

PETER HORVÁTH¹ - JÁN MACHYNIAK²

2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN TRNAVA REGION

Abstract

Elections are a means of legitimizing power, through which citizens elect their representatives. The principle of representative democracy ensures that, for a given period, the duly elected representatives of the people manage public matters at the level of the state, the European Union, the region or the municipality. Municipal policy is the closest level to the everyday life of citizens. It immediately affects the quality of life. Accessibility of medical care, clean roads, functioning pre-school facilities, high-quality elementary schools, but also the level of local taxes and many others are factors that are also the result of who the citizens elect in the municipal elections. In Slovakia, we have more than 2800 municipalities and cities, each municipality has its mayor and deputies of the municipal council. Each municipal self-government has several thousand competencies that are enshrined in legislation. A special phenomenon of municipal elections is the institute of independent deputies, which allows to stand as a candidate without being a part of the spectrum of political parties. In the long term, these independent deputies are the most successful group among all candidates.

Key words: elections, electoral systems, municipal policy, Slovak Republic, political party.

1 INTRODUCTION

The municipal elections in 2018 confirmed several trends started during regional elections one year earlier. In particular, it is the retreat of classical political parties at the level of municipal and regional elections, in both cases, the dominant

1 doc. PhDr. Peter Horváth, PhD., Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Bučianska 4/A, 91701 Trnava, Slovak Republic, e-mail: peter.horvath@ucm.sk.

2 PhDr. Ján Machyniak, PhD., Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Bučianska 4/A, 91701 Trnava, Slovak Republic, e-mail: jan.machyniak@ucm.sk.

position of independent candidates was confirmed. Even some of the last year's political party candidates, or candidates with the support of political parties, have also been hidden under this designation. It is interesting that the phenomenon of retreat of classical political parties applies to both coalition and opposition political parties. The only political party outside the current parliament, with some success, was the Christian Democratic Movement. In the paper, we will first look at the theoretical definition of municipal self-governing bodies, then the electoral system, and in the third part we will analyze the results of the municipal elections in the region of Trnava, which forms the Trnava Self-Governing Region.

2 SUBJECT OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The subject of municipal policy and the associated municipal elections is extremely important for a number of reasons. One of them is its closeness to everyday life of every citizen of this state. Municipal policy directly interferes with everyday life of every citizen of this state. They manage huge property located in all municipalities and cities in Slovakia. For example, local self-government in Trnava has a budget of more than € 57 million, the capital of Bratislava more than € 368 million, and for example the municipality of Smolenice has a budget of over € 2,2 million. The main competencies of municipal self-government include, for example, local road administration, local public transport, care for public greenery and the overall environment within the territory of the municipality, waste management, social care, primary education, cultural events of local importance, health care in the form of type I hospitals, clinics and many others (Guťan, 2017). When calculating in the form of legislative standards, more than 5 thousand competencies are defined at this level of self-government (Brix, Švikruha, 2017; Horváth, Cíbik, Švikruha, 2018).

Municipal elections (elections to the bodies of municipal self-government) are governed by the oldest electoral type, which has not changed since its inception in 1990. It is based on the principle of an absolute winner, which means that the election wins the candidate who obtains the highest number of votes (Bardovič, 2018). It is not important whether it is the difference of one voice, a relative or an absolute majority. The number of voters is not important as well. Everyone has the right to participate, those who will use this right, will decide. It is the simplest type of electoral system, the greatest advantage of which is its clarity for citizens. If we greatly simplify it, the biggest change so far has been the adoption of electoral legislation in 2014, namely Act No. 180/2014 Coll. on Conditions of the Exercise of Voting Rights and Act No. 181/2014 Coll. on Election Campaign. Both these legislative norms have combined the exercise of voting rights and the election campaign for all five types of elections taking place in the territory of the Slovak Republic - parliamentary elections, election of the head of state, elections

to the European Parliament, elections to local and regional authorities. These statutory amendments did not change the basic principle of municipal elections, they only gave them a common framework and unified some factors of the pre-election period (Act No. 180/2014 Coll.).

