

# After Merkel, Now What? Analyzing Germany's 2021 Elections

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POLITIKWISSENSCHAFT



Annalena Baerbock  
Green Party



Armin Laschet  
CDU



Olaf Scholz  
SPD



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GÖTTINGEN

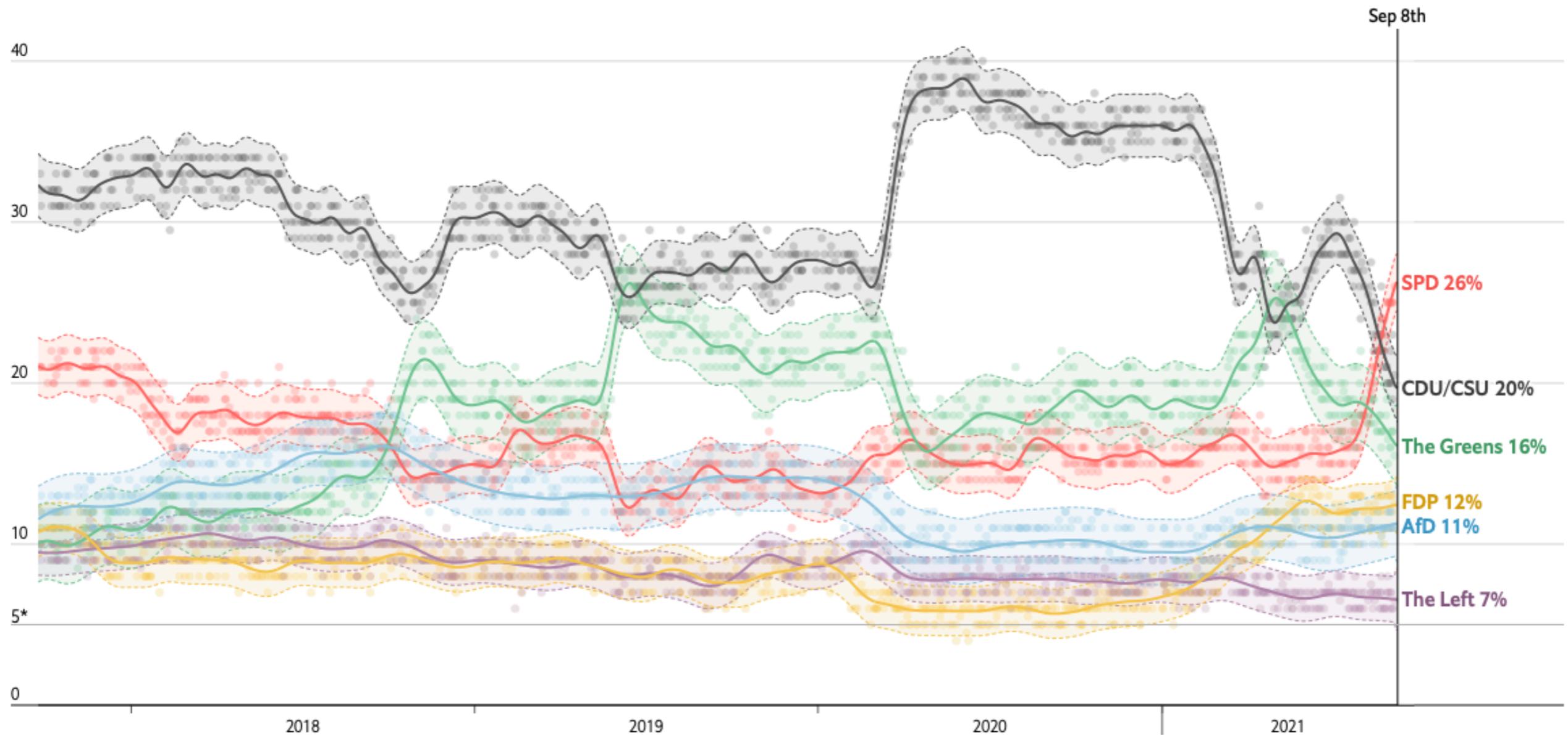
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# Opinion polls since last election 2017

