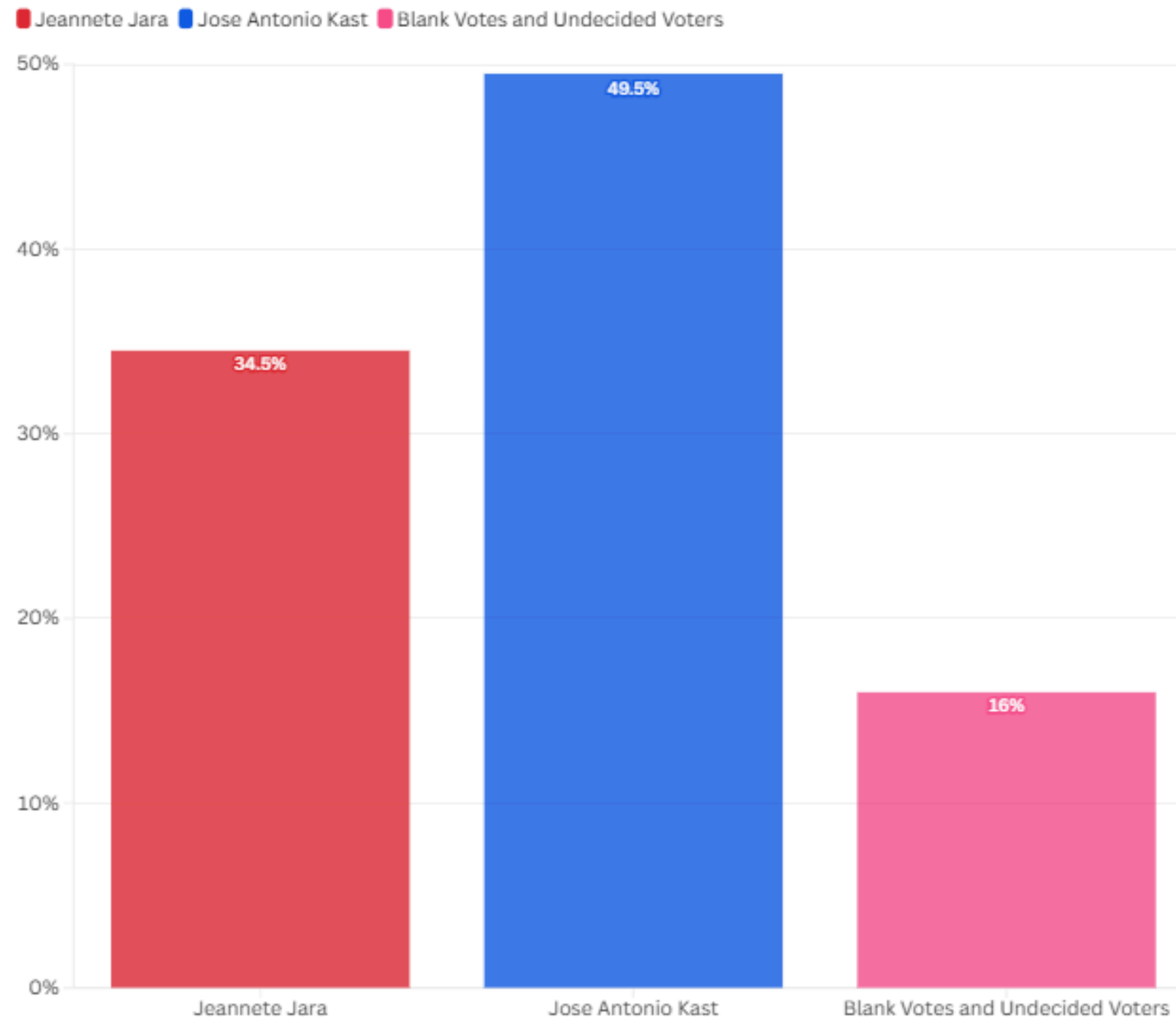


# THE ELECTION AT A GLANCE

- On Sunday, December 14, 15.6 million citizens are called to vote in the presidential runoff, which will determine the president for the 2026–2030 term. The winner will take office on March 11, 2026, together with the new composition of Congress, which was already defined in the November 16 election. This is the seventh consecutive time that Chile’s presidential election is decided by a runoff.
- The candidate with the most votes will win. The contenders are José Antonio Kast of the Partido Republicano (who already competed in a runoff in 2021 against Gabriel Boric), who leads the polls with around 49.5% of voting intent, and Jeannette Jara, the governing coalition Unidad por Chile’s candidate, whom surveys place at around 36.5%.
- Issues such as security and migration continued to be central during the runoff campaign. Jara has sought to capitalize on her management and policy initiatives during her time as Boric’s Labor Minister, while also trying to distance herself from the administration’s low approval ratings. Conversely, in addition to his security-focused agenda and “tough stance” on immigration, Kast has emphasized the continuity he believes Jara would represent with what he considers Boric’s “failed” administration, and has aimed to project governability based on the support of other former candidates and various international leaders.
- A key factor will be the behavior of voters who supported Franco Parisi, the candidate of the Partido de la Gente, who obtained about 20% in the first round—around 2.5 million votes. Broadly speaking, this segment consists of centrist voters, less ideological and united behind an anti-establishment sentiment. As a result, several studies suggest that these votes may be more closely aligned with Kast’s proposals.



# What are the polls showing?



Source: own elaboration based on private opinion polls.

After a first round in which none of the eight candidates surpassed 30% of the vote, there was a rapid consolidation of support from the remaining right-wing candidates toward José Antonio Kast. The endorsements of Johannes Kaiser and Evelyn Matthei were particularly notable, shaping a favorable scenario for the Partido Republicano candidate.