The municipal elections aim to occupy two bodies within the municipal self-government - the municipal council and the mayor (Meluš, 2018). The municipal council can be characterized as a representative assembly consisting of deputies elected by the citizens of the municipality. Municipal council shall make all decisions as an assembly. It means, in general, that the municipal council is competent to negotiate and resolve when the absolute majority of all deputies of the municipal council is present. The adoption of a resolution of the municipal council requires the approval of an absolute majority of the members of the municipal council. In the case of a regulation, the approval of a three-fifths majority of the present members is required for its adoption. In principle, meetings of the municipal council are public. The municipal council usually meets as necessary, at least every three months. As a collective body, it has the right to call for a referendum at the municipal level. The number of deputies of the municipal council is between 3 and 41 deputies, according to the number of inhabitants. Passive voting rights are the same in this case as active voting rights, i.e. 18 years of age and permanent residence in the territory of the municipality. The mayor in the municipal self-government represents the highest executive body of the municipality and, at the same time, it is a public function. Passive voting rights are tied to a minimum age of 25 years on the election day. The function of the mayor of the municipality requires the performance of tasks which are generally of the nature of public administration. The most basic tasks of the mayor of the municipality in the performance of self-government include: calling and usually conducting meetings of the municipal council, signing their resolutions, responsibility for the implementation of municipal self-government, representing the municipality in relation to the state authorities, various legal and natural persons, issuing of the labour and organizational order of the municipal office and the order of remuneration of the employees of the municipality, decision-making in all matters of municipal administration, which are not reserved to the municipal council by the law or the statute of the municipality. The mayor of the municipality is a statutory body, which in general means that he/she acts on behalf of the municipality (Horváth, 2014).

2.1 2018 municipal elections at national level

The last municipal elections in Slovakia took place on Saturday, November 10, 2018. Citizens decided on their representatives in 2919 municipalities, while a total number of municipalities in Slovakia, including the municipalities of

Bratislava and Košice, is 2926. The status of the city has 140 subjects. For the statistics, 4 494 400 eligible voters were registered, of which 2 187 735 used their voting rights, which ultimately represents a voter turnout of 48.67%. Mayor was elected in 2904 municipalities, municipal council in 2 895 municipalities. The proportion of men and women among mayors was 75:25, among deputies 76:24.

Table 1 Voter turnout in 2018 municipal elections by regions

Region	Number of municipalities, in which elections were held	Number of registered voters	Voter turnout in %
Bratislava	88	587 139	43,74
Trnava	251	472 772	49,31
Trenčín	276	491 341	48,64
Nitra	354	580 041	47,91
Žilina	315	568 908	52,05
Banská Bystrica	513	524 203	47,91
Prešov	661	639 386	53,18
Košice	461	630 610	46,51

Source: <http://volby.statistics.sk/oso/oso2018/sk/data01.html>

Nationwide voter turnout in these elections was 48.67%. It is interesting, that the lowest voter turnout was in the Bratislava Region, where is the highest concentration of population, and on the contrary, the highest voter turnout was in the Prešov region, where most of the municipalities have a very small number of inhabitants. The geographical division of Slovakia into the north versus south, as well as lower voter turnout in the regions with a larger Hungarian minority, is also worth mentioning. It will certainly be interesting to look at the comparison of voter turnout with the previous municipal elections, or other elections.

Table 2 Comparison of nationwide voter turnout in municipal elections in 2002-2018

Municipal elections-year	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018
Voter turnout in SR in %	49,51	47,65	49,69	48,34	48,68

Source: own processing according to data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Voter turnout in the municipal elections in Slovakia in this millennium has never exceeded the absolute majority of all eligible voters. Since the establishment of municipal self-government, historically highest voter turnout was in the first elections in 1990 (63.75%), higher than at present it was also in 1994 (52.42%) and in 1998 (53.95%). After 2000, such turnout has never been achieved, although the elections often brought interesting struggles of local politicians and,

in particular, the latter brought the unprecedented boom of the so-called non-political candidates for posts in municipal self-government.

Table 3 Comparison of voter turnout in other individual types of elections in SR

Type of elections	Parliamentary election	Presidential election(1st round)	Elections to VÚC	Municipal elections	Elections to the European Parliament
Year of elections	2016	2014	2017	2018	2014
Voter turnout in percentage	59,82	43,40	29,95	48,68	13,05

Source: own processing according to data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

When we compare the voter turnout in the other five kinds of elections in Slovakia, it may be surprising to find out that the municipal elections, on the issue of interest, expressed by the voter turnout, are the second most interesting elections. Their voter turnout was higher than in the first round of presidential elections, although in the second round of election of the head of state it increased to 50,48%, and so the local elections would hypothetically be moved to the third place. Although it is not statistically exactly expressed, an interesting factor that may reduce voter turnout may be that in some municipalities, only one candidate is running for the highest position, so his/her own vote is sufficient to be elected. This, of course, has a demotivating effect on potential voters. Attention should be paid to the extremely low turnout in regional elections and in the elections to the European Parliament, which may be caused by incomprehension, by the voters' feeling that their vote does not have enough weight, or by the lack of opinion. In various research, citizens have no problem to define municipal self-government, by the regional self-government it is much worse.