Current polling, %

• Individual polls    ~ Average with 95% confidence interval

Since 2017    Past 12 months



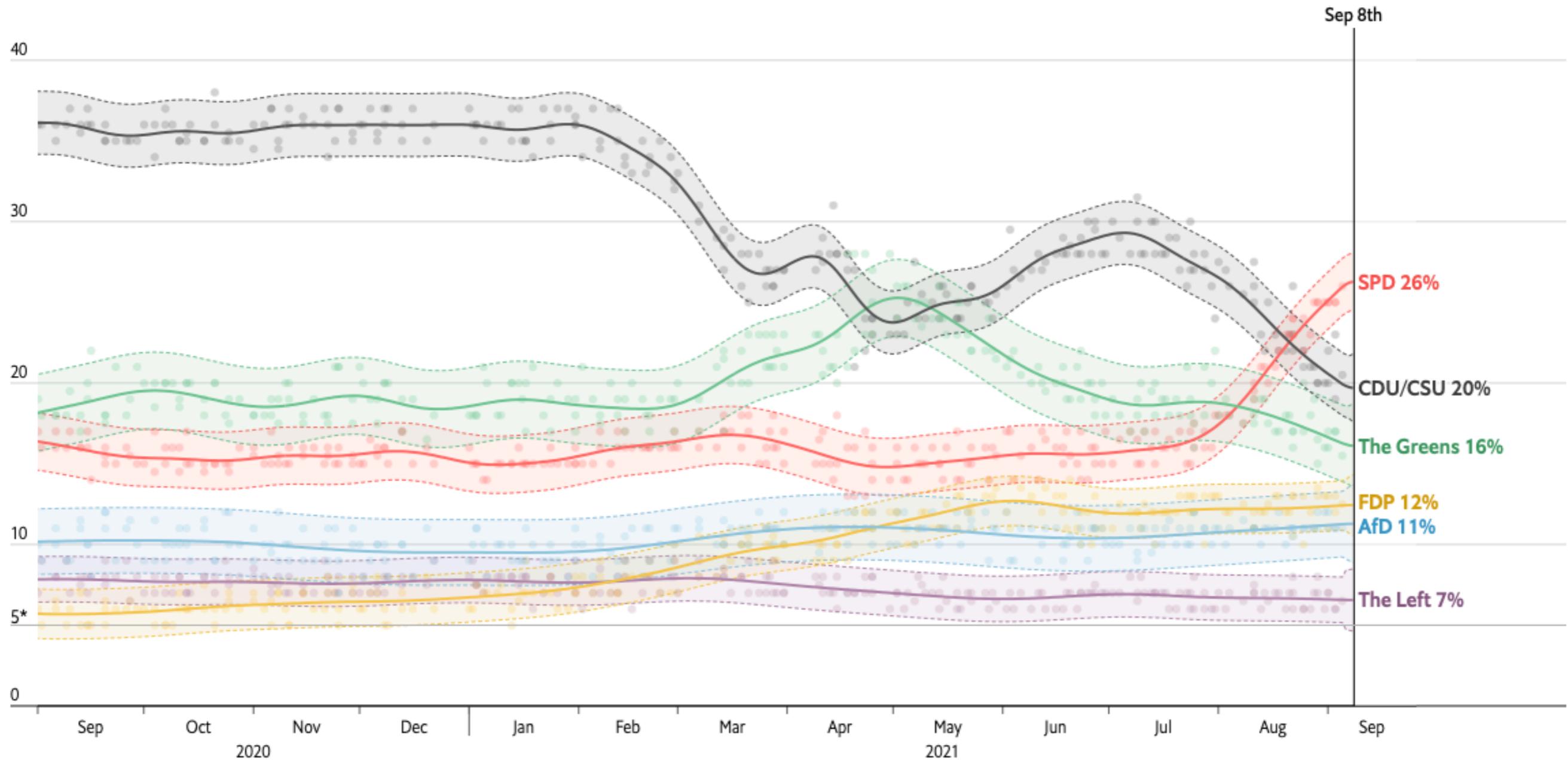
\*Parties must either win more than 5% of the vote or three seats to win proportional representation in the Bundestag

