



The Weekly Observer

October 28-
November 1

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

LDP and Komeito Lose Majority as Scandal Hits Election Performance

On Sunday, the **LDP and Komeito lost their majority in the Lower House for the first time in fifteen years**, enabling the opposition parties to combine for a majority. The ruling parties secured **215 seats**, eighteen short of a majority, while the opposition secured **250 seats**.

The LDP and Komeito also garnered the **least number of votes in the proportional representation block since 1996**, with the former losing 5.33 million votes and the latter losing 1.14 million votes.

Turnout was the **third lowest** in post-war history at 53.85 percent, while **turnout among teens** was 43.06 percent, a critical group that turned on the LDP and voted for the opposition, especially the **Democratic Party for the People (DPFP)**, which quadrupled its seats.

Yomiuri reported that the **LDP's political scandal weighed heavy** in voters' minds, especially as reports

surface during the campaign that the **LDP HQ had deposited ¥20 million to unendorsed candidates**. Many candidates not involved in the scandal also felt the effects of the media reports in their races.

The LDP and Komeito must now choose between **maintaining a minority government** or **formally expanding the coalition** to include another party — namely the **DPFP** or the **Japan Innovation Party**.

The ruling parties have targeted the DPFP as a **"partial coalition" partner to cooperate on a policy-by-policy basis**, with plans to begin policy coordination talks next week. Focus will be on the DPFP's proposal to increase take home pay by revising the ¥1.03 million barrier (income tax).

The **Lower House will convene on November 11 to hold a prime minister vote**, which is expected to head into a **run-off for the first time in thirty years**. **Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru** is expected to win the run-off, as the ruling parties can win more votes than the disjointed opposition.

Cabinet Approval



32% (-19 pts.)

52% (+22 pts.)

[Kyodo News](#) (Oct. 30)

State of the Economy

Monthly Economic Report (Oct.): Maintained assessment that "economy is recovering at a moderate pace, although it remains pausing in part"

Consumer Confidence Survey (Oct.):

36.2 (-0.7 pt.)
First decline in 5 months

Tax Revenue (Sept.):

¥4.28 trillion (+13.3%)
Income tax revenue: ¥1.46 trillion (+24.2%)

Employment Statistics (Sept.):

Jobs-to-applicants: 1.24x (+0.01 pt.)
Unemployment: 2.4% (-0.1 pt.)