Sure, for the classical voters, the most interesting view of the results of the municipal elections is through the prism of political parties for which the individual candidates participated in the election contests. In this context, it should be noted, that in addition to political parties, also candidates with no party affiliation had the opportunity to participate in the political contest.

Table 4 Number and share of elected mayors by individual political parties in the SR (at least 10 elected per party)

Political party	Number of mayors	Share of mayors in %
NEKA	1 232	42,42
KDH	157	5,40

MOST – HÍD	127	4,37
SNS	160	5,50
SME RODINA - Boris Kollár	11	0,37
SMER-SD	592	20,38
SPOLU	16	0,55
SMK-MKP	115	3,96
MOST - HÍD, SMER-SD	41	1,41
MOST - HÍD, SMK-MKP	31	1,06
OBYČAJNÍ EUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OLANO), SaS	13	0,44
SNS, SMER-SD	142	4,88
KDH, OBYČAJNÍ EUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OLANO), SaS	10	0,34
MOST - HÍD, SNS, SMER-SD	45	1,54

Source: <http://volby.statistics.sk/oso/oso2018/sk/download.html>

Although municipal elections are ultimately about gaining the posts of mayors and deputies, politically more interesting is the fight for the post of the first citizen of the municipality. With regard to the one-round majority election, which can not be repaired earlier than in 4 years in the next election, candidates must often create the widest possible coalitions in order to increase chances of the victory, except for so-called independent candidates, of course. Therefore, a number of interesting coalitions were created in these municipal elections, and it is difficult to clearly identify the winning candidate with his/her real party. Therefore, in the table, we only list political parties and coalitions that have received at least 10 mandates for a given variation, and we consider the first party within the coalition as the true political affiliation of the winning candidate.

Looking at the results of the municipal elections of mayors, as an overall winner we can clearly identify the category of independent candidates with more than 42% of the posts (1232), second were candidates of SMER-SD with a gain of more than one fifth of all posts (592) and third was the second SNS coalition with more than 5% (160). If we add a coalition of SNS and SMER-SD with a gain of almost 5% (142), it is clear that opposition parties in this political struggle have been getting a shorter end of the stick. Even non-parliamentary KDH gained more than 5% (160). However, the fact that the ruling parties can really consider their success to be relative, confirm their gains at the level of regional capitals, where, on the contrary, they have experienced a rapid retreat from their positions.

Table 5 Number and share of elected deputies by individual political parties in the SR (at least 30)

Political party	Number of deputies	Share of deputies in %
NEKA	7301	35,36
DOMA DOBRE	126	0,61
KSS	60	0,29
ES Naše Slovensko	42	0,20
KDH	2 350	11,38
MOST – HÍD	915	4,43
NAJ	36	0,17
NÁRODNÁ KOALÍCIA	151	0,73
NOVA	92	0,44
OKS	30	0,14
OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OLANO)	84	0,40
Progresívne Slovensko	46	0,22
SDKÚ-DS	56	0,27
SaS	110	0,53
SKS	74	0,35
SNS	1 678	8,12
SME RODINA - Boris Kollár	123	0,59
SMER-SD	3 692	17,88
SPOLU	285	1,38
STAROSTOVIA A NEZÁVISLÍ KANDIDÁTI	85	0,41
SMK-MKP	1 248	6,04
STRANA MODERNÉHO SLOVENSKA (SMS)	106	0,51
SRK	71	0,34
STS	30	0,14
SZ	33	0,15
SZS	84	0,40
ŠANCA	110	0,53
MOST - HÍD, SMER-SD	67	0,32
MOST - HÍD, SMK-MKP	30	0,14
OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OLANO), SaS	172	0,83
Progresívne Slovensko, SPOLU	55	0,26
SNS, SMER-SD	292	1,41