Although a ban on the publication of new polls has been in place since November 30, all surveys published beforehand indicate that Kast holds a solid lead, benefiting from the backing of Kaiser and Matthei. Based on the average of available polls, Kast would obtain 49.5% compared to Jara's 34.5%.

One factor that could affect the accuracy of these polls is the behavior of Franco Parisi's voters. Parisi finished third in the first round with nearly 20% of the vote and chose not to endorse either candidate. However, some studies show that between 37% and 50% of his voters lean toward Kast, while 14% to 20% favor Jara, with roughly 25% still undecided.

On Jara's side, the strategy focuses on swaying undecided voters and part of Parisi's electorate. Although the scenario is challenging, the candidate has pushed an active campaign in hopes of narrowing the gap sufficiently by Sunday.

# WHO ARE THE CONTENDERS FOR THE PRESIDENCY?

## José Antonio Kast

Partido Republicano



Attorney. He began his public life as a university student leader and spent decades as a member of the UDI, where he held several roles before resigning in 2016. He served as a deputy for three consecutive terms between 2002 and 2018. In 2019, he founded the Partido Republicano, becoming its main political figure.

His government platform highlights the following proposals:

- Advancing regulatory simplification as a driver of investment, focused on removing redundant regulations and improving the efficiency of environmental permitting procedures.
- Lowering the effective corporate tax rate from 27% to 23% for medium and large companies, with an additional reduction —from 23% to an average of 20%— for businesses that hire workers at risk of falling into informality.
- Promoting modern labor legislation that supports adaptable work arrangements and multifunctional contracts, allowing workers and employers to agree on flexible schedules and new forms of productive organization.
- In the health sector, implementing interoperable and auditable systems that safeguard health data as a public good, paired with an expansion of telemedicine and home-based hospitalization for patients with low-complexity conditions.