# Opinion polls, last 12 months

Current polling, %

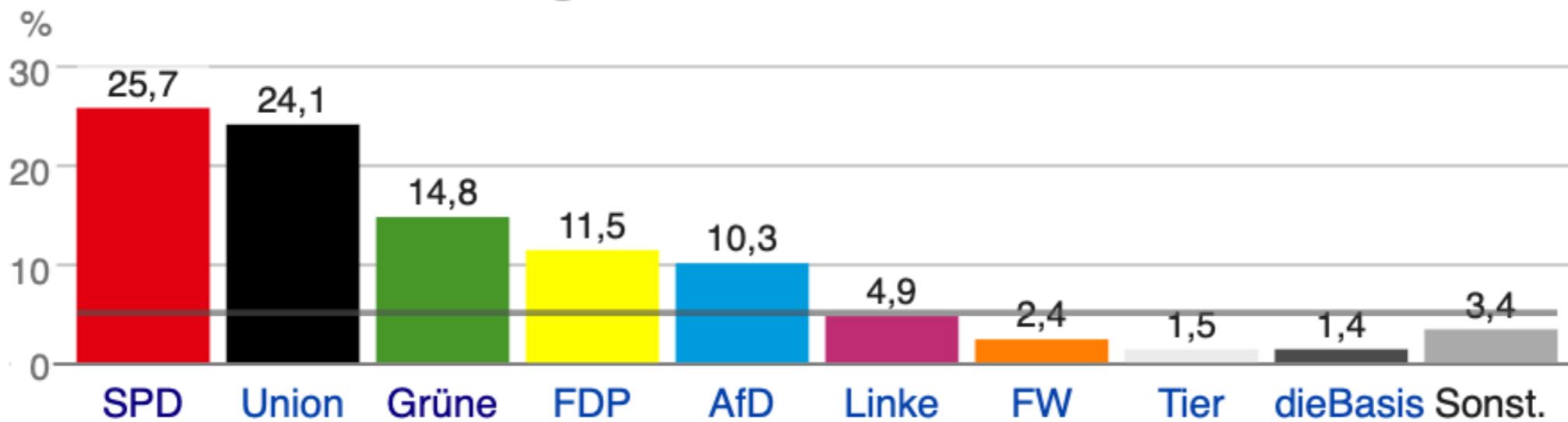
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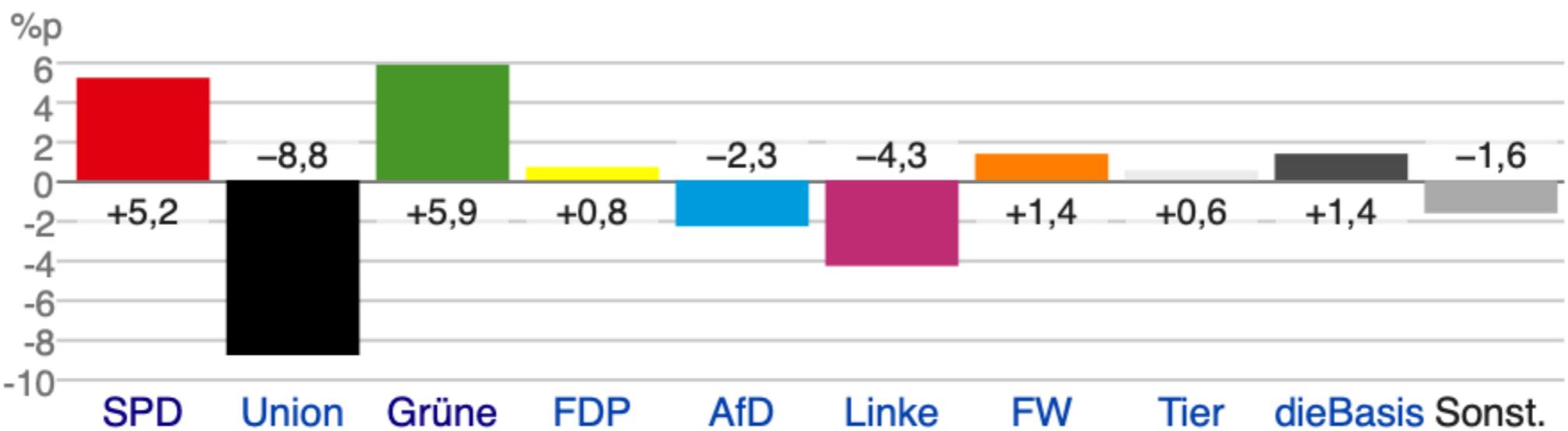