KDH, OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OĽANO), SaS	106	0,51
MOST - HÍD, SNS, SMER-SD	91	0,44
SNS, SMER-SD, SZ	32	0,15
KDH, NOVA, OKS, OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OĽANO), SaS, SME RODINA - Boris Kollár, Zmena zdola, DÚ	48	0,23

Source: <http://volby.statistics.sk/oso/oso2018/sk/download.html>

The results of the elections of deputies of municipal self-governments are similar, independent candidates with a gain of more than 35% (7301) are again absolute winners, SMER-SD is second with a gain of almost 18% (3692) and in the third place, compared to mayoral elections, KDH with a gain of more than 11% (2350) exchanged its position with SNS with a gain of more than 8% (1678). It is also interesting to look at the struggle of two parties, declaring themselves to be the supporters of especially Hungarian minority - in mayoral elections, MOST-HÍD closely defeated SMK-MKP, in the elections of deputies, on the contrary, the extra-parliamentary party won closely - duel of mayors 127:115, duel of deputies 1248:915. Among the opposition political parties, the majority of the votes separately won SME RODINA at the level of 0.59% (123).

2.2 2018 Municipal elections at the level of regional capitals

Let us now look closer at the regional capitals, which are politically the most important bastions of individual political parties. However, when a political party has a winner in a small municipality or at the level of a regional capital, it is not the same, even though mathematically it is the same number one. Let us look at the regional capitals from two points of view – let us compare the voter turnout in the regional capitals and then recall the winners of the previous elections at this level.

Table 6 Voter turnout in municipal elections at the level of regional capitals in 2006 – 2018

Year of elections	BA	TT	TN	NR	ZA	BB	PO	KE	SR
2006	32,8	29,4	32,4	33,1	37,4	33,0	36,0	26,5	47,65
2010	33,6	29,4	44,9	31,4	38,4	39,0	36,6	33,4	49,69
2014	33,8	33,3	37,1	26,5	41,2	32,6	37,0	54,8	48,34
2018	36,5	37,7	42,0	43,1	41,3	37,9	43,2	35,7	48,68

Source: own calculations according to the data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Again, this table shows that voter turnout is higher in smaller municipalities where candidates are closer to their voters. Only once, in 2018, there was a higher voter turnout in the city of Košice than the national average, but except from this one case, it was always lower. We will try to analyze this knowledge at the level of Trnava Region, where we will compare not only the regional level, but also the level of the districts and individual municipalities.

Table 7 Overview of the winners of the municipal elections in 1994 - 2018 in regional capitals

Year of elections	Regional capital	Mayor	Party affiliation
1994	Bratislava	Peter Kresánek	KDH, DÚ, DS, NDS, SPŽSR
	Trnava	Štefan Bošňák	KDH
	Trenčín	Jozef Žiška	independent
	Nitra	Vladimír Libant	independent
	Žilina	Ján Slotá	SNS
	Banská Bystrica	Igor Presperín	SDE
	Prešov	Juraj Kopčák	KDH
	Košice	Rudolf Schuster	independent
1998	Bratislava	Jozef Moravčík	SDK, SDĽ
	Trnava	Štefan Bošňák	KDH
	Trenčín	Jozef Žiška	independent
	Nitra	Jozef Prokeš	SNS
	Žilina	Ján Slotá	SNS
	Banská Bystrica	Ján Králik	SDE, HZDS, HZD, ZRS, KSS, SDSS, NOSNP
	Prešov	Juraj Kopčák	KDH
	Košice	Rudolf Schuster, Zdenko Trebul'a (1999-2002,)	independent

