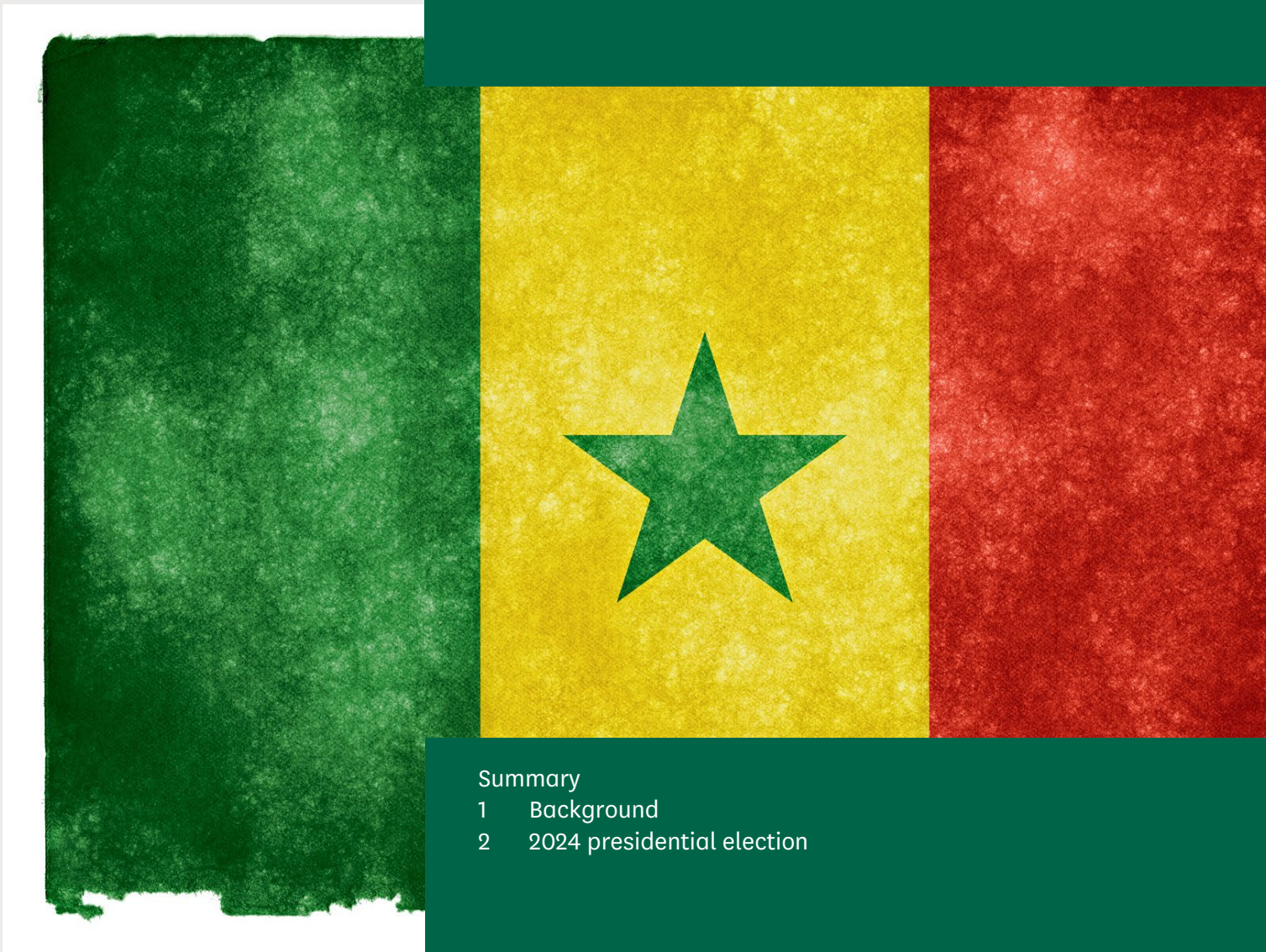


Research Briefing

30 April 2024

By Nigel Walker

# Senegal: 2024 presidential election



## Summary

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## Summary

Senegal held a presidential election on 24 March 2024, postponed from the planned election day of 25 February.