# WHO ARE THE CONTENDERS FOR THE PRESIDENCY?

## Jeannette Jara

Partido Comunista - Unidad por Chile Coalition



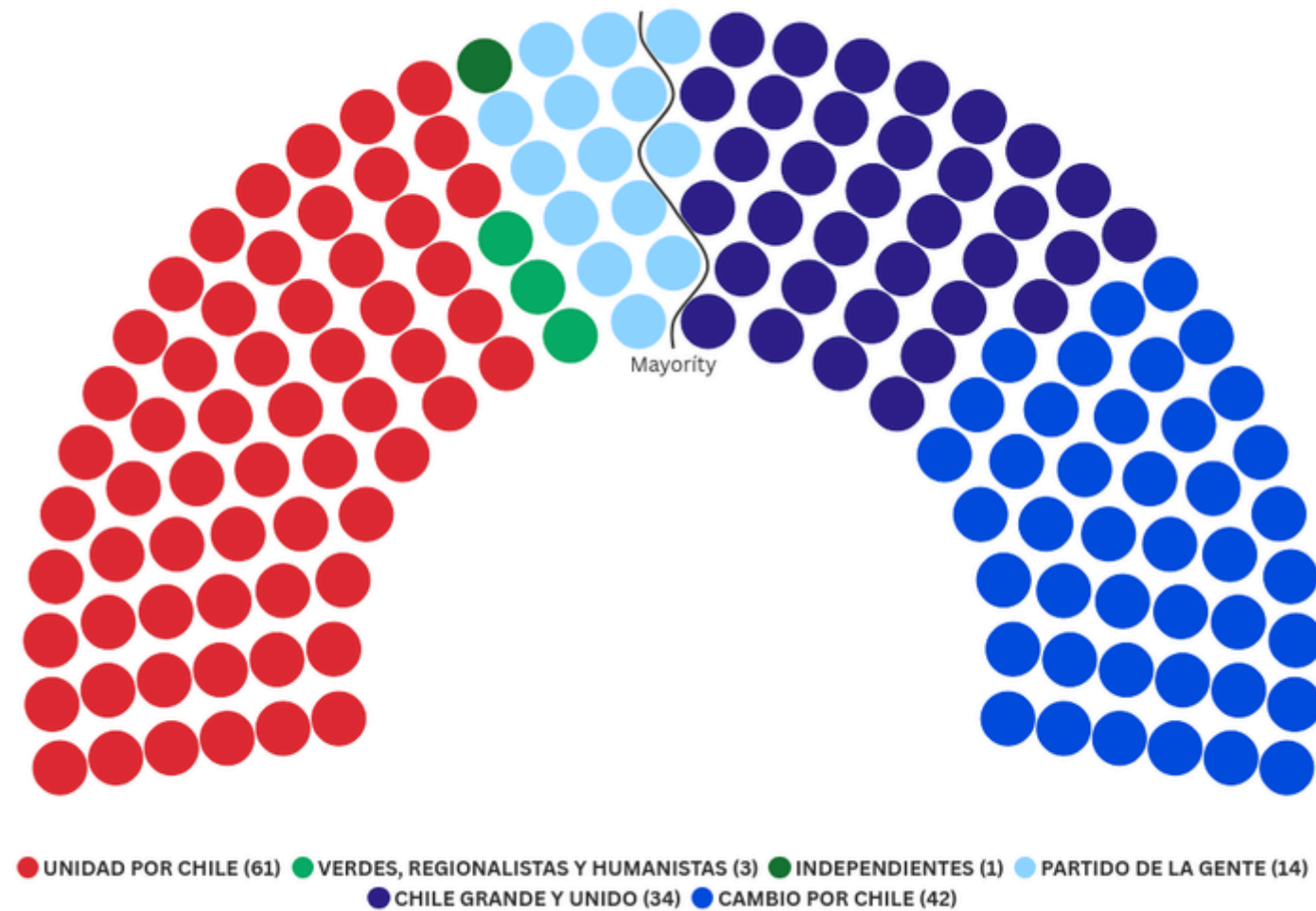
She is an attorney and a long-time member of the Partido Comunista, although she has stated that she would consider suspending her membership if elected president. She served as Undersecretary of Social Security during Michelle Bachelet's second administration and later as Minister of Labor under President Gabriel Boric. After winning the ruling coalition's "Unidad por Chile" primary with nearly 60% of the vote, she is competing for the presidency for the first time.

