



THE ALBANIAN RENEWAL (RINISJA SHQIPTARE) · DOCUMENT 2

THE NEW CONSTITUTION — EXPLAINED

The New Constitution — Explained

English edition of “Kushtetuta e Re — Shpjeguar”

What the Albanian Renewal proposes, how it will work, and why

KUSHTETUTË E RE

SISTEMI I ZVICRËS - DEMOKRACIA E DREJTPËRDREJTË

— REVOLUCIONI I POPULLIT. FUQIA ËSHTË TE TI. —

DEMOCRACI E DREJTPËRDREJTË
Populli vendos përmes referendumeve dhe iniciativave popullore.

REFERENDUM DHE INICIATIVË POPULLORE
Çdo qytetar ka zërin e tij.

SHTET LIGJOR DHE TRANSPARENT
Të gjithë janë të barabartë para ligjit

MBROJTJA E TË DREJTAVE DHE LIRIVE THEMELORE
Dinjtet i njeriut, liria dhe drejtësia janë të paprekshme.

FIRMOS PETICIONIN TANI!

ÇDO FIRMË ËSHTË NJË VOTË PËR TË ARDHMEN TONË!

FIRMOS ONLINE PËR TË ARDHMEN E RE

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— AS NARTA · AS RRJOLLI · AS MALET —

TË VONUAR JEMI - MË TË MIRËN TË ZGJEDHIM!

WIRTSCHAFTSUNION
ÖSTERREICH - ALBANIEN

BE

NJË NISMË E MBËSHTETUR NGA

USA

SCHWEIZ

NJË E ARDHMË ME DREJTËSI, LIRI DHE DINJITET!

Information material for signatories · IASEE–RISE Citizens' Initiative

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June 2026

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This document explains, in plain language, the new constitution proposed by the petition. It accompanies the petition and the letter to the Venice Commission. Our aim is simple: for you to know exactly what you are signing — and what you gain.

1. What This Is — and What It Is Not

The Albanian Renewal proposes an entirely new constitution: written by citizens selected by lot and by non-partisan experts, and adopted directly by you, through a national referendum.

It is: a constitution written by the people; a lawful, peaceful route overseen by international institutions; a state where decisive power remains with the citizen.

It is not: it is not a coup, not violence, not a mere change of government. Nothing enters into force without your vote in a referendum.

2. Why We Need a New Constitution

According to the analysis underlying the initiative, the problem is not merely bad governance, but the way the system is built: posts, tenders and licences are distributed according to political loyalty rather than ability. The most visible consequence is the departure of an entire generation — the resident population fell from **3,182,417 in the 1989 census to 2,402,113 in 2023** — a decline of about 780,000 residents, of which 429,628 (–15.2%) since the 2011 census alone, driven principally by emigration.¹

The new constitution attacks the cause, not the symptom: it makes meritocracy the rule, patronage a violation, and the citizen decisive.

3. Five Founding Principles

- **Sovereignty of the people** — all power flows from the people and returns to the people.
- **Ban on patronage** — the distribution of posts on the basis of loyalty is declared a constitutional violation.
- **Meritocracy** — public employment and procurement only through open and transparent competition.
- **Decentralisation** — power and budget descend to the cantons and municipalities.
- **Citizen correctives** — referendums, recall and transparency that keep power under your control.

4. How the State Will Be Governed

The Governing Board — the executive

Instead of a single Prime Minister, a Board of 3 members is created, with the chair rotating each year. Why? Because a single point of power is also the single point of capture. Three persons, elected directly on non-partisan lists, make capture far harder and destroy the cult of personality.

The new parliament — 100 seats, all elected

A firm principle: every seat is won by vote. No seat in parliament is filled by appointment or by a quota set from above — all 100 members are elected directly by citizens.

The seats are divided among four open electoral colleges, which guarantee broad representation:

- 60 seats — the general citizens' college.
- 15 seats — the college of science, culture and academia.
- 15 seats — the college of education.

- 10 seats — the diaspora college, voted by the diaspora itself.

The right to stand belongs to the individual, not the party. Every citizen meeting objective, verifiable criteria may self-declare as a candidate in one of the colleges, without needing any party's approval; no party and no body may block a qualified candidate; verification is carried out by an independent electoral authority under the same rules for all. All citizens vote for all colleges with equal weight: the colleges determine only who may stand, not who may vote (the diaspora college being the exception). A variant in which each sector elects its own was also examined; the universal vote was chosen, to preserve equality of the vote and alignment with European standards. The mandate lasts 4 years, with the possibility of early recall by the people.

The judiciary — elected, not appointed

Judges are not appointed by parliament and do not depend on it. Each position in the Constitutional Court and the High Court is filled directly by referendum: citizens vote separately for each position. This breaks the chain of appointments that made the judiciary capturable by politics.