The country has been described as “one of Africa’s most stable electoral democracies” by Freedom House, a non-governmental organisation which tracks democracy worldwide. However, the jailing of prominent opposition leaders and the decision by outgoing President Macky Sall to delay the election sparked mass protests. Sall had intended to delay the election even further but was overruled by the Constitutional Council.

Paul Melly, of Chatham House, noted that this decision by the Council showed the stability of Senegal’s governing institutions and democratic stability.<sup>1</sup>

## Election campaign

Due to the postponement and rescheduling of the election, the campaign period was cut from 21 days to 14. And, for the first time, the election took place during Ramadan.

At the heart of the campaign were matters that largely affected the younger population. Over 60% of Senegal’s population are under the age of 25,<sup>2</sup> with 43% under the age of 15.<sup>3</sup> Key issues for voters were high unemployment, the cost of living and migration.

19 candidates contested the election, including one woman.

## Election results

The opposition candidate, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, won the election with a clear majority, taking over 54% of votes in the first round. Faye is supported by popular opposition leader Ousmane Sonko.<sup>4</sup>

This was the first time since Senegal’s independence in 1960 that an opposition candidate had won the presidential election in the first round.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Melly, [Democracy in West Africa: Why Senegal’s election crisis matters](#), Chatham House, 21 March 2024

<sup>2</sup> [Key issues shaping Senegal’s presidential vote](#), Reuters, 13 March 2024

<sup>3</sup> [2024 elections: Senegal – March 24](#), Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 January 2024

<sup>4</sup> [Who are the main candidates in Senegal’s presidential election?](#) Reuters, 7 March 2024

<sup>5</sup> [Senegal top court confirms Bassirou Diomaye Faye’s election victory](#), France 24, 29 March 2024

Faye also became the youngest democratically elected president in Africa, at 44 years old.<sup>6</sup> Turnout was 61.3%.

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<sup>6</sup> Ruth Maclean, [Africa's Youngest President Takes Office, Promising 'Systemic Change'](#), New York Times, 2 April 2024

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# 1 Background

## 1.1 Election date called

On 16 February 2023 Senegal's Interior Minister, Antoine Felix Abdoulaye Diome, announced the first round of the next presidential election would take place on 25 February 2024.<sup>7</sup>

In a televised address on 4 July 2023, President Macky Sall said that he would not contest the 2024 election, adhering to the term limits set out in the constitution and ending speculation that he would run for a third term.<sup>8</sup>

The 2024 presidential election would therefore be Senegal's first in which the incumbent wasn't standing.<sup>9</sup>

On 20 January 2024 Senegal's Constitutional Council published a final list of 20 candidates for the presidential election that was then expected to take place the following month. Ousmane Sonko, the jailed opposition leader and Karim Wade, the son of former president Abdoulaye Wade, were excluded from the list.<sup>10</sup>

## 1.2 Postponing of election

On 3 February 2024, two weeks after the list of candidates was released, President Sall announced the indefinite postponement of the election, just hours before official campaigning was due to start.

In an address to the nation, Sall said he had signed a decree abolishing a previous measure that had set the election date, and that he would "begin an open national dialogue to bring together the conditions for a free, transparent and inclusive election".<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> [Senegal sets date for next presidential election](#), APA News, 17 February 2023

<sup>8</sup> [Senegal President Macky Sall says he won't run for third term](#), BBC News Online, 4 July 2023

<sup>9</sup> [Elections in Senegal: 2024 Presidential Elections](#), International Foundation for Electoral Systems [accessed 22 April 2024]

<sup>10</sup> [Senegal excludes opposition leader Sonko from presidential candidate list](#), Le Monde, 21 January 2024

<sup>11</sup> [Senegal's President Sall postpones presidential election](#), TRT Afrika, 3 February 2024

It was the first time a Senegalese presidential election had been postponed since the country gained independence from France in 1960.<sup>12</sup>

On 5 February 2014 Senegal's National Assembly voted to hold the postponed election on 15 December, with 105 of the 165 parliamentarians voting in favour.<sup>13</sup> The move would have seen Sall's presidency extended until a successor was installed.<sup>14</sup>

The legitimacy and results of the vote in parliament was questioned, however, as the police had removed over 30 opposition Members ahead of the vote. And, after the vote had taken place, 14 presidential candidates and 39 Members of the National Assembly filed a complaint with the Constitutional Council.<sup>15</sup>