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# German general election results 2021

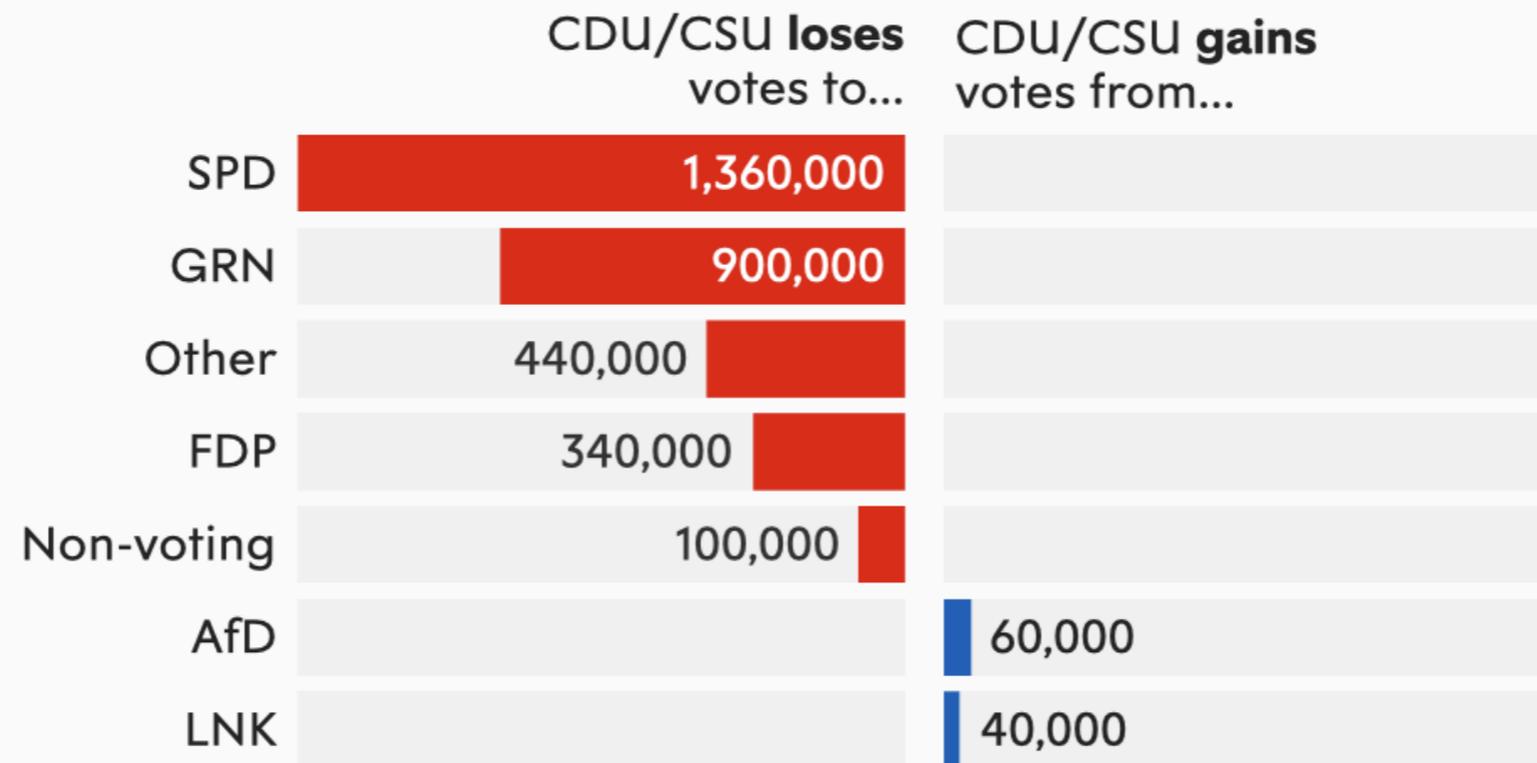


## Gains and losses over 2017 result



# CDU/CSU loses more than two million votes to the SPD and Greens

Net change in voter movement, Infratest Dimap

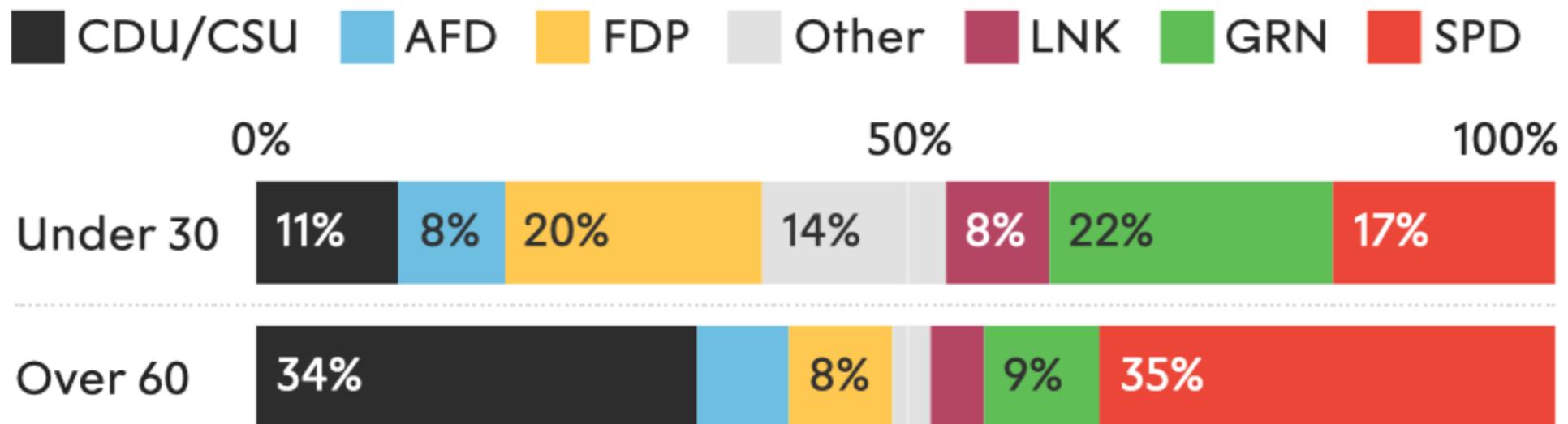


THE NEW STATESMAN



