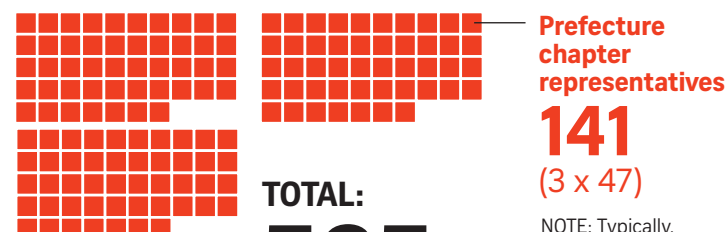
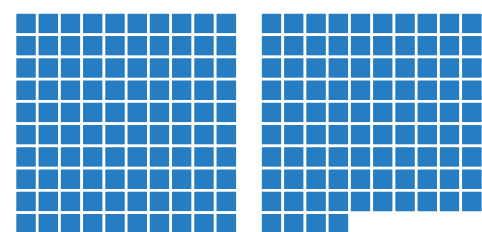
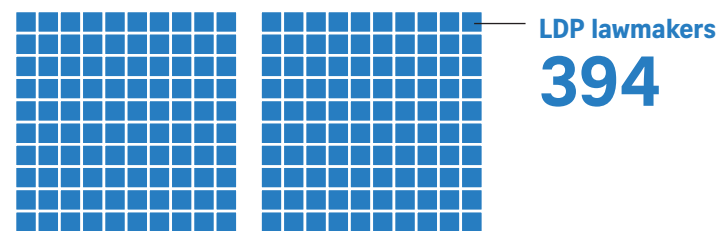


# How Japan's next PM will be chosen

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will vote for their new president, with outgoing leader Shinzo Abe having resigned over a flare-up of a chronic condition. **Japan Correspondent Walter Sim** looks at how the race stacks up.

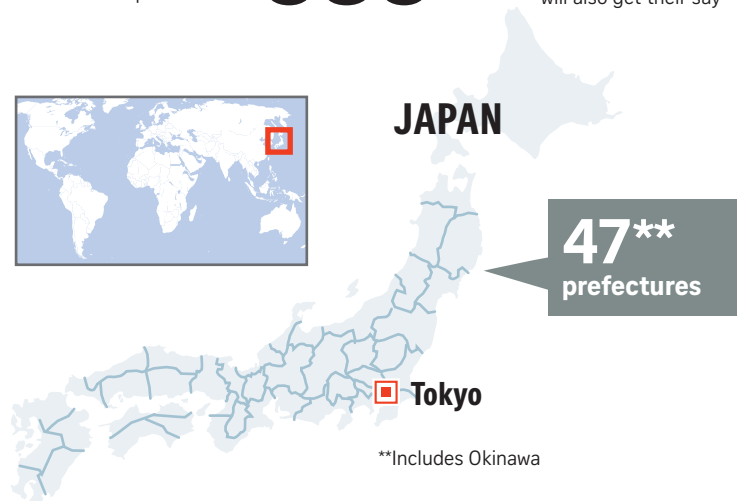
## KEY DATES

SEPT 14\*



\*Scaled down process

NOTE: Typically, rank-and-file grassroots members will also get their say



SEPT 16

Parliament will inaugurate the new PM. As the LDP has a majority in the Diet, its leader is traditionally the prime minister

SEPT 2021

The next LDP presidential election. While the LDP leader has a three-year tenure, the winner this time will only serve the remainder of Mr Abe's term

BY OCT 2021

A Lower House election is due to elect the government

## STATE OF PLAY

The LDP is ruled by factional politics, and lawmakers typically vote along faction lines. This has led many early hopefuls who had indicated interest to drop out of the race. Here are the three contenders.



**YOSHIHIDE SUGA, 71**

Chief Cabinet Secretary

### Hosoda faction

Leader: Ex-chief Cabinet secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda

Key members: PM Shinzo Abe, Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, ex-defence chief Tomomi Inada, ex-education minister Hakubun Shimomura

**98**  
MPs

### Aso faction

Leader: DPM Taro Aso

Key member: Defence Minister Taro Kono

**54**  
MPs

### Nikai faction

Leader: LDP secretary-general Toshihiro Nikai

**47**  
MPs

### Takeshita faction

Leader: Ex-reconstruction minister Wataru Takeshita

Key members: Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Health Minister Katsunobu Kato

**54**  
MPs

### FUMIO KISHIDA, 63

Ex-foreign minister/  
LDP Policy Research  
Council chairman

#### Kishida faction

**47**  
MPs

Leader:  
Fumio  
Kishida



### SHIGERU ISHIBA, 63

Ex-defence minister/  
Ex-LDP  
secretary-general

#### Ishiba faction

**19**  
MPs

Leader:  
Shigeru  
Ishiba



### UNDECLARED

#### Tanigaki group

**17**  
MPs

#### Ishihara faction

**11**  
MPs

#### Unaffiliated lawmakers

**47**  
MPs

## SHINZO ABE



### Japan's longest-serving prime minister

- Born Sept 21, 1954, in Tokyo
- Son of a former foreign minister and grandson of a former PM
- Leader of Liberal Democratic Party

**1977**

Graduated from Seikei University

**1979-1982**

Worked at Kobe Steel before turning to politics

**1993**

First time elected to Parliament

**2006-2007**

First term as prime minister but resigned citing health problems in part

**Since 2012**

Second term as PM

**Aug 28, 2020**

Announced resignation over health problems