Large groups gathered outside of the parliament to protest against the postponement of elections, with police firing tear gas at the crowds and mobile internet access restricted due to alleged threats to public order and hate messages posted on social media.<sup>16</sup> The Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria expressed concern about the "violent crackdown on public protests and called on the Senegalese government to protect digital rights."<sup>17</sup>

On 15 February the Constitutional Council cancelled the presidential decree postponing the election. The Council declared that the election should be held as soon as possible and before the expiration of the presidential mandate on 2 April, as set out in the constitution.<sup>18</sup>

On 6 March President Sall agreed to respect the Council's decision and announced the election would take place on 24 March, with a shortened campaign period.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Emmanuel Onyango, [Senegal Election 2024: Timeline of tense presidential race](#), TRT Afrika, 23 March 2024

<sup>13</sup> Diadie Ba, Ngouda Dione and Zohra Bensemra, [Senegalese lawmakers vote to postpone presidential election to Dec. 15](#), Reuters, 6 February 2024

<sup>14</sup> [Senegal parliament to vote on election delay and Sall tenure extension](#), Al Jazeera, 5 February 2024

<sup>15</sup> [Elections in Senegal: 2024 Presidential Elections](#), International Foundation for Electoral Systems [accessed 22 April 2024]

<sup>16</sup> [Senegal riot police fire teargas to break up protests over postponed election](#), the Guardian, 5 February 2024

<sup>17</sup> Centre for Human Rights, [Press statement: The Centre for Human Rights calls on the Senegalese government to protect digital rights](#), 23 February 2024

<sup>18</sup> [Senegal's Constitutional Court nullifies election delay](#), TRT Afrika, 16 February 2024

<sup>19</sup> Emmanuel Onyango, [Senegal Election 2024: Timeline of tense presidential race](#), TRT Afrika, 23 March 2024

And, as part of an amnesty law passed by the National Assembly, opposition leaders were released from prison on 14 March, ten days before the election.<sup>20</sup> This included prominent opposition leaders Ousmane Sonko and Faye.<sup>21</sup>

## 1.3 Electoral system

Presidential elections in Senegal take place every five years. Until 2019 presidential terms were seven years, but a referendum passed in March 2016 cut the time in office to five-year terms.<sup>22</sup>

To be declared the winner, a candidate must secure 50% of the total number of valid votes. If this is not achieved in the first round of voting, then a second-round run-off poll is held between the two candidates who gained the most votes in the first round.

Presidents may serve a maximum of two terms in office.<sup>23</sup>

## 1.4 Who can vote and who can stand in elections?

All citizens of Senegal above the age of 18 are eligible to vote and, in 2024, there were 7,371,890 registered voters.<sup>24</sup>

Presidential candidates must be at least 35 years old on election day and must be exclusively of Senegalese citizenship.<sup>25</sup>

Candidates are also required to have the endorsement of 13 members of the National Assembly, or 120 mayors and heads of regional councils, or have signatures of support from at least 0.6% of the electorate.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Bate Felix and Ngouda Dione, [Thousands celebrate release of jailed Senegal opposition leaders](#), Reuters, 15 March 2024

<sup>21</sup> Kate Hairsine, [Senegal's election campaign ramps up after poll delay](#), Deutsche Welle, 20 March 2024

<sup>22</sup> [Senegal referendum approves shorter presidential terms](#), BBC News Online, 23 March 2016

<sup>23</sup> [Election Guide: Senegalese presidency 2024](#), International Foundation for Electoral Systems [accessed 22 April 2024]

<sup>24</sup> [Election Guide: Senegalese presidency 2024](#), International Foundation for Electoral Systems [accessed 22 April 2024]

<sup>25</sup> [Elections in Senegal: 2024 Presidential Elections](#), International Foundation for Electoral Systems [accessed 22 April 2024]

<sup>26</sup> Melissa Chemam, [Senegal begins selecting candidates for 2024 presidential election](#), RFI (Radio France Internationale), 7 October 2023



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## 2 2024 presidential election

### 2.1 Election campaign

Due to the postponement and rescheduling of the election, the campaign period was cut from 21 days to 14. The campaign period began on 9 March and ended on 22 March, with a full day of no campaigning immediately before election day.<sup>27</sup>

Senegal has a majority Muslim population and, for the first time, the election took place during Ramadan.

