

German Chancellor

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German Chancellor Latest News

Recently, the Prime Minister held a telephonic conversation with Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany, congratulating him on assuming office.

Germany's Electoral System - Key Features

- **Germany follows a Mixed-Member Proportional Representation system**, combining both **majoritarian and proportional representation** models.
- Every voter casts **two votes**:
 - **First vote (Erststimme)**: For an individual candidate under the **first-past-the-post** system in 299 constituencies.
 - **Second vote (Zweitstimme)**: For a **political party list** in each **Länder (state)** under **proportional representation**.
- **Bundestag (Lower House)** members are elected based on these two votes; 299 by first vote and the rest by second vote.

- **Overhang seats** arise when a party wins more seats through first votes than it deserves by proportional representation.
- To ensure fairness, **balance seats** are allocated to other parties so that the final distribution reflects **proportional vote share** nationally.

Selection of the Chancellor in Germany

- **German citizens do not directly elect the Chancellor**; they vote for representatives who then form the **Bundestag**, which elects the Chancellor.
- Post-election, the **Federal President nominates a candidate** for the Chancellorship.
- The **Bundestag votes** in a **secret ballot**; an **absolute majority** is required to elect the Chancellor in the **first round**.
- If no candidate secures a majority in the first attempt:
 - A **second round** is held.
 - If still unresolved, a **third round** takes place, and the candidate with the **highest number of votes** is elected.

Political Geography of Germany

- **Germany is located in Central Europe**, sharing borders with **nine countries: Denmark (north), Poland and Czech Republic (east), Austria and Switzerland (south), and France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands (west)**.
- **Bordering water bodies** include the **North Sea** and the **Baltic Sea** in the **north**.

German Chancellor FAQs

Q1: How is the German Chancellor elected?

Ans: The Chancellor is elected by the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) upon nomination by the President.

Q2: What is the term length for a Chancellor in Germany?

Ans: There is no fixed term limit, but the Chancellor's term is tied to the parliamentary term of four years, and they may be re-elected.

Source: TH

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