

## Polity IV Country Report 2006: Lithuania

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2005</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2006</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Polity:</b></td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Democ:</b></td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Autoc:</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Durable:</b></td> <td></td> <td>15</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tentative:</b></td> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2005	2006	Change	<b>Polity:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Democ:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Autoc:</b>	0	0	0	<b>Durable:</b>		15		<b>Tentative:</b>		No		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Authority Trends, 1991-2006: Lithuania</b></p>
Score:	2005	2006	Change																						
<b>Polity:</b>	10	10	0																						
<b>Democ:</b>	10	10	0																						
<b>Autoc:</b>	0	0	0																						
<b>Durable:</b>		15																							
<b>Tentative:</b>		No																							
SCODE	LIT	CCODE	368	Date of Report	18 November 2007																				
<b>Polity IV Component Variables</b>																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
3	3	4	7	5	5																				
<b>Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)</b>																									
End Date			Begin Date																						
			6 September 1991 (Ind.)																						
<b>Polity Fragmentation: No</b>																									
<b>Constitution</b>																									
1992																									
<b>Executive(s)</b>																									
Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas (LSDP); appointed by Parliament, 4 July 2006 President Valdas Adamkus; directly elected, 13 June 2004, 52.6%																									
<b>Legislature</b>																									
Unicameral: Parliament [or <i>Seimas</i> ] (141 seats; 71 members directly elected, 70 proportionally elected; most recent elections, 10 and 24 October 2004) Labour Party (DP): 39 Homeland Union (TS): 25 Lithuanian Social Democratic Party (LSDP): 20 Liberal and Centre Union (LCS): 18 Other parties: 33 Non-partisans: 6																									
<b>Judiciary</b>																									
Supreme Court																									

### Narrative Description:

#### **Executive Recruitment: Competitive Elections (8)**

The Lithuanian prime minister is recruited through a competitive multiparty electoral system. The majority party (or majority coalition) in the National Assembly selects the chief executive. Members of the legislature are popularly elected.

#### **Executive Constraints: Executive Parity or Subordination (7)**

As outlined in the 1992 constitution, the Seimas is the highest organ of state authority. While executive authority primarily falls within the hands of the prime minister, in recent years the role of the president has been strengthened. As a result, the Lithuanian political system has shifted from one dominated by the

legislature to one of parity between the executive and legislative branches. The judicial branch is largely free from executive influence.

**Political Participation: Institutionalized Open Electoral Competition (10)**

Political participation in Lithuania is highly competitive and institutionalized. Since independence Lithuanian has swung between governments of the right-wing Homeland Union and the left-wing Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party (the reformed Communist Party). However, in the aftermath of the October 2000 elections a centrist coalition government was formed despite the electoral victory of the Social Democratic Coalition (led by the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party). This centrist coalition collapsed in June 2001. Following legislative elections in October 2004, Prime Minister Brazauskas was reappointed and subsequently formed a coalition government composed of the LSDP, the New Union–Social Liberals (NS-SL), the populist Labour Party (DP), and the Farmers and New Democracy Union (VNDPS). In the summer of 2006 Prime Minister Brazauskas resigned after the Labor Party pulled out of the governing coalition. Parliament approved the President’s second nominee for the post of Prime Minister, Gediminas Kirkilas. The new Social Democrat government represents the fourteenth administration in fifteen years of independence. The Government generally respects freedom of speech, press and human rights. The rights of the country’s Slavic minorities are protected.