It was reported that Iman Moctar Ndiaye, from the Liberte 6 Grand Mosque in Dakar, told the Senegalese people: “You mustn’t break the fast and spend the day driving in motorcades... hurling insults or performing acts that will compromise social peace and the stability of the country.”<sup>28</sup>

#### Key issues

The key issues for voters in the election were unemployment, the cost of living and migration.

#### Unemployment

Youth unemployment is particularly high, at 20%. And, with a rapidly growing population (an annual increase of 2.5%), will be a major issue for the new administration.<sup>29</sup>

Over 60% of Senegal’s population are now under the age of 25,<sup>30</sup> with 43% under the age of 15.<sup>31</sup>

Despite growing investment in the country’s oil and gas sector, three out of five of Senegal’s people live below the poverty line.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> [Elections in Senegal: 2024 Presidential Elections](#), International Foundation for Electoral Systems [accessed 22 April 2024]

<sup>28</sup> Kate Hairsine, [Senegal’s election campaign ramps up after poll delay](#), Deutsche Welle, 20 March 2024

<sup>29</sup> [2024 elections: Senegal – March 24](#), Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 January 2024

<sup>30</sup> [Key issues shaping Senegal’s presidential vote](#), Reuters, 13 March 2024

<sup>31</sup> [2024 elections: Senegal – March 24](#), Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 January 2024

<sup>32</sup> Kate Hairsine, [Senegal’s election campaign ramps up after poll delay](#), Deutsche Welle, 20 March 2024

This comes in a period of economic growth: during President Sall's time in office, the economy grew by an average increase of 3.4% annually. A perceived lack of opportunities among the young led to some shifting their support to the leading opposition candidate, Bassirou Diomaye Faye.<sup>33</sup>

### Cost of living

As in many countries, the cost of living in Senegal has increased in recent years. Here, this was largely a consequence of external factors including the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the appreciation of the dollar.<sup>34</sup>

With more than half of the population living in poverty, and the price of food increasing, the cost of living was a key issue for many voters.

### Migration

Another key topic during the election campaign was migration; specifically, the number of young people attempting to migrate towards Europe in search of work and a better life.<sup>35</sup>

According to data from Frontex, the European border agency, 2023 saw a 161% increase in migrants to the Canary Islands compared with 2022. The data reported this increase was "mostly driven by direct arrivals from Senegal".<sup>36</sup>

Many make the journey by wooden boat and canoe across the ocean and there is no reliable data on the number of people who don't survive the journey.<sup>37</sup>

Mamadou Thior, a political analyst based in Dakar, observed:

Thousands of young people are leaving the country using the boats to go to Spain. Some have died in the sea. Some try to get into the US through Nicaragua. It shows how desperate these young people are due to the failure of President Sall to create employment.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> [Key issues shaping Senegal's presidential vote](#), Reuters, 13 March 2024

<sup>34</sup> As above

<sup>35</sup> Emma Wallis, [Senegal: Migration plays a key role in election debates](#), Info Migrants, 22 March 2024

<sup>36</sup> [Annual Brief 2023](#) (PDF), Frontex, 5 January 2024

<sup>37</sup> [Key issues shaping Senegal's presidential vote](#), Reuters, 13 March 2024

<sup>38</sup> Nimi Princewill, [Senegal goes to the polls as country's once sturdy democracy looks shaky](#), CNN, 23 March 2024

## 2.2

## International reaction to the election

In a statement issued on 5 February 2024, the UK Government expressed concerns about the postponing of Senegal’s presidential elections and urged Senegalese authorities to swiftly set a new date for elections.<sup>39</sup>

Following the decision by Senegal’s Constitutional Council on 15 February, that the parliament’s postponement of the planned presidential election was against the constitution, the UK Government supported the Council’s decision and called for “transparent, inclusive, and credible elections to be organised as quickly as possible”.<sup>40</sup>

After a new date for the election had been set, the UK Government welcomed the announcement and urged all parties to “contribute to peaceful, inclusive, and credible elections, to maintain calm and the rule of law, and to respect the fundamental freedoms of the Senegalese people”.<sup>41</sup>

The Government also confirmed that UK diplomatic staff had been sent to observe the election, as well as engaging with a range of civil society organisations to ensure fairness and transparency in the process.<sup>42</sup>

France, Senegal’s former colonial power, had pressed the Senegalese authorities to hold the presidential election as soon as possible, in accordance with Senegal’s constitution.<sup>43</sup>

