



DEMOCRACY

# Elections on April 2nd

The campaign will start on March 19th, once the finals of the Ski World Cup are over

Next Monday, February 13th, at 12:00 p.m. is the deadline to submit nominations

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ANDORRA LA VELLA  
@PeriodicAND

After weeks of rumors, the head of government, Xavier Espot, confirmed last Monday that the next general elections will be held on Sunday, April 2nd. The electoral campaign will start on March 19th, which, unlike previous years, will start at 3:00 p.m., instead of 12:00 p.m., so as not to overlap with the finals of the Alpine Skiing World Cup that they will play in Grandvalira. In this sense, the Head of Government explained that the date chosen is not accidental: at first, April 26th was proposed, an option «impossible from a logistical and human resources point of view» for on public television and radio, which could not provide adequate coverage of the same sports competition and the electoral contest. «We know that April 2nd, Palm Sunday, is the beginning of the school holidays, but if we don't hold the elections that day, we would have to go for another two weeks and a period of almost two months would slip «totally unjustified parliamentary and legislative stoppage», asserted Espot. In this way, he added, «the only valid date» is April 2nd. In addition, it must be remembered that the head of government did not want to call the elections without the General Council having approved the budget for this year, a fact that did not occur until last Tuesday.

However, he regretted «the inconveniences» that the appointment may cause to people who already have their Easter holidays planned, but he recalled that the mechanisms exist so that everyone who wants to can cast their ballot with all the guarantees. Thus, the judicial vote will start on March 20th and can be exercised in the Batllia until April 1st, from Monday to Friday, between 09.00 and 13.00 hours. For those who are out of the country on election day, they can request to vote by mail from today until February 28th. Once the nominations have been formalized - which will be known next Monday, February 13th - the electoral material will be sent to make the whole process effective. People with disabilities can request from the Government Procedures Service the request for access to information under equal conditions until February 13th and assistance to vote, as well as transport, if required, to go at the corresponding electoral college until March 17th. Espot reminded that citizens have until to-



► The Acting Head of Government, Xavier Espot, in the announcement of the date of the elections.



**Xavier Espot**

OFFICIAL HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«Whatever the result, I am proud to have brought Andorra to a successful destination, with difficulties and some mishaps»

morrow to verify that they are registered in the electoral register of their parish, since the municipalities will publish the final lists on Thursday.

As for the political options, the deadline for submitting candidacies will be next Monday at 12:00 p.m.; the national lists will have to be presented in the administrative building of the Government and the territorial ones in the respective municipalities. As things stand, the electoral campaign will begin on March 19th and will last until the 31st and April 1st will be the day of reflection. The following day, the polling place will open between 09.00 and 19.00 hours.

Meanwhile, Espot assured that the Government, which is already in office, will not stop. «Obviously, we will not carry out big projects, but we will continue working until the last day [...] Maybe there will be those who say

that we are taking electioneering measures, but we will do what we have to do. We will govern from a criterion of prudence and we will be on the side of the citizens», pointed out the head of the Executive. Looking back, Espot as-

sured that «whatever the result, I am proud to have brought Andorra to a successful destination, with difficulties and some mishaps. Overall, however, we can say that the legislature has been positive; you just have to see our

resource capacity to help people who are going through a bad time, not because of the Government, but because of an international situation that also affects our country». «If my party [Democrats] wins, well, if not, I leave with a clear conscience of having done what I had to do when I had to do it,» he concluded.

On the other hand, the president of the Social Democratic Party (PS), Pere López, denounced having learned of the dissolution of the General Council through a press conference, which demonstrates, once again, «the way to be the head of government». However, he assured that from the PS, which has created an alliance with the Progressives-SDP, they are just finalizing the lists they will present on Monday, without confirming whether they will have candidates in all the parishes. ≡

## calendar

**Monday, February 13th**  
►► - Deadline for submitting candidacies.

**Friday, March 17th**  
►► - People with disabilities can request assistance to exercise the right to vote

**Sunday, March 19th**  
►► The electoral campaign begins, until March 31st.

**Monday, March 20th**  
►► The period for submitting the judicial vote begins. You can apply by mail until February 28.

**Saturday, April 1st**  
►► Day of reflection.

**Sunday, April 2nd**  
►► The polling place will be open from 09.00 to 19.00 hours so that citizens can vote.

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STATISTIC

# The price of flats increased by 17.7% during the last year

By parishes, Escaldes-Engordany leads the ranking (47%), followed by Encamp (26%) and La Massana (12%)

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The average price per square meter of flats transferred over the past year increased by 17.7%. In fact, according to the data made public last Monday by the Government's Department of Statistics, what increased the most in relative terms compared to 2021 was that of commercial premises (29.3%) and flats (17.7%). Thus, in the case of flats it stands at 3,266.4 euros and by parishes the price per square meter that increases the most in relative terms is in Escaldes-Engordany (by 47.1%), in Encamp (26.2%) and in La Massana (12.6%).