Her government platform highlights the following proposals:

- Accelerate public and private investment through the creation of a new office dedicated to expediting investment procedures as part of the implementation of the Framework Law on Sectoral Permits.
- Advance a national strategy aimed at making Chile the digital hub of the Southern Cone by 2030, with a focus on bolstering infrastructure and digital capabilities. This includes promoting technology adoption and expanding advanced tech services such as artificial intelligence.
- Advance a tripartite dialogue among workers, employers, and the government to lay the groundwork for adopting a CLP 750,000 (USD 800) minimum vital income before the end of the term.
- Her health agenda includes digitizing the system by implementing an interoperable clinical record available across all care centers and scaling up telemedicine nationwide.
- She further proposes an integrated medicines-access strategy focused on reinforcing the national procurement center, centralizing fragmented purchases, and lowering costs.

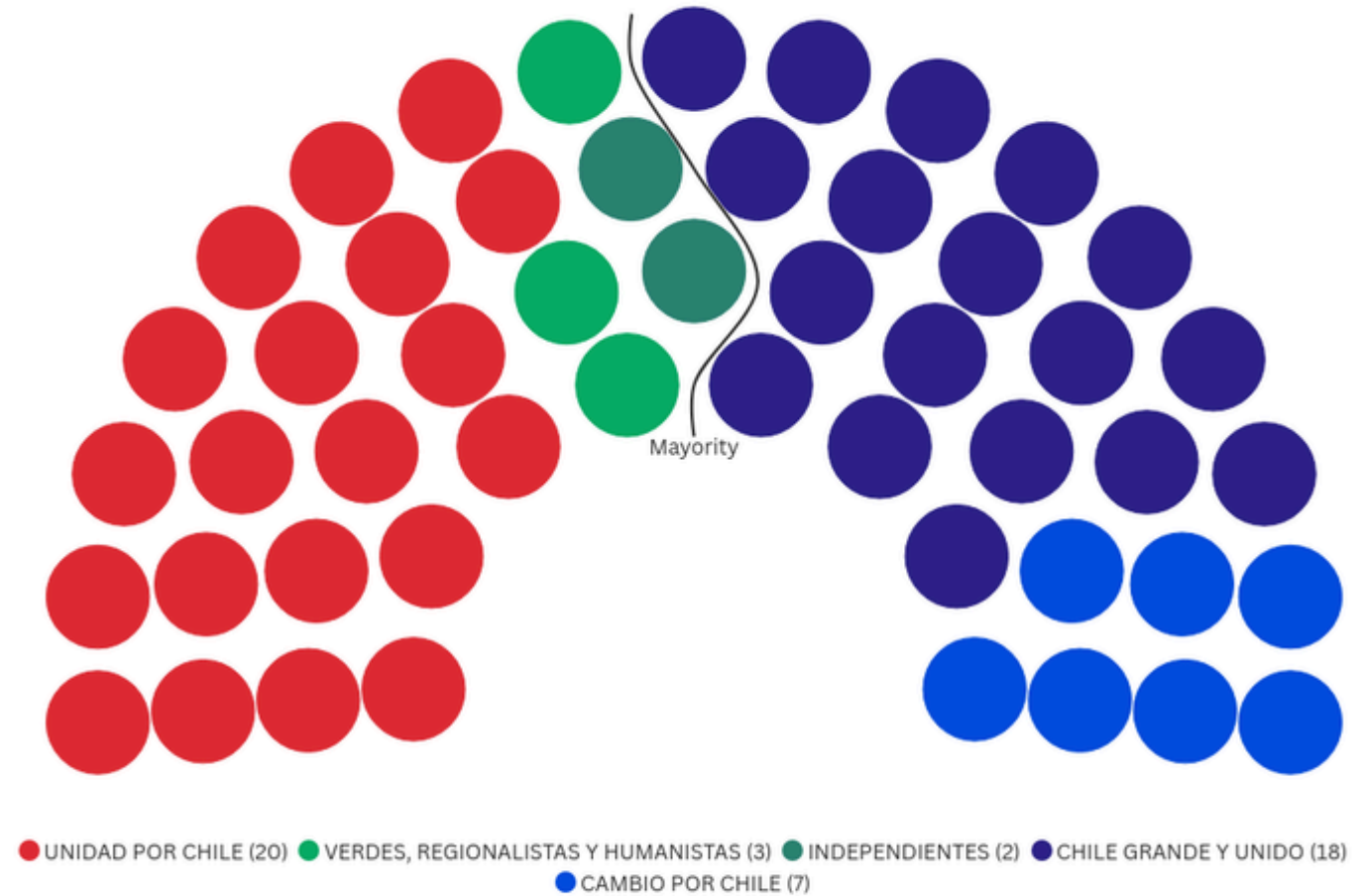
# THE DYNAMICS WITH THE NEW CONGRESS

New Composition of the Chamber of Deputies



Source: Own elaboration.

