



YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

The Weekly Observer

February 9-13

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Takaichi Delivers Historic Landslide Victory

On Sunday, Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae delivered a historic landslide victory for her ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and partner Japan Innovation Party (*Nippon Ishin no Kai*), securing a supermajority of seats in the Lower House.

In an election that witnessed a 56.26 percent turnout — 2.41 points higher than in 2024 — the LDP won a supermajority on its own and captured three-quarters of the Lower House with *Ishin*. The LDP won 86 percent of single-member districts, securing a record high 68 percent of the entire legislature.

The LDP won 90 percent of its one-on-one battles with the main opposition Centrist Reform Alliance, in addition to over 70 percent of its battles with *Ishin*. Takaichi's popularity carried through across all demographics, with an *Asahi* exit poll finding that the LDP placed first across all age groups.

Meanwhile, the LDP politicians implicated in the political funding scandal were also carried to victory despite the scandal costing many seats in 2024. Out of forty-five scandal implicated candidates, **forty-three won back their seats** this time around. In 2024, only twenty-eight out of forty-six candidates survived.

The CRA's collapse resulted in all opposition parties falling below **fifty seats**, one seat shy of the necessary seats to submit legislation tied to a budget or to submit a no-confidence motion. Populist party **Team Mirai** was a "winner" amongst the opposition, having won over independents who wanted a fresh face to vote for.

The average age of elected candidates dropped by one year to 54.7, with **six candidates in their twenties winning a seat**. Meanwhile, LDP Vice President Aso Taro became the oldest winner of a seat at eighty-five. **Sixty-eight women won a seat**, the second most after seventy-three in 2024. The ratio was also second in all of history at 14.6 percent.

Cabinet Approval



67% (+4 pts.)

24% (+1 pt.)

[Kyodo News](#) (Feb. 10)

State of the Economy

Economy Watchers Survey (Jan.):

DI: 47.6 (-0.1 pt.)
3rd consecutive month in decline
Maintained assessment that the economy is "picking up"

Current Account Surplus (2025):

¥31.88 trillion (+11.1%)
2nd consecutive year breaking the record high
Primary income balance hit a record high of ¥41.59 trillion (+4.7%)

National Debt (2025):

¥1,342.17 trillion (+¥24.54 trillion)
Debt rises due to rising expenditures and government bond issuance to cover supplementary budgets