The United States, meanwhile, praised Senegal’s “strong democratic decision”.<sup>44</sup> And Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chair of the African Union Commission, welcomed “the peaceful resolution of the institutional crisis in Senegal”.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> [The UK government has made a statement following the announcement of Senegal's delayed presidential elections](#), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, 5 February 2024

<sup>40</sup> [Senegal's delayed presidential elections: UK statement](#), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, 16 February 2024

<sup>41</sup> [Senegal Presidential Elections: UK statement](#), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, 8 March 2024

<sup>42</sup> PQ 17830 [on [Senegal: Elections](#)], 11 March 2024

<sup>43</sup> [Situation in Senegal](#), Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères, 13 February 2024

<sup>44</sup> [On Senegal's Constitutional Court Decision](#), US State Department, 16 February 2024

<sup>45</sup> [AU, EU, US hail Senegal election at end of March](#), Vanguard Media, 8 March 2024

## 2.3

# Election results

After the polls closed, and before any provisional or final results were announced, former Prime Minister Amadou Ba telephoned his opposition rival, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, to congratulate him on his victory, saying:

In view of the trends in the results of the presidential election and while awaiting the official proclamation, I congratulate President Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye for his victory in the first round... I wish him great success and success for the well-being of the Senegalese people.<sup>46</sup>

Posting on X (formerly known as Twitter) on 26 March, Faye pledged his presidency would be transparent in fighting corruption and that Senegal would remain a reliable ally on the world stage:

I pledge to govern humbly and transparently to fight corruption at all levels, and to devote myself fully to rebuilding our institutions and strengthening the foundations of our coexistence... I would like to say to the international community, to our bilateral and multilateral partners, that Senegal will always hold its ground. It will remain the friendly country and the reliable ally of any partner who engages with us in virtuous, respectful and mutually productive cooperation.<sup>47</sup>

Once all ballots had been validated, and with no candidates raising objections, Senegal's Constitutional Council published the final results of the presidential election on 29 March 2024.<sup>48</sup>

The results showed the opposition candidate, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, has been elected with a clear majority, winning over 54% of votes. In securing more than half of votes cast in the first round, a second-round runoff poll was not required.

This was the first time since Senegal's independence in 1960 that an opposition candidate had won the presidential election in the first round.<sup>49</sup> Faye also became the youngest democratically elected president in Africa, at 44 years old.<sup>50</sup>

Amadou Ba, the candidate for the ruling coalition, came second with almost 36% of the vote.

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<sup>46</sup> [Presidential election: Amadou Bâ called Bassirou Diomaye Faye to congratulate him](#), Dakaractu, 25 March 2024

<sup>47</sup> Bassirou Diomaye Faye (@DiomayeFaye), [X \(Twitter\)](#), 26 March 2024 [accessed 18 April 2024]; translation taken from [Name in the News: Senegal's surprise president, Bassirou Diomaye Faye](#), BBC Monitoring, 28 March 2024

<sup>48</sup> [Senegal's top court confirms Bassirou Diomaye Faye's election victory](#), Al Jazeera, 29 March 2024

<sup>49</sup> [Senegal top court confirms Bassirou Diomaye Faye's election victory](#), France 24, 29 March 2024

<sup>50</sup> Ruth Maclean, [Africa's Youngest President Takes Office, Promising 'Systemic Change'](#), New York Times, 2 April 2024

Candidate	Party	No. of valid votes	% of valid votes
Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye	Patriots of Senegal (PASTEF)	2,434,751	54.28
Amadou Ba	Alliance for the Republic	1,605,086	35.79
Aliou Mamadou Dia	Party for Unity and Rally	125,690	2.80
Khalifa Ababacar Sall	Manko Taxawu Sénégal	69,760	1.56
Idrissa Seck	Rewmi	40,286	0.90
Thierno Alassane Sall	Republic of Values	25,946	0.58
Boubacar Camara	Party of Construction and Solidarity	23,359	0.52
Aly Ngouille Ndiaye	Independent	20,964	0.47
Papa Djibril Fall	The Servants / MPR	18,304	0.41
Serigne Mboup	Independent	16,049	0.36
Daouda Ndiaye	Independent	15,895	0.35
Déthié Fall	Republican Party for Progress	15,836	0.35
Anta Babacar Ngom	Alternative for the Next Generation of Citizens	15,457	0.34
Cheikh Tidiane Dieye	Independent	15,172	0.34
El Hadji Mamadou Diao	Independent	14,591	0.33
Mamadou Lamine Diallo	National Patriotic Union / Tekki	9,998	0.22
Mahammed Boun Adballah Dionne	Independent	8,435	0.19
El Hadji Malick Gakou	Grand Party	6,343	0.14
Habib Sy	Independent	3,206	0.07
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,485,128</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: [Constitutional Council: Bassirou Diomaye Faye, officially proclaimed President of the Republic of Senegal \(Document\)](#), Xalima News (Senegal), 29 March 2024

