02.10.2026 v1.0 Johan Hellström & Jonas Lindahl

# The Representative Democracy Data Archive (REPDEM)- potential governments/coalitions dataset

The choice dataset contains an exhaustive list of potential cabinets and coalitions for each government formation opportunity included in the REPDEM basic dataset, with variables recording various attributes of these potential cabinets and coalitions. Each government formation opportunity corresponds to a cabinet in the REPDEM basic dataset.

## How to cite

When using these data, please cite the following:

Hellström, Johan, Jonas Lindahl, and Elsa Karlsson Gustafsson (2026). *The Representative Democracy Data Archive (REPDEM) - Basic dataset, Version 2026.10.* REPDEM is part of and funded by DEMSCORE, a national research infrastructure (grant 2021-00162 from the Swedish Research Council). Available on https://repdem.org.

## Structure of the codebook

The following sections then each contain detailed information on

- the name of the variable as it is defined in the dataset,
- the label briefly describing the variable,
- the attached value label,
- relevant additional information on specific coding decisions (where applicable),

For several variables, such as the partisan composition of the cabinet, the information is given using party abbreviations and/or party IDs. Please refer to the corresponding *Party codebook* for further information.

## General information on potential cabinets

| Variable | Label | Value Label/Format | Additional Information |
|---|---|---|---|
| cab_id | Cabinet ID | First two digits: country<br>Last three digits: cabinet | Each individual cabinet is considered a government formation opportunity, i.e., a point in time when differently constituted governments could, in theory, form. |
| country_id | Country | | |
| country_id_iso | Country numeric ISO code | | ISO 3166-1 standard |
| potential_government | Members of the potential cabinet | Party IDs; see party codebook | List of potential cabinet parties, in alphanumerical order |
| unique_id | Unique ID for the cabinet ID and potential government | 256-bit hex value | Unique ID based on a SHA256 hash of a concatenated string of cab_id, ., and potential_government. E.g., if cab_id is 1001, potential_government is 10001,10004,10005, the concatenated string is 1001.10001,10004,10005 |
| pcab_status_quo | The potential cabinet has an identical composition to the previous cabinet | 0: no<br>1: yes | The potential cabinet/government has an identical composition to the previous cabinet/government. |
| pcab_party1-pcab_party20 | Potential cabinet party | Party ID; see party codebook | |
| real_gov | Actual cabinet | 0: no<br>1: yes | Potential cabinet corresponding to the actually formed cabinet. |
| real_nonpartisan | Actual cabinet is non-partisan | 0: no<br>1: yes | The cabinet that formed is non-partisan, most often with no corresponding cabinet composition containing parties. |
| pcab_num_parties | Number of potential cabinet parties | | The number of political parties in a potential cabinet. |
| pcab_seats | Potential cabinet seats: lower chamber | | The total number of seats held by the parties included in the potential cabinet. Refers to the lower chamber in bicameral systems. |
| pcab_seat_share | Potential cabinet seats: lower chamber | | The share of seats in parliament held by the potential cabinet. Refers to the lower chamber in bicameral systems. |
| pcab_upper_seats | Potential cabinet seats: upper chamber | | The share of seats in the upper chamber of parliament held by the potential cabinet. Only coded in bicameral systems. |

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| pcab_upper_seat_share | Potential cabinet seats: upper chamber | | The number of seats in the upper chamber of parliament held by the potential cabinet. Only coded in bicameral systems. |
| pcab_pm_party_prev | Potential cabinet includes the PM party of the previous cabinet | 0: no<br>1: yes | Does the potential cabinet include the PM party of the previous cabinet? |
| pcab_largest_party | Potential cabinet includes the largest party in parliament | 0: no<br>1: yes | Does the potential cabinet include the largest party in parliament (the lower chamber)? |
| pcab_median_first | Potential cabinet includes the party of the median legislator, first dimension | 0: no<br>1: yes | Does the potential cabinet include the party of the median legislator, first dimension? |
| pcab_median_second | Potential cabinet includes party of the median legislator, second dimension | 0: no<br>1: yes | Does the potential cabinet include the party of the median legislator, second dimension? |
| pcab_median_economic | Potential cabinet includes party of the median legislator, economic dimension | 0: no<br>1: yes | Does the potential cabinet include the party of the median legislator on the economic left-right dimension? |
| pcab_coalition | Potential coalition cabinet | 0: no<br>1: yes | Is the potential cabinet a coalition, i.e., does it includes more than one party? |
| pcab_maj | Potential majority cabinet: lower chamber | 0: no<br>1: yes | Does the potential cabinet have a parliamentary majority (more than 50%+1 seats)? Refers to the lower chamber in bicameral systems. |
| pcab_upper_maj | Potential majority cabinet: upper chamber | 0: no<br>1: yes | Does the potential cabinet have an upper-chamber parliamentary majority (more than 50%+1 seats)? Refers to the upper chamber in bicameral systems. |
| pcab_mwc | Potential minimal winning coalition | 0: no<br>1: yes | Is the potential cabinet a minimal winning coalition? A potential cabinet is a minimal winning coalition if it is (i) a coalition and (ii) would lose its majority status if any party is removed from the potential cabinet. |
| pcab_surplus | Potential surplus majority cabinet | 0: no<br>1: yes | Is the potential cabinet a surplus majority coalition or an oversized coalition? A potential cabinet is a surplus majority coalition if it is (i) a coalition and (ii) would retain its majority status if at least one of its constituent parties could be removed and still retain majority status. |