2002	Bratislava	Andrej Ďurkovský	KDH, ANO, DS, SZS, DÚ
	Trnava	Štefan Bošňák	KDH
	Trenčín	Juraj Liška (2002-2003) Branislav Celler (2004-2006 – DS)	SDKÚ, KDH, ANO, DS
	Nitra	Ferdinand Vítek	SDKÚ, KDH, ANO a SZS
	Žilina	Ján Slota	SNS
	Banská Bystrica	Ján Králik	SDE
	Prešov	Milan Benč	SDE, HZDS, SDA, HZD, SNS, RDH-VÝCHOD
	Košice	Zdenko Trebuľa	ANO, SMER, SMK, SDA
2006	Bratislava	Andrej Ďurkovský	KDH, SDKÚ-DS
	Trnava	Štefan Bošňák	KDH
	Trenčín	Branislav Celler	SDKÚ-DS, KDH
	Nitra	Jozef Dvonč	Smer-SD, KDH, SNS, SF a HZD
	Žilina	Ivan Harman (od 2007)	SDKÚ-DS, KDH, SF, OKS
	Banská Bystrica	Ivan Saktor	Smer-SD, SNS, SZS
	Prešov	Pavel Hagyari	independent
	Košice	František Knapík	KDH, SDKÚ-DS, SMK-MKP
2010	Bratislava	Milan Ftáčnik	independent
	Trnava	Vladimír Butko	KDH
	Trenčín	Richard Rybníček	independent
	Nitra	Jozef Dvonč	Smer-SD, KDH, SNS, SZ
	Žilina	Igor Choma	Smer-SD, SZ, ĽS-HZDS, HZD
	Banská Bystrica	Peter Gogola	independent
	Prešov	Pavel Hagyari	independent
	Košice	Richard Raši	Smer-SD, Most-Híd

2014	Bratislava	Ivo Nesrovnal	independent
	Trnava	Peter Bročka	independent
	Trenčín	Richard Rybníček	independent
	Nitra	Jozef Dvonč	Smer-SD, KDH a SNS
	Žilina	Igor Choma	Smer-SD
	Banská Bystrica	Ján Nosko	independent
	Prešov	Andrea Turčanová	KDH, SDKÚ-DS, OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti, MOST - HÍD, NOVA, OKS
	Košice	Richard Raši	Smer-SD
2018	Bratislava	Matúš Vallo	Progresívne Slovensko, Spolu
	Trnava	Peter Bročka	independent
	Trenčín	Richard Rybníček	independent
	Nitra	Marek Hattas	independent
	Žilina	Peter Fiabáne	independent
	Banská Bystrica	Ján Nosko	independent
	Prešov	Andrea Turčanová	KDH, OĽANO, NOVA
	Košice	Jaroslav Polaček	SAS, KDH, SMK-MKP, NOVA, OKS

Source: own processing according to data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

When looking at regional capitals, it is also obvious that the municipal policy is not predominantly about party affiliation, the way of election of mayors unequivocally shows that the most important factor is the candidates themselves. We can look at individual regional capitals from several perspectives, interesting is a comparison, for example, from the perspective of „big politics“. In 1994, HZDS clearly won parliamentary elections, but at the level of the future regional capitals, it had no representation. Such ascenario has never been repeated to such an extent. Ruling parties experienced similar debacle in the last municipal elections in 2018, when they failed to win in at least one of eight cities, although in Banská Bystrica the independent candidate and the previous Mayor Ján Noska was strongly supported by SMER-SD. A new phenomenon prevailed - in five cities won an independent candidate, raising a number of issues, especially ahead of the expected parliamentary elections in early 2020.

2.3 2018 Municipal elections at Trnava Region level

Let us now look at the results of 2018 local elections at the level of one region, with regard to the academic activity of the authors of this paper, we have chosen Trnava Region. Trnava Region has an area of 4 146.4 km² (8.5% of the area of SR). It is divided into 7 districts: Dunajská Streda, Galanta, Hlohovec, Piešťany, Senica, Skalica and Trnava. The largest is the district Dunajská Streda, which occupies 25.9% of the total area of the region, and the smallest district is Hlohovec, which occupies 6.4%. On December 31, 2017, it had 562,372 inhabitants and it is the smallest of all the regions (10.3% of the population of the SR). The region consists of 251 municipalities, 17 of which are cities (with 47.6% of the population living there) (Statistical Yearbook, 2018). Let us again start with a look at the actual voter turnout, which also indicates the level of citizens' interest in municipal policy and the work of its individual actors.

Table 8 Voter turnout in 2018 municipal elections by districts in Trnava Region

District	Number of municipalities in which elections were held	Voter turnout in %
Dunajská Streda	67	54,49
Galanta	36	47,34
Piešťany	27	47,07
Senica	31	46,81
Skalica	21	50,89
Hlohovec	24	49,33
Trnava	45	47,55

Source: <http://volby.statistics.sk/oso/oso2018/sk/download.html>

Table 9 Overview of voter turnout in municipal elections in district towns in Trnava Region in 2010 – 2018

