

Tymoshenko's Fatherland party most popular in Ukraine at 11%

Ukraine

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Analyst: "It's worth noting that the Russian-oriented electorate has risen from previous polls to over 16% with the emergence of the For Life party (compared to 41.9% for pro-Western parties)."

KYIV, Aug 1, 2017 - The Fatherland party led by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has the most support among the Ukrainian public at 11.2%, Concorde Capital informed clients, based on a poll conducted by two leading Kyiv think tanks. Fatherland is a pro-EU populist party. The Poroshenko Bloc, the president's patronage party, would earn 9.3% of those likely to vote, while the Russian-oriented Opposition Bloc would earn 8.4%. The pro-EU, reform-oriented Civic Position party led by former Defense Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko would earn 8.3%. The Russian-oriented For Life party led by media mogul Vadym Rabinovych would earn 7.7%, the populist Radical Party led by Oleh Liashko would earn 7.3% and the pro-EU, Self-Reliance party led by Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi would earn 5.8%. More than 48% of respondents want early parliamentary elections to be held. The poll was conducted of 2,018 respondents by the Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Fund and the Razumkov Center between June 9 and 13. Concorde analyst Zenon Zawada added: "It's remarkable that the poll ratings of Poroshenko and his party are as low, if not lower, than any sitting Ukrainian president, yet not a single group of leaders in the country's political elite has been able to put together any significant opposition force. This is partly due to the president's harsh tactics against political rivals, as demonstrated with the recent decision to strip Mikheil Saakashvili of his citizenship. (Saakashvili was in the process of forming a pro-EU, reforms-oriented opposition force.) The president also succeeded in depressing public support for Sadovyi's Self-Reliance party with the garbage scandal in the city of Lviv. Yet the lack of an opposition force is also related to the moral bankruptcy of Ukraine's elite, which has failed to produce a single political party that is trusted and supported by the public in 25 years of Ukrainian independence. The Fatherland party scored political points on its campaign against the IMF demand to launch the farmland market in Ukraine. (Ukraine is among the world's few countries forbidding the trade of farmland.) Tymoshenko is on pace to become the leading opposition force to Poroshenko in the 2019 elections. While it will continue to hammer the government on the poor economic conditions, it remains to be seen whether it will gradually adopt an appeasement position with Russia to attract eastern and southern Ukrainian voters. It's worth noting that the Russian-oriented electorate has risen from previous polls to over 16% with the emergence of the For Life party (compared to 41.9% for pro-Western parties).

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