It should be noted that real estate transactions increased by 6.4% last year, and it was the parish of Escaldes-Engordany where the activity was more important, with an increase of 70.9%, followed by Andorra la Vella, which increases by 12.7%, while Sant Julià de Lòria is the parish where they decrease the most, by 27.7%, compared to the year 2021.

In relation to the number of real estates transferred over the course of last year, it is worth noting an increase of 19.3% compared to the previous year, especially in the case of buildings (41.7%); land (34.2%); other constructions (24.9%) and parking spaces (23.4%).



►► Aerial view of part of the central valley.

By parish, most show increases in real estate transferred compared to the previous year, notably Es-

caldes-Engordany, which grew by 138.3% and Ordino, by 31.7%; while in Sant Julià de Lòria they decre-

ase significantly, by 33.3%, compared to the previous year.

With regard to the value of real estate transferred, the increase was 33% compared to the previous year, with the most important increases in commercial premises (44.9%), land (37.3%) and parking spaces (34.1%), while warehouses, the decrease is 65.9% compared to the previous year.

By parishes, Ordino (170.3%) and Escaldes-Engordany (82.8%) stand out as the ones experiencing a more significant increase, while in Sant Julià de Lòria it decreases significantly, by 58.3%, compared to previous year.

With reference to the area transmitted last year, it has increased by 96.9% compared to the previous year. Land (150.9%) and single-family homes (44.3%) have been the immovable property that registers a higher variation in the surface area transferred; on the contrary, warehouses (58.6%) are the only goods that decrease compared to 2021. By parishes, Ordino (255.5%), Sant Julià de Lòria (244.6%), Encamp (82%) and Escaldes-Engordany (72.7%) are the four parishes with the most significant increases in the area transmitted compared to the previous year. And Andorra la Vella is the only parish where the transmitted area decreases, specifically by 16.6%. ≡

## Registered vehicles increased by 8.7% in January

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ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Vehicle registrations in January were 287, a positive variation of 8.7% compared to the same month of the previous year. Thus, Motorcycles and Mopeds have had positive variations with 43.3%, Trucks and Vans with 21.4% and Passenger Cars with 3.8%. Vehicle registrations in the last 12 months have been 4,649, a positive variation of 5.7% compared to the previous period, in which 4,397 vehicles were registered. All types of vehicles show positive variations except Passenger Cars with -20 units (-0.6%), Motorcycles and mopeds +161 units (+18.6%) and Trucks and vans +71 units (+23.7%). Regarding the type of energy, this month saw a positive variation Gasoline with 14.4%. Conversely, Gasoil with a decrease of 23.6% presents a negative variation. As for 100% electric vehicles, 10 have been registered, 2 less than in the same month of the previous year. As for hybrid vehicles, 60 were registered, 13 more than the previous year. ≡

# The financial profitability of companies grows by 3.9% in 2019.

They stand out the field of education, health activities and social services

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ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

2019 was a positive year for Andorran companies (in terms of activity, profits and profitability), and the trend started in previous years continued, according to the Depart-

ment of Statistics. The financial profitability, which calculates the relationship between the result of the exercise and the figure of the company's own funds, reached a value of 3.9% for all active companies during the year 2019, a variation positive of 22.5% compared to the previous year. With regard to the sectoral scope, and as in previous years, the Education section stands out; Health and social ser-

vices activities, with a profitability of 50.04%.

Regarding the total economic profitability, which calculates the relationship between the operating result and the total assets of the company, unequal results are observed, since the structure of the asset is linked to the sectoral characteristics of productive activity. Thus, the Education section stands out; Health and social services ac-

tivities, with an economic return of 42.33%. In contrast, the Transport and Storage section has an economic return of 0.60%, due to the strong investment in assets it needs.

In 2019, the global debt level of active companies, which calculates the relationship between external funds and the total resources of the companies, reached a value of 22.18%, an optimal situation that makes thus, the good dynamics of previous years will continue. In relation to the previous year, this indicator decreased by 0.4%, which shows that the volume of debts is decreasing and that, there-

fore, companies are gaining financial autonomy with their own resources. Thus, the lower the ratio, the lower the financial risk of the companies because the debts will be lower in relation to the total sources of financing. Debt quality, which shows how much of corporate debt is short-term (less than one year), was 45.96% in 2019, which means that more than half of the borrowing was long-term. In this way, companies' debt is considered to be of better quality when the result of the ratio is lower, which shows that they have fewer immediate obligations and more available liquidity. ≡

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