New Senate Composition



Source: Own elaboration

In the first round, the entire Chamber of Deputies (155 seats) and 23 seats in the Senate were renewed. In neither chamber did any party or coalition obtain a majority, although the spectrum of right-wing forces holds an advantage—just one seat short of a majority in the Senate and two seats short in the Chamber of Deputies. Within the various right-wing blocs, the growth of the more radical wing (“Cambio por Chile”) stands out compared to the more traditional right (“Chile Grande y Unido”), particularly in the Chamber of Deputies.

This configuration, which will take office on March 11, 2026, offers a more favorable outlook for Kast if he wins the presidency. Although the Partido Republicano candidate would still need to negotiate to advance his agenda in Congress, the additional votes required to reach a majority would be fewer than those Jara would need if she were to win.

Parisi’s Partido de la Gente, with 14 seats, is emerging as a key actor in the Chamber of Deputies. It will be important to observe whether the party manages to remain cohesive and aligned with Parisi’s political leadership, or whether it fragments, and how it positions itself in negotiations with both right- and left-wing blocs.

# WHAT ISSUES REMAIN PENDING ON CONGRESS'S AGENDA?

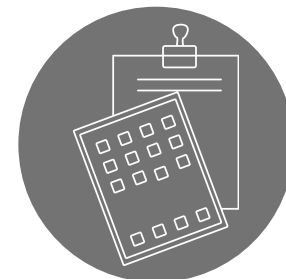
Although the new composition of Congress has already been determined, the newly elected legislators and the president chosen in the runoff will take office on March 11, 2026. Until then, the current Congress will continue operating and legislating according to its own priorities and those of the current Executive, with a parliamentary recess scheduled for the entire month of February. Among the pending matters are:

**Universal Childcare Bill**



**Employment Subsidy Bill**

**National System of Support  
and Care Bill**

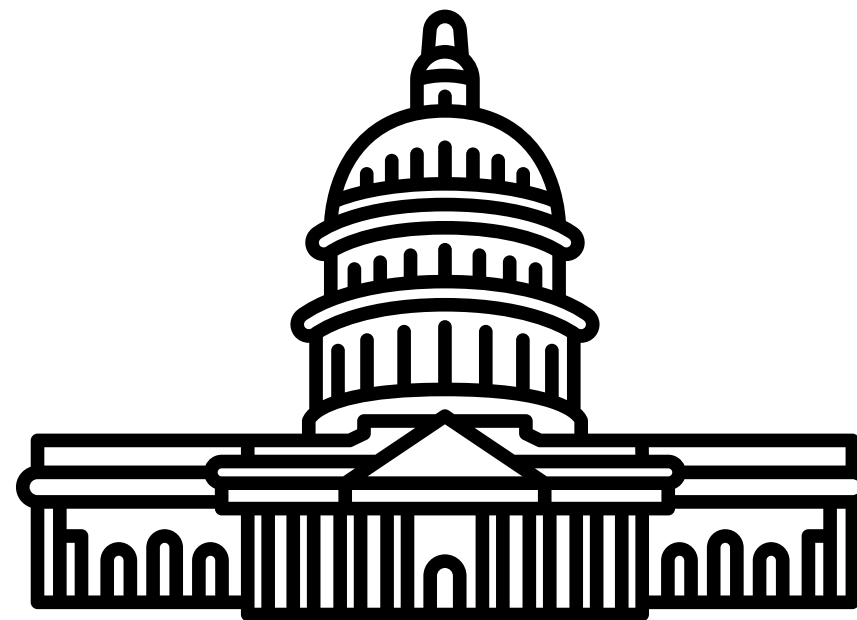


**Artificial Intelligence Bill**

**Economic Intelligence  
System Creation Bill**



**Tourism Promotion Bill**





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