

Three Latvias at the ballot box

Growing, shrinking and departed · Turnout in the 15th Saeima election ·

October 2026



One number hides three processes

51.79%

Total turnout in
the 2026 election

–109,727 voters
compared with
2022

57.7%

Voters in Latvia

57.5% in 2018

11.6%

Voters abroad

roughly one in nine
voted

10.9%

Early voting

of eligible voters
(4.1% in 2022)

Diaspora: more voters, fewer ballots

Eligible voters registered abroad up
~48%; those who voted down ~27%.

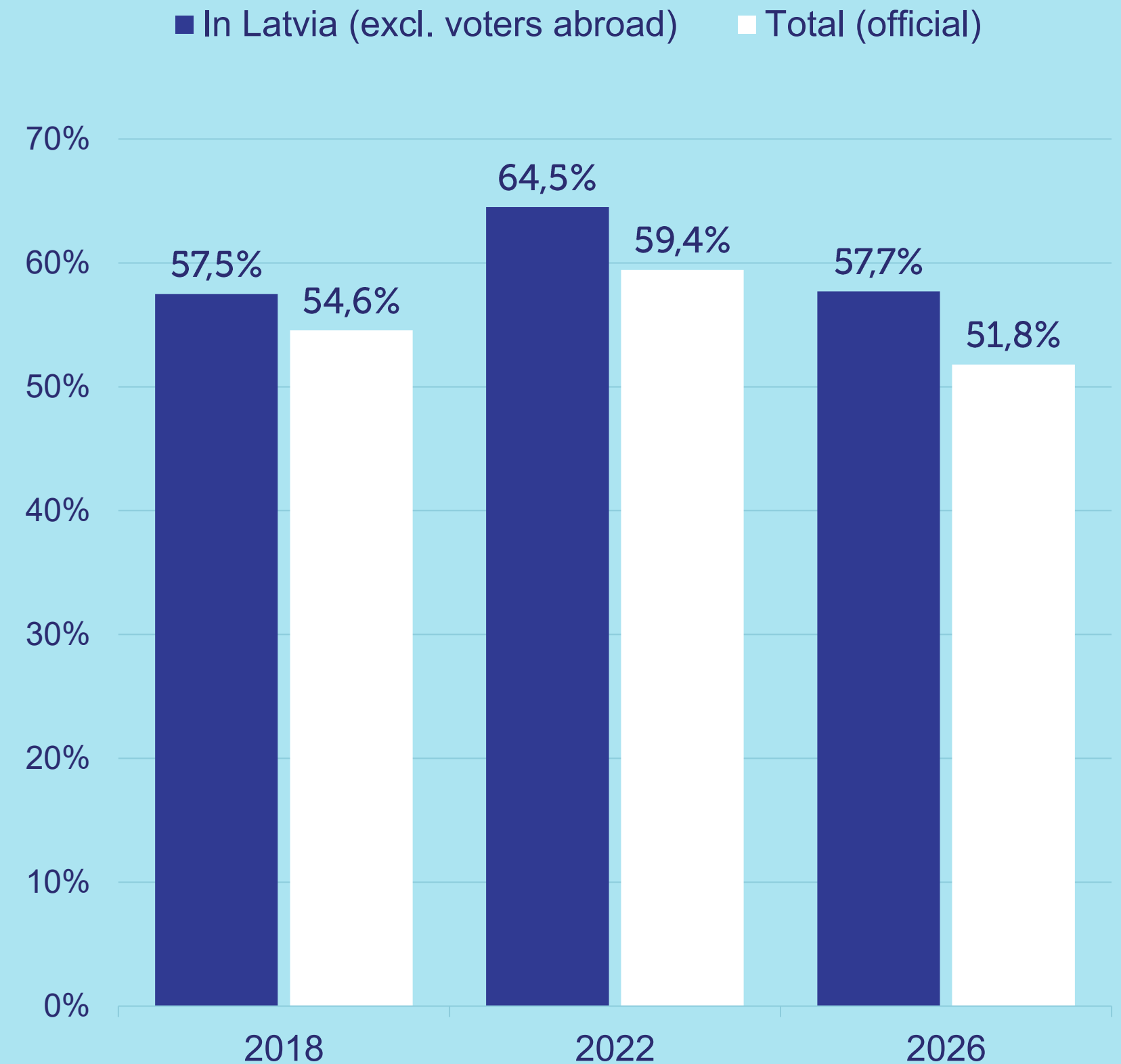
Turnout abroad: 23.7% → 11.6%.

Gap between turnout in Latvia and
the overall figure: ~3 → ~6
percentage points.