District town	2010	2014	2018
Dunajská Streda	40,66	38,18	36,32
Galanta	38,34	39,65	38,52
Hlohovec	39,81	40,96	43,37
Piešťany	35,39	36,44	37,12
Senica	34,72	33,90	38,37
Skalica	41,05	37,79	46,36
Trnava	29,35	33,29	37,74

Source: own processing according to data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Let us recall, that the nationwide voter turnout in 2018 municipal elections was 48,64%, in Trnava Region it was 49,31%. Looking at the individual

districts, the highest voter turnout was in the district of Dunajská Streda 54,49%, absolute majority had also the district of Skalica 50,89% in the opposite part of the region, the lowest voter turnout, on the contrary, was in the districts Senica, Piešťany, Galanta and Trnava, with almost identical values. The district of Hlohovec was closest to the national average. From the point of view of district towns, the highest voter turnout was in Skalica (maybe because the then mayor eventually occupied the fifth position), Dunajská Streda had the lowest voter turnout, so the voter turnout in the district town was exactly the opposite to the voter turnout in the whole district. Very low voter turnout was also in Trnava and Piešťany. It confirms again the thesis, that the smaller the municipality, the greater the voter turnout, unless specific local conditions (lack of candidates, one candidate for mayor, etc.) occur. For better clarity, we attach a table showing the voter turnout at Trnava district level. In 2018 only three municipalities (Cífer, Horná Krupá and Dobrá Voda) had lower voter turnout than the city of Trnava, all other municipalities, on the contrary, had higher voter turnout.

Table 10 Voter turnout in municipalities in Trnava district in municipal elections in 2010 – 2018

Name of the municipality	2010	2014	2018
Biely Kostol	52,86	55,80	52,22
Bíňovce	68,97	73,33	75,36
Bohdanovce nad Trnavou	71,45	33,68	64,13
Boleráz	53,78	49,10	55,45
Borová	73,91	68,24	77,26
Brestovany	62,67	54,25	53,59
Bučany	63,32	60,18	63,20
Buková	71,63	57,09	53,88
Cífer	56,96	55,56	33,53
Dechtice	69,62	68,73	67,10
Dlhá	44,83	44,28	62,01
Dobrá Voda	72,46	66,81	37,33
Dolná Krupá	58,41	57,67	60,59
Dolné Dubové	71,32	31,95	63,49
Dolné Lovčice	60,12	51,99	65,81
Dolné Orešany	66,69	61,07	63,14
Horná Krupá	84,24	57,84	37,64
Horné Dubové	42,24	74,22	75,78
Horné Orešany	56,47	60,99	58,86
Hrnčiarovce nad Parnou	55,70	57,80	57,92

Jaslovské Bohunice	72,44	77,47	69,84
Kátlovce	74,23	75,34	73,58
Košolná	42,08	77,02	74,31
Križovany nad Dudváhom	62,11	55,85	64,28
Lošonec	73,74	66,88	50,21
Majcichov	63,03	54,47	51,21
Malženice	68,48	68,22	54,51
Naháč	79,48	58,13	69,78
Opoj	70,05	65,22	59,65
Pavlice	81,19	74,48	69,31
Radošovce	82,84	86,39	76,20
Ružindol	70,20	63,54	65,29
Slovenská Nová Ves	63,07	62,18	62,67
Smolenice	59,57	57,74	55,51
Suchá nad Parnou	61,67	53,95	61,86
Šelpice	69,23	66,57	51,88
Špačince	66,83	59,39	64,18
Šúrovce	56,16	55,00	48,19
Trnava	29,35	33,29	37,74
Trstín	63,65	59,58	59,17
Vlčkovce	63,67	32,81	57,15
Voderady	68,37	49,17	58,76
Zavar	46,54	43,25	53,86
Zeleneč	50,84	49,07	46,90
Zvončín	77,28	70,79	61,16

Source: own processing according to data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

The national structure of Trnava Region is diverse and in the districts of the southern part (Galanta, Dunajská Streda) have always prevailed Hungarian political parties, so it will be interesting to look at the results of these municipal elections in terms of the number of mayors and deputies, this time we will look at the levels of the individual districts.