So that quality and independence are guaranteed simultaneously, for each position an independent qualification commission (not parliament, not the parties) selects a shortlist of qualified candidates on objective criteria of integrity, competence and experience; then the people choose among them by referendum, uniting merit with popular legitimacy. Mandates are long and non-renewable, removing the pressure of re-election that endangers independence. (A fully open variant was also examined, in which every qualified candidate goes directly to the vote without a shortlist; the shortlist model was chosen, because it gives stronger quality guarantees and aligns better with the Venice Commission's standards for judicial independence.) The Prosecutor General becomes independent and protected from political interference.

5. The Citizen's Direct Power

This is the heart of the model — three mechanisms that place power in your hands:

- **Binding citizen-initiative referendums** — the people hold the final veto over major laws, constitutional amendments and the national budget.
- **Constitutional recall** — any senior official may be recalled directly by the people, through an expedited procedure.
- **Fiscal transparency** — every public contract, official salary and fund is published automatically, in real time.

6. Cantonal Decentralisation — What It Means for You

Today decisions and money are gathered in Tirana. The cantonal model returns them close to you: local budgets and decisions, taken where you live. To avoid fragmentation and local capture, cantons are built initially as a reorganisation of the existing 12 counties (qarqe) under the current decentralisation law, with fiscal self-governance. Cantonal prosecutors and police chiefs are not appointed locally, but controlled centrally by SPAK, so that decentralisation does not turn into capture by local strongmen.

The archaic term “pleqësi/bajrak” is replaced by the Council of Senior Experienced Persons (over 60, after vetting): citizen advisory chambers and community courts of mediation and reconciliation under the principle of subsidiarity — without archaic terms, within European standards.

7. What Happens to Parties and to Your Vote

This is the most debated question, so we explain it openly and without embellishment. The new order is built on open candidacy and direct decision-making: you vote for people and issues, not party machines. The main protection against capture is precisely the open right of candidacy — since every qualified individual may run without any party's permission, no party can monopolise access to power.

At the same time — and this is essential — freedom of political organisation and pluralism are protected for the future, in line with Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Copenhagen criteria. There is

no ban on parties, but decriminalisation and transparency: a lifetime bar on candidacy only for any person convicted by final judgment or declared “non grata”; 100% transparent financing; no business money in campaigns. The measures are tied to conviction, not to mere investigation, to respect the presumption of innocence.

Your vote is not weakened — it is strengthened: you gain binding referendums, the right to recall officials, and a citizen veto over laws and the budget.

8. How It Will Happen — the 0–24 Month Timeline

A clear, step-by-step route, internationally overseen:

1. Mobilisation (0–3 months): gathering signatures.
2. Anchoring (1–6 months): oversight by the USA, Switzerland and the EU (the Venice Commission).
3. Assembly (3–9 months): citizens by lot + non-partisan experts draft the text.
4. Ratification (9–12 months): national referendum — a “YES” vote brings it into force.
5. Cantonisation (12–18 months): full decentralisation.
6. The new state (18–24 months): first elections on a merit basis.

9. Frequently Asked Questions

Is it lawful?

Yes. Nothing enters into force without your approval in a referendum, and the entire process is required to be overseen by the Venice Commission and international partners.

Is it a coup?

No. The people decide by vote, not force. The route is peaceful, open and documented.

Who writes the constitution?

Citizens selected by lot, together with non-partisan experts, in a public and transparent manner — not the parties.

What if I disagree with a part?

The final text is approved by you in a referendum. You may also vote AGAINST; nothing is imposed.

Will it create chaos?

No. There is a clear 0–24 month calendar, with a Caretaker Technical Government of limited mandate (administration + elections), 6–12 months, under international oversight and without political power.

What prevents a new capture?

Four protective walls at once: decentralisation, compulsory meritocracy, real-time transparency, and your right to referendum and recall.

Does the EU support it?

The process is tied to accession conditions and requires the technical review of the Venice Commission. The accompanying letter (Document 4) explains this request in detail.

What do I gain concretely?

More direct power, a merit-based administration, full transparency, and a state that does not force the young to leave.

10. Complementary Material: Economy and Correctives

Beyond the institutional architecture, the new constitution is also supported by complementary material brought by the initiative:

- **The second rail — the economy:** a prosperity engine with the common Albania–Kosovo market, community banks, a functioning stock exchange, and property resolution on the German model.

- **Additional citizen correctives:** citizen juries selected by lot and popular recall of senior officials, complementing referendums and fiscal transparency.
- **The amendment tool:** the new order can also be built through successive citizen-initiative referendums, making the process entirely lawful, peaceful and irreversible.

11. How to Take Part

Sign and share it with others: ia-see.com/peticioni

The more signatures, the stronger the citizens' mandate — and the harder any attempt to block it.

Sources

¹ INSTAT, Population and Housing Census 2023 (2,402,113); 1989 census: 3,182,417; 2011 census: 2,831,741; decline of 429,628 (–15.2%) since 2011. instat.gov.al.