

How do parliamentary groups vote?

Since the beginning of the 13th convocation in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, votes have been recorded on a total of 86 acts: 36 bills and 50 other acts (from decisions on membership in parliamentary committees, through decisions on giving consent to financial plans of institutions, to decisions on the election of judges). How did parliamentary groups collectively vote on these acts?

While analysing the overall voting results (Table 1), the first thing that can be noticed is that no MP of the ruling majority voted against the proposed acts. Apart from the vote 'for', only two votes of one of the parliamentary groups that make up the ruling majority were abstained, the others were either not present, or did not vote.

Table1: Results of voting on acts in the 2022 autumn session

| Parliamentary group | Number of MPs | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | Did not attend | Did not vote |
|---|---------------|-----|---------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians | 5 | 94% | 0% | 0% | 5% | 1% |
| ALEKSANDAR VUČIĆ – TOGETHER WE CAN DO EVERYTHING | 106 | 92% | 0% | 0% ¹ | 7% | 1% |
| IVICA DAČIĆ - Social Party of Serbia (SPS) | 23 | 91% | 0% | 0% | 7% | 2% |
| United Serbia - Dragan Marković Palma | 8 | 91% | 0% | 0% | 7% | 2% |
| Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS) | 7 | 90% | 0% | 0% | 9% | 1% |
| FOR RECONCILIATION SPP-USS-DSHV | 5 | 70% | 0% | 0% | 27% | 2% |
| PUPS - solidarity and justice | 6 | 66% | 0% | 0% | 32% | 2% |
| HOPE - NEW DSS - POKS | 14 | 16% | 31% | 0% | 25% | 29% |
| Serbian Party Oathkeepers | 8 | 9% | 23% | 1% | 55% | 12% |
| GREEN-LEFT CLUB, DO NOT LET BELGRADE DROWN, WE MUST | 5 | 9% | 27% | 1% | 37% | 27% |
| SERBIAN DVERI MOVEMENT - PATRIOT BLOCK | 6 | 8% | 23% | 3% | 55% | 11% |

¹ The exact percentage is 0,02%.



OTVORENI PARLAMENT

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| WE MUST - TOGETHER | 8 | 8% | 19% | 0% | 38% | 35% |
| UNITED - SSP, PSG, U-TURN, UNITY | 15 | 5% | 21% | 1% | 55% | 18% |
| Democratic Party- DS | 10 | 5% | 25% | 0% | 38% | 32% |
| People's Party | 12 | 3% | 19% | 0% | 61% | 17% |
| MPs who are not members of parliamentary groups | 12 | 31% | 11% | 1% | 50% | 7% |
| TOTAL | 250 | 61% | 8% | 0% | 22% | 8% |

The highest percentage of votes 'for' was recorded by the parliamentary group Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (94%), while the parliamentary group Aleksandar Vučić – Together we can do everything (92%) was in second place. The parliamentary groups People's Party (3%), Democratic Party (5%) and United (5%) had the lowest percentage of votes 'for'.

The highest percentage of votes 'against' was recorded by the parliamentary group HOPE (31%), followed immediately by the parliamentary group Do not let Belgrade drown (27%). Parliamentary groups Aleksandar Vučić – Together we can do everything, Socialist Party of Serbia, United Serbia, SPP-USS-DSHV, SDPS and PUPS, which make up the ruling majority in the Parliament, do not have a single vote 'against'.

The option 'abstain' is little used by all parliamentary groups, the total of abstained votes from all parliamentary groups being 8%.

When it comes to the overall results of the voting, it can be noted that the percentage of attendance at vote is below one half in four opposition parliamentary groups. The most absent from the vote is the parliamentary group People's Party (61%), followed by the parliamentary groups United (55%), Oath keepers (55%) and Dveri (55%). The least absent from the vote was the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians – 5%.

And finally, speaking of the diversity of voting within parliamentary groups, i.e. situations in which a part of the same parliamentary group voted 'for' and another part 'against' the same act, we must say that such voting is not common, and was recorded only in certain opposition parliamentary groups (Table 2).

Table 2: diversity of voting within parliamentary groups in the 2022 autumn session

| Parliamentary group | Percentage of acts that got votes FOR and AGAINST at the same time |
|----------------------------------|--|
| UNITED - SSP, PSG, U-TURN, UNITY | 5% |
| HOPE – NEW DSS – POKS | 2% |
| Democratic Party- DS | 2% |
| People's Party | 1% |
| Serbian Party Oathkeepers | 1% |



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| WE MUST - TOGETHER | 1% |
| ALEKSANDAR VUČIĆ – TOGETHER WE CAN DO EVERYTHING | 0% |
| IVICA DAČIĆ - Social Party of Serbia (SPS) | 0% |
| United Serbia- Dragan Marković Palma | 0% |
| Social Democratic Party of Serbia | 0% |
| PUPS - solidarity and justice | 0% |
| Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians | 0% |
| FOR RECONCILIATION SPP-USS-DSHV | 0% |
| SERBIAN DVERI MOVEMENT - PATRIOT BLOCK | 0% |
| GREEN-LEFT CLUB, DO NOT LET BELGRADE DROWN, WE MUST | 0% |
| MPs who are not members of parliamentary groups | 50% |

The largest percentage of opposing votes within the parliamentary group, i.e. the greatest diversity in voting, was recorded with the parliamentary group United (5%). The voting of MPs who are not members of parliamentary groups cannot be viewed in the same way since they come from different electoral lists and do not represent a single entity. The high percentage of opposing voting in their case is an indicator of the fact that one half of these MPs support the ruling majority and vote in agreement with it, while the other half do not support the ruling majority and vote against it.

The parliamentary group of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians can be characterised as the most disciplined in the work of this convocation so far. This group has the highest percentage of votes FOR (94%), the lowest percentage of abstentions from voting (5%) and no votes AGAINST, and therefore no act in which members of the group voted in a different manner.

Overall voting results generally show great discipline of the parties that make up the parliamentary majority. Not only is the highest percentage of votes FOR the proposed acts recorded among these parties, but there is not a single vote against and almost no abstentions. What is more, a very small percentage of MPs of these parties used the option not to vote, that is, not to attend the vote. The uniformity in the voting of these parliamentary groups is particularly interesting given that they are the largest parliamentary groups in the Assembly. 106 MPs of one group behaved in an identical pattern, which certainly cannot be spontaneous.

On the other hand, opposition parliamentary groups, show more individuality in deciding how they will vote and whether they will attend the vote.