Table 11 Overview of elected mayors in Trnava Region by political party (more than 5 mandates in the district)

Name of the district	Political party	Number of mayors	Share of mayors in %
Dunajská Streda	NEKA	28	41,79
Dunajská Streda	MOST – HÍD	6	8,95
Dunajská Streda	SMK-MKP	13	19,40
Dunajská Streda	MOST - HÍD, SMK-MKP	13	19,40
Dunajská Streda	MOST - HÍD, SMER-SD, SMK-MKP	5	7,46
Galanta	NEKA	14	40,00
Galanta	MOST – HÍD	6	17,14
Galanta	SMER-SD	5	14,28
Galanta	SMK-MKP	5	14,28
Piešťany	NEKA	19	70,37
Piešťany	SMER-SD	7	25,92
Senica	NEKA	24	77,41
Skalica	NEKA	15	71,42
Hlohovec	NEKA	12	50,00
Hlohovec	SMER-SD	6	25,00
Trnava	NEKA	35	77,77
Trnava	SMER-SD	5	11,11

Source: own processing according to data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

In each district, the most successful were independent candidates, relatively most successful among the districts they were in the districts of Trnava, Senica and Piešťany, where they gained the share of more than 70%, relatively least share they gained in the districts of Galanta and Dunajská Streda, only about 40%, and in the district of Hlohovec it was exactly 50%. This is related to the fact that the parties in the southern districts were successful either alone or in coalition - MOST-HÍD and SMK-MKP. From the parliamentary parties in other districts, only SMER-SD was successful in the district of Piešťany, with 26% and in the district of Hlohovec, with 25%. No other parliamentary or extra-parliamentary political party received more than 5 mandates in the district, in the Senica and Skalica districts, it was no political party or coalition at all. Similarly, without any significant differences ended also the elections of deputies, as it is shown in the last table.

Table 12 Overview of elected deputies in Trnava Region by political party (more than 10 mandates in the district)

Name of the district	Political party	Number of deputies	Share of deputies in %
Dunajská Streda	NEKA	179	35,51
Dunajská Streda	MOST - HÍD	82	16,26
Dunajská Streda	RIS	11	2,18
Dunajská Streda	SMK-MKP	197	39,08
Dunajská Streda	MOST - HÍD, SMK-MKP	17	3,37
Galanta	NEKA	140	45,01
Galanta	KDH	12	3,85
Galanta	MOST - HÍD	31	9,96
Galanta	SNS	13	4,18
Galanta	SMER-SD	24	7,71
Galanta	SMK-MKP	77	24,75
Piešťany	NEKA	129	62,01
Piešťany	KDH	29	13,94
Piešťany	SMER-SD	22	10,57
Piešťany	OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti (OLANO), SaS	10	4,80
Senica	NEKA	153	60,00
Senica	KDH	25	9,80
Senica	SNS	21	8,23
Senica	SMER-SD	25	9,80
Skalica	NEKA	67	39,18
Skalica	KDH	39	22,80
Skalica	MOST - HÍD, SNS, SMER-SD	30	17,54
Hlohovec	NEKA	68	38,20
Hlohovec	KDH	39	21,91
Hlohovec	SNS	10	5,61
Hlohovec	SMER-SD	29	16,29
Hlohovec	SNS, SMER-SD	24	13,48
Trnava	NEKA	250	66,66
Trnava	KDH	50	13,33
Trnava	SMER-SD	31	8,26
Trnava	STAROSTOVIA A NEZÁVISLÍ KANDIDÁTI	16	4,26

Source: own processing according to data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

3 CONCLUSION

Every electoral struggle brings many interesting results, events and views. The last municipal elections in 2018 were no exception. We have tried to show that it is impossible to look at these elections simply through the prism of summaries, but on the contrary, it is important to look at individual aspects at the level of small municipalities, larger municipalities, small towns, district towns and regional capitals. It turned out that although we have almost 3 thousand towns and cities, each victory is specific. Politically most interesting are always municipalities with over 5 thousand inhabitants, as they have the greatest potential for political parties at the level of parliamentary elections. However, these municipal elections have also sent a serious signal to all representatives of political parties that there is a dissatisfaction with their work and their results. The largest parties of the ruling coalition SMER-SD and SNS have had quite good results, even though they have also lost significantly. The opposition political parties have not been able to persuade their supporters, Ján Mrva, the joint candidate for the post of Mayor of Bratislava, should be a memento for them. Also two Hungarian political groupings have maintained their positions on “their” territory, but have failed to extend their influence either numerically or geographically. A crisis of political parties? The next parliamentary elections will show whether it is a permanent trend or just a transient phenomenon. Independent candidates will not be opponents this time, but it is possible that the lack of interest will be again one of the main factors influencing their results.

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