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| pcab_govtype | Potential government type | 1: Min<br>2: Maj<br>3: MWC<br>4: Sur<br>5: Non | Minority cabinet: Holds less than 50 % plus one seat in parliament. Single-party minority cabinets are likewise coded as 'Min'<br>Single-party majority cabinet: Holds 50% plus one seat in parliament. It is not a coalition.<br>Minimal winning coalition: Is turned into a losing coalition by the subtraction of any of the coalition parties, i.e., if it loses a coalition party it holds less than 50 % plus one seat.<br>Surplus majority coalition: Can lose a coalition party and still be winning, i.e., control 50 % plus one seat or more in the parliament<br>A non-partisan cabinet, e.g., appointed by a president to hold an election |
| pcab_prefrange | Cabinet preference range, RILE | | The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale |
| pcab_prefrange_logit | Cabinet preference range, RILE, logit scaled | | The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on the logit scaling (Lowe et al. 2011) of the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale. |
| pcab_prefrange_prosser | Cabinet preference range, Prosser (2014) left-right scale | | The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on Manifesto Project's data, but using the categories suggested by Prosser (2014) for constructing the left-right scale. |
| pcab_prefrange_prosser_logit | Cabinet preference range, Prosser (2014) left-right scale, logit scaled | | The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on Manifesto Project's data, but using the categories suggested by Prosser (2014) for constructing the left-right scale, and the data have been logit-scaled (see Lowe et al. 2011). |
| pcab_prefrange_ches_lrecon | Cabinet preference range, CHES, left-right economic scale | | The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon). |
| pcab_prefrange_ches_lrgen | Cabinet preference range, CHES, general left-right scale | | The cabinet preference range is the distance between the left-most and right-most parties in the cabinet. Based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right scale (lrgen). |
| pcab_wpolar | Cabinet polarization, RILE, weighted SD | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale. |

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| pcab_wpolar_logit | Cabinet polarization, RILE, weighted SD, logit scaled | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale. Logit-scaled data (see Lowe et al. 2011). |
| pcab_wpolar_prosser | Cabinet polarization, RILE, weighted SD | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on Prosser's (2014) suggested categories in the Manifesto Project data for the general left-right dimension. |
| pcab_wpolar_prosser_logit | Cabinet polarization, RILE, weighted SD, logit scaled | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on Prosser's (2014) suggested categories in the Manifesto Project data for the general left-right dimension. Logit-scaled data (see Lowe et al. 2011). |
| pcab_wpolar_ches_lrecon | Cabinet polarization, CHES, left-right economic scale | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon). |
| pcab_wpolar_ches_lrgen | Cabinet polarization, CHES, general left-right scale | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the weighted (by seats) mean position in the cabinet, based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right economic scale (lrgen). |
| pcab_polar | Cabinet polarization, RILE | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale. |
| pcab_polar_logit | Cabinet polarization, RILE, logit scaled | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on the logit scaling (Lowe et al. 2011) of the Manifesto Project's Right-Left (RILE) scale |
| pcab_polar_prosser | Cabinet polarization, Prosser (2014) left-right scale | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on Prosser's (2014) suggested categories in the Manifesto Project data for the general left-right dimension |
| pcab_polar_logit_prosser | Cabinet polarization, Prosser (2014) left-right scale, logit scaled | | Cabinet is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in cabinet, based on the logit scaling (Lowe et al. 2011) on Prosser's (2014) suggested categories in the Manifesto Project data for the general left-right dimension |
| pcab_polar_ches_lrecon | Cabinet polarization, CHES, left-right economic scale | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon). |

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| pcab_polar_ches_lrgen | Cabinet polarization, CHES, general left-right scale | | Cabinet polarization is measured as the standard deviation from the mean position in the cabinet, based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right scale (lrgen). |
| pcab_connected_ches_lrecon | Connected potential cabinet, CHES, left-right economic scale | | Ideologically connected cabinet. Party ranks (connected status) are based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon). |
| pcab_mw_connected_ches_lrecon | Minimal winning connected potential cabinet, CHES, left-right economic scale | | Minimal winning and ideologically connected cabinet., Party ranks (connected status) are based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' left-right economic scale (lrecon). A minimal winning coalition requires all coalition parties to achieve a parliamentary majority. |
| pcab_connected_ches_lrgen | Connected potential cabinet, CHES, general left-right scale | | Ideologically connected cabinet. Party ranks (connected status) are based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right scale (lrgen). |
| pcab_mw_connected_ches_lrgen | Minimal winning connected potential cabinet, CHES, general left-right scale | | Minimal winning and ideologically connected cabinet., Party ranks (connected status) are based on the Chapel Hill Expert Surveys' general left-right scale (lrgen). A minimal winning coalition requires all coalition parties to achieve a parliamentary majority. |