The results also showed 34,125 invalid votes were cast.

7,371,890 voters were registered to participate in the poll. Of these, 4,519,253 cast their vote, for a turnout of 61.3%.<sup>51</sup>

## 2.4 A win for democracy

Senegal has long been respected as a cornerstone of democratic stability in West Africa, and for the solidity of its governing institutions.<sup>52</sup>

Commentators have said the decision by the Constitutional Council to reject President Sall's plan to delay the election by several months, and for the

<sup>51</sup> [Constitutional Council: Bassirou Diomaye Faye, officially proclaimed President of the Republic of Senegal \(Document\)](#), Xalima News (Senegal), 29 March 2024

<sup>52</sup> Paul Melly, [Democracy in West Africa: Why Senegal's election crisis matters](#), Chatham House, 21 March 2024

manner in which none of the presidential candidates challenged the election result, highlights the democratic stability in Senegal.<sup>53</sup>

Speaking after the election, Ba said that the people “have confirmed our country’s status as a major democracy.”<sup>54</sup>

## 2.5 Candidates for President

On 20 February 2024, Senegal’s Constitutional Council published an amended list of candidates for the planned presidential election that was delayed to 24 March.<sup>55</sup>

Of the 19 candidates submitted to contest the election<sup>56</sup>, seven were considered to be the main contenders.

Profiles of these candidates, in alphabetical order, are below.

### Amadou Ba

Amadou Ba was born on 17 May 1961 in Dakar, Senegal’s capital. He is married with three children. He graduated university with a master’s degree in economics. Before entering politics, Ba held several positions in taxation.<sup>57</sup>

In September 2013 Ba was appointed Minister of Economy and Finance and later served as Foreign Minister. In September 2022 President Sall appointed Ba as his Prime Minister.<sup>58</sup>

Ba reigned from the prime ministerial post on 6 March 2024 to contest the presidential election, having been selected by President Sall as the Alliance for the Republic’s candidate following a coalition-wide consultation process.<sup>59</sup>

Regarded as close ally of Sall, Ba pledged to continue his policies of economic growth, social development, and regional stability if elected.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Mariama Diallo, [Senegal’s democratic process is a source of inspiration for some](#), VOA News, 1 April 2024; and, Catherine Lena Kelly, [Key takeaways from Senegal’s Presidential election](#), Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 1 April 2024

<sup>54</sup> Catherine Lena Kelly, [Key takeaways from Senegal’s Presidential election](#), Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 1 April 2024

<sup>55</sup> Reuters, [Senegal leaves presidential election list mainly unchanged](#), 20 February 2024

<sup>56</sup> [Republic of Senegal: Election for Senegalese Presidency](#), International Foundation for Electoral Systems Election Guide [accessed 19 March 2024]

<sup>57</sup> [Here is the curriculum vitae of Mr. Amadou Ba, Minister of Economy and Finance](#), Dakaractu, 2 September 2013

<sup>58</sup> [Who are the main candidates in Senegal’s presidential election?](#) Reuters, 7 March 2024

<sup>59</sup> As above

<sup>60</sup> Muhammad Nooh Osman, [Senegal’s 2024 Presidential Race: A Guide to the Main Candidates](#), Sputnik News, 3 February 2024

His campaign slogan was “Prosperity Shared”.<sup>61</sup>

## Mahammed Boun Abdallah Dionne

Mahammed Dionne was born on 22 September 1959 in Gossas, in the Fatick region of Senegal.

