
PORTUGAL'S SOCIALISTS LOSE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN AZORES REGIONAL ELECTION

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Portugals governing Socialist Party came first in Sundays Azores regional election but lost its absolute majority in the islands parliament, a blow for Prime Minister António Costa in his first ballot-box test since the coronavirus pandemic.

The Socialists (PS) scored 39.1 percent, a surprise drop of over 7 points from four years ago and their worst performance in the region in 24 years. The main center-right opposition Social Democratic Party (PSD) won 33.7 percent, up 3 points.

The far-right Chega party captured 5 percent of the vote to enter the regional parliament for the first time, just behind the conservative CDS-Peoples Party on 5.5 percent.

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