

## Polity IV Country Report 2010: Lithuania

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2009</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2010</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>19</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tentative:</b></td> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2009	2010	Change	<b>Polity:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Democ:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Autoc:</b>	0	0	0	<b>Durable:</b>		19		<b>Tentative:</b>		No		
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SCODE	LIT	CCODE	368	Date of Report	1 June 2011																				
<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 Andrius Kubilius (TS-LKD); appointed by Parliament, 9 December 2008 President Dalia Grybauskaite; directly elected, 17 May 2009; 69.1%																								
<b>Legislature</b>	Unicameral: Parliament [or <i>Seimas</i> ] (141 seats; 71 members directly elected, 70 proportionally elected; most recent elections, 12 and 26 October 2008) Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats (TS-LKD): 45 Social Democratic Party of Lithuania (LSP): 25 National Resurrection Party (TPP): 16 Order and Justice (TT): 15 Other parties: 36 Non-partisans: 4																								
<b>Judiciary</b>	Supreme Court																								

### Narrative Description:<sup>1</sup>

#### **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. Since independence Lithuania 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

<sup>1</sup> The research described in this report was sponsored by the Political Instability Task Force (PITF). The PITF is funded by the Central Intelligence Agency. The views expressed herein are the authors' alone and do not represent the views of the US 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 represented the fourteenth administration in fifteen years of independence. In parliamentary elections held 28 October 2008, conservatives defeated the Social Democrats and the leader of the Homeland Union, Andrius Kubilius, was elected prime minister on 27 November 2008.

**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. The political parties represent a range of competing ideologies and platforms but they are largely unanimous on most issues regarding the country's democratization process, its transition to a market economy, and membership in NATO and the EU. The Government generally respects freedom of speech, press and human rights. The rights of the country's Slavic minorities are protected.