Dionne was an economist and computer scientist by training, before entering politics.<sup>62</sup>

He was a supporter and ally of Macky Sall and, during Sall’s presidency, held several positions including chief of staff of the president’s office. Dionne later served as President Sall’s third prime minister, from 2014 to 2019.<sup>63</sup>

In September 2023 Dionne launched his candidacy for the 2024 presidential election, standing as an independent candidate. However, in the late stages of the election campaign, he fell ill and was moved to France for treatment. He died on 5 April, less than two weeks after the election.<sup>64</sup>

## Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye

Bassirou Faye was born on 25 March 1980 in Ndiaganiao, in the western department of M’Bour, Senegal.<sup>65</sup> Before entering politics, he worked as a tax inspector.<sup>66</sup>

Faye was involved with the Pastef party at its founding and became one of the most prominent figures within the organisation.

In April 2023 he was charged with “contempt of court, defamation and acts likely to compromise public peace”, after posting a message that was thought to be critical of Senegal’s justice system.<sup>67</sup>

In November 2023 Faye was selected as a back-up candidate to jailed opposition leader Ousmane Sonko, who later urged his supporters to vote for Faye.<sup>68</sup>

In early 2024, when the Constitutional Council published its list of candidates to contest the upcoming presidential election, Faye remained a candidate as he had not actually been convicted of a crime.

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<sup>61</sup> Kate Hairsine, [Senegal's election campaign ramps up after poll delay](#), Deutsche Welle, 20 March 2024

<sup>62</sup> [Former PM Buried in Touba: A Dieu Boun Dionne](#), Le Quotidien (Senegal), 12 April 2024

<sup>63</sup> [Who are the main candidates in Senegal's presidential election?](#) Reuters, 7 March 2024

<sup>64</sup> [Senegal Former Prime Minister and Presidential Candidate Dies](#), VOA Africa, 5 April 2024

<sup>65</sup> [Bassirou Diomaye Faye: what's Senegal opposition contender about?](#) APA News, 11 March 2024

<sup>66</sup> [Who are the main candidates in Senegal's presidential election?](#) Reuters, 7 March 2024

<sup>67</sup> Kate Hairsine, [Senegal's election campaign ramps up after poll delay](#), Deutsche Welle, 20 March 2024

<sup>68</sup> [Who are the main candidates in Senegal's presidential election?](#) Reuters, 7 March 2024

Faye (and Sonko) were released from jail on 14 March, after campaigning had already begun and just ten days before election day.<sup>69</sup>

## Aly Ngouille Ndiaye

Aly Ngouille Ndiaye was born on 16 August 1964, in Linguère, in the Djolof region of northern Senegal. His father, Ibra Ndiatté Ndiaye, is a former mayor of Linguère.

Aly Ndiaye graduated from the École Polytechnique de Thiès in 1988, with a diploma in civil engineering. He then attended the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, gaining an MBA degree with a double specialism in Finance and Operations Research.<sup>70</sup>

Before entering politics, Ndiaye worked at the Banque de l'Habitat du Senegal (BHS), where he reached the position of Credit Director. He is the head of Aris Engineering, a real estate engineering company, and chairman of the board of directors of the ASC Dahra football club, the club in the Linguère region.<sup>71</sup>

Ndiaye left BHS in 2007 to enter politics, creating the Movement for the Renaissance of Djolof (MRD) that year.

In 2012 he was elected Mayor of Linguère, a position he maintains.

Also in 2012, Ndiaye supported Macky Sall and the Alliance for the Republic (APR) in the presidential election, before merging his movement with the APR the following year, as part of the broader Benno Bokk Yakaar (BBY).

Ndiaye has held several ministerial positions in different governments: Minister of Energy, Mines and Industry (April 2012 to September 2017); Minister of the Interior (September 2017 to November 2020); and Minister of Agriculture, Rural Equipment and Food Sovereignty (September 2022 to September 2023).

He resigned from the agriculture portfolio and left BBY in September 2023, shortly after Prime Minister Amadou Ba was selected as the coalition's candidate for the 2024 presidential election.<sup>72</sup>

Ndiaye contested the 2024 election as an independent candidate.