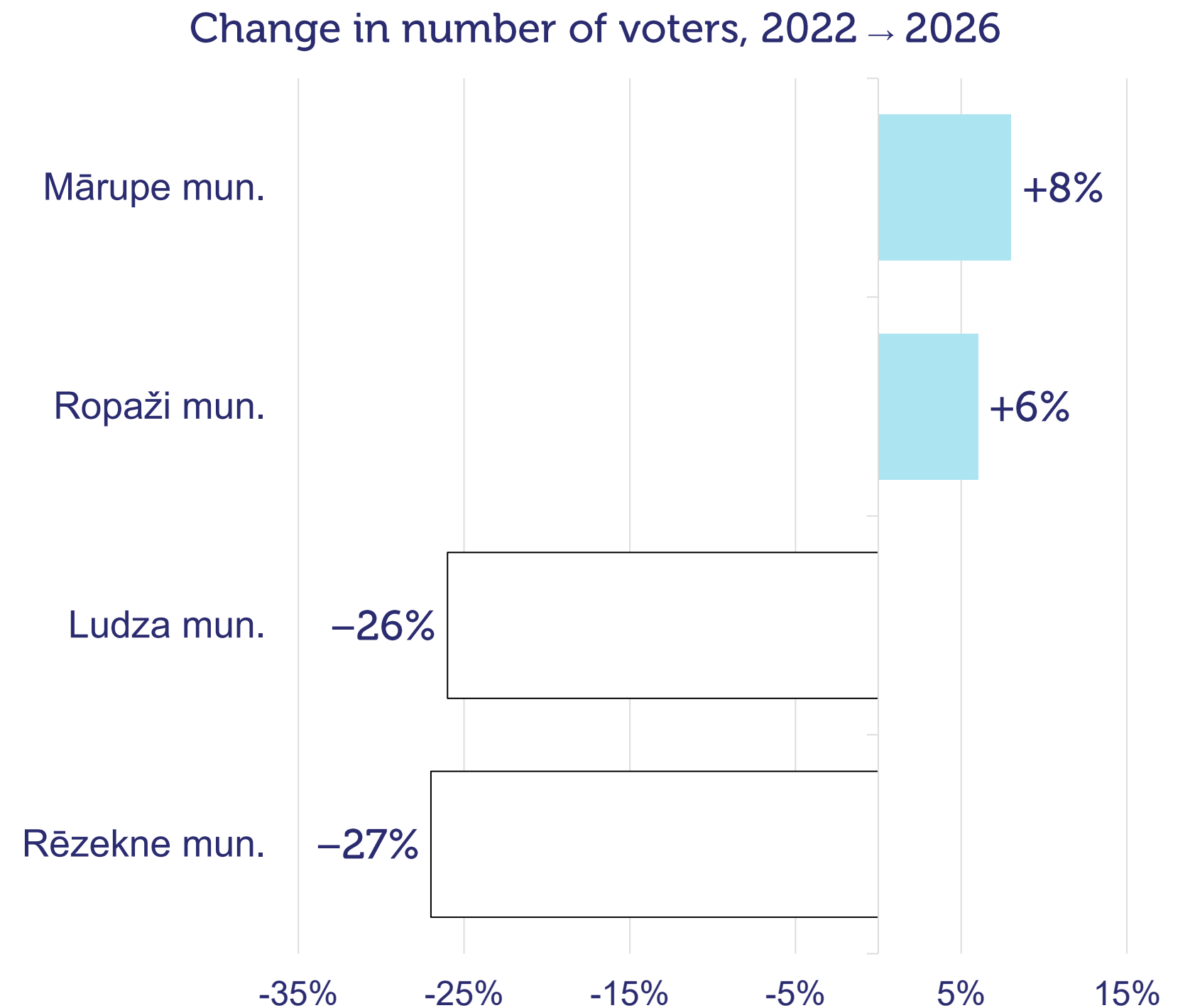
2022 was a mobilization peak

- Turnout among voters in Latvia is back at its 2018 level.
- Riga: 63.2% → 67.5% → 63.8%.
- Latgale 2026: 47.2% – higher than in 2018 (43.4%).
- Rural municipalities: ~9% fewer voters than in 2018.



Aging areas shrink, Riga suburbs grow

- The decline is concentrated in municipalities with older populations.
- In Latgale ~24,600 fewer people voted than in 2022.
- The growing Riga suburbs gained voters.



Demography, not ethnicity

Turnout decline

- Closely linked to an area's demographic structure – concentrated in aging municipalities.
- The link holds when controlling for ethnic composition and electoral district.

Share of ethnic Russians

- Only very weakly linked to the fall in voters and not statistically significant.
- But closely linked to the geography of party support (Latvia First).

Municipal-level data describe areas, not the behavior of individual voters.



What we don't know yet: ID documents

In 2022 expired IDs were still accepted; the OCMA reported 26,661 people without a valid document.

No such exemption applied in 2026.

The impact is unknown – Providus calls on the OCMA (PMLP) to publish data for 2018, 2022 and 2026.

What to do

Instead of a single headline percentage, we need timely, accurate and easy-to-use data showing where turnout is falling and which barriers affect voters.

OCMA (PMLP) data on ID documents

Simplify diaspora voting

Two turnout figures

In-depth territorial analysis and a democracy audit



Not apathy, but the sum of several processes

Diaspora: more registered, lower turnout.

In Latvia: the 2022 surge has faded; turnout is at its 2018 level.

Shrinking areas: a deeper, long-term decline.

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Thank you!

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Data: CEC (2026 provisional), OCMA; calculations by Providus