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<sup>69</sup> Kate Hairsine, [Senegal's election campaign ramps up after poll delay](#), Deutsche Welle, 20 March 2024

<sup>70</sup> [Mr. Aly Ngouille Ndiaye](#), Republic of Senegal: Ministry of the Interior [accessed 19 March 2024]

<sup>71</sup> [\[Portrait\] Qui est Aly Ngouille Ndiaye, le nouveau ministre de l'Énergie et des Mines?](#) Seneweb, 5 April 2012

<sup>72</sup> [Présidentielle au Sénégal: Amadou Ba, candidat désigné de la majorité, fera-t-il l'unanimité?](#) RFI, 10 September 2023



## Anta Babacar Ngom

Anta Babacar Ngom, aged 39, is a successful businesswoman and the CEO of Sedima, Senegal's largest poultry company.<sup>73</sup> Sedima also operates Senegal's Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises.<sup>74</sup>

Ngom entered politics in August 2023, with the launch of her Alternative for the Next Generation of Citizens movement.

She was the only female candidate in the 2024 presidential election.

## Khalifa Ababacar Sall

Khalifa Ababacar Sall (unrelated to former President Macky Sall), was born on 1 January 1956.

A political scientist, Sall has spent the past four decades in politics, winning elections to municipal councils and the national parliament, as well as holding ministerial positions.<sup>75</sup> He was also elected to two terms as Mayor of Dakar, serving from 2009-2018.<sup>76</sup>

Khalifa Sall was arrested in March 2017 on suspicion of embezzling \$3 million (£2.4m) in public funds. He was sentenced to five years in jail, with the conviction preventing him from contesting the February 2019 presidential election. Later that year, in September, he was pardoned by President Macky Sall.

Khalifa Sall contested the 2024 presidential election as the candidate representing the Manko Taxawu Senegal (Coalition for the Revival of Senegal) coalition.

## Idrissa Seck

Idrissa Seck was born 9 August 1959 in Thiès.<sup>77</sup> He studied at both the Institute of Political Studies in Paris and at Princeton in the United States. He spent six years working as a consultant with the international accounting firm, PriceWaterhouseCoopers.<sup>78</sup>

Seck has spent almost four decades in politics and ran Abdoulaye Wade's presidential election campaign in 1988. Although that campaign wasn't

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<sup>73</sup> [Anta Babacar Ngom – CEO of Sedima \(Senegal's largest poultry company\)](#), African Leaders Magazine [accessed 19 April 2024]

<sup>74</sup> [Who are the main candidates in Senegal's presidential election?](#) Reuters, 7 March 2024

<sup>75</sup> Coumba Kane, [Senegal: Khalifa Sall sees his future as president](#), Le Monde, 31 January 2024

<sup>76</sup> [Who are the main candidates in Senegal's presidential election?](#) Reuters, 7 March 2024

<sup>77</sup> [Decision of the Constitutional Council on presidential candidacies](#), Republic of Senegal Official Journal (archive). 26 January 2007

<sup>78</sup> [Senegal's premier party hack](#), BBC News Online, 11 November 2002

successful, Seck played a key role in Wade's victory in the presidential election in 2000.<sup>79</sup>

Seck has held several ministerial positions during his career and, during President Wade's administration, was appointed prime minister, serving from 2002-2004. He left that post after being sacked over allegations of embezzlement, and spent several months in jail before his case was dismissed.<sup>80</sup>

In 2006, Seck founded his own party – the Rewmi party (Rewmi translates as “country” or “nation” in Wolof, a widely-spoken language in Senegal) – and challenged Wade in the 2007 presidential election. Seck came second.

He then contested the 2012 presidential election, but failed to progress to the second round run-off poll. In 2019, Seck again came second in the presidential election, securing 21% of the vote.<sup>81</sup>

## Others:

The other candidates for the 2024 presidential election were: Boubacar Camara (Party of Construction and Solidarity); Aliou Mamadou Dia (Party for Unity and Rally); Mamadou Lamine Diallo (National Patriotic Union / Tekki); El Hadji Mamadou Diao (Independent); Déthié Fall (Republican Party for Progress); Papa Djibril Fall (The Servants); El Hadji Malick Gackou (Grand Party); Serigne Mboup (Independent); Daouda Ndiaye (Independent); Cheikh Tidiane Ndiéye (Independent); Thierno Alassane Sall (Republic of Values); and Habib Sy (Independent).

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<sup>79</sup> [Senegal's premier party hack](#), BBC News Online, 11 November 2002

<sup>80</sup> [Who are the main candidates in Senegal's presidential election?](#) Reuters, 7 March 2024

<sup>81</sup> As above

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