# Germany's young fall out of love with the CDU/CSU

Forschungsgruppe Wahlen exit polling



THE NEW STATESMAN

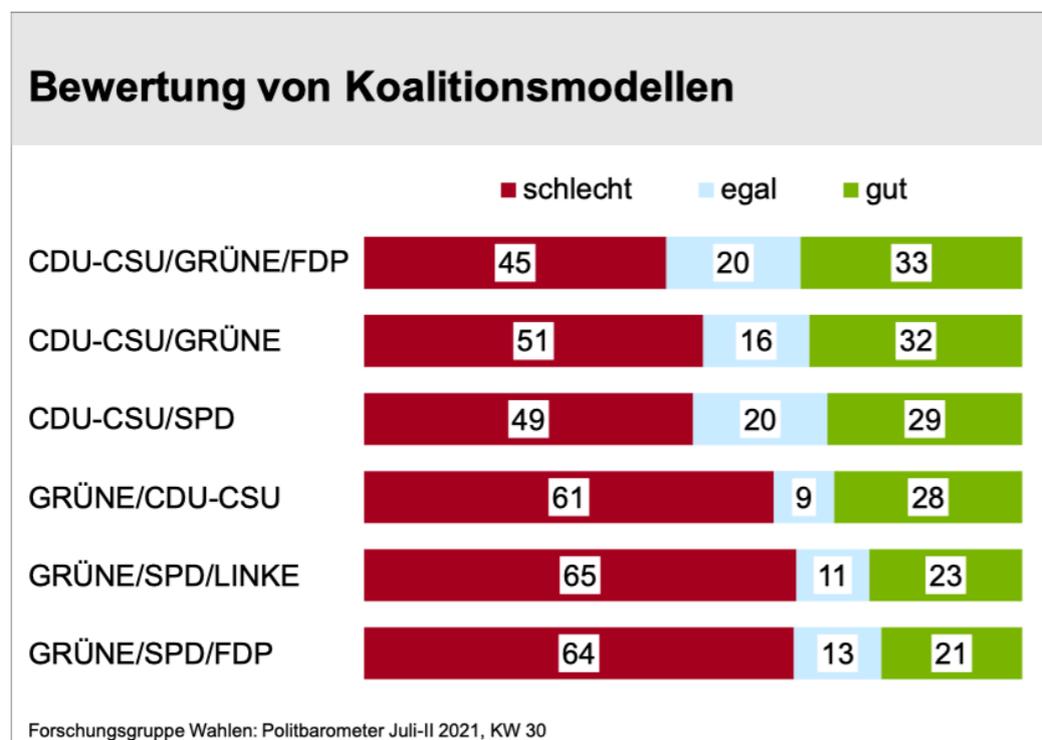


# Coalition options

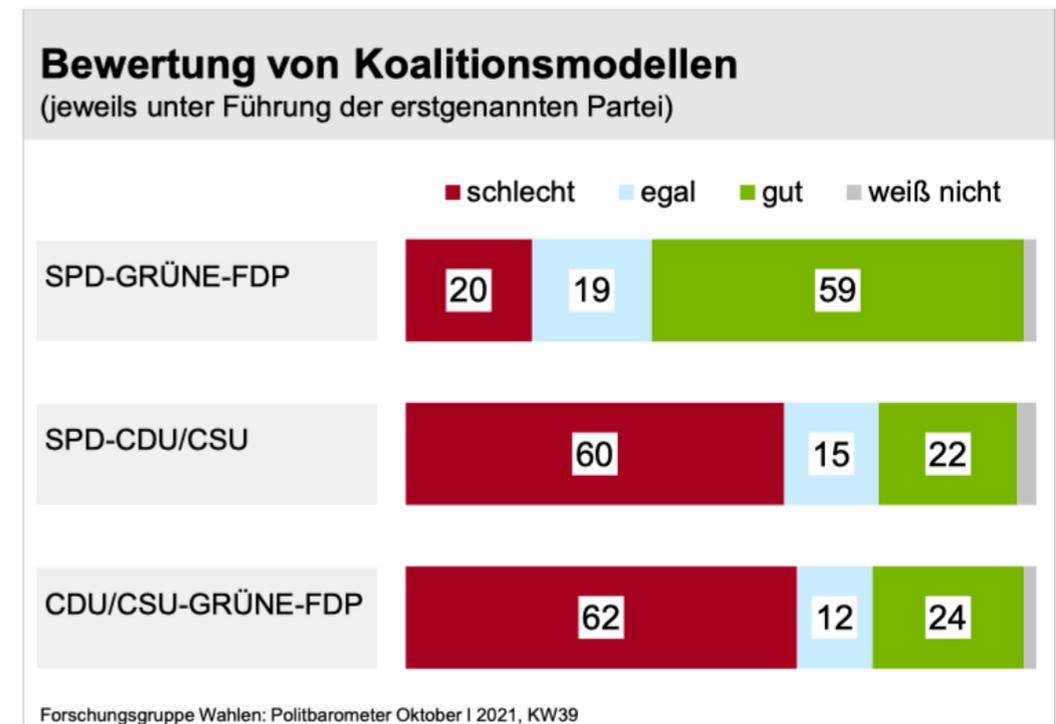
- Coalitions options without a majority
  - any traditional two-party coalitions (SPD-Greens, CDU-FDP) exc. GroKo
  - "Left" coalition (SPD + Greens + Left Party)
- 3 viable coalition options
  - SPD + CDU/CSU ("GroKo") – unpopular after eight years
  - SPD + Greens + FDP ("traffic light")
  - CDU/CSU + Greens + FDP ("Jamaica")

# Rise of the "traffic light" coalition

From least favoured to clearly preferred option in two months time



July 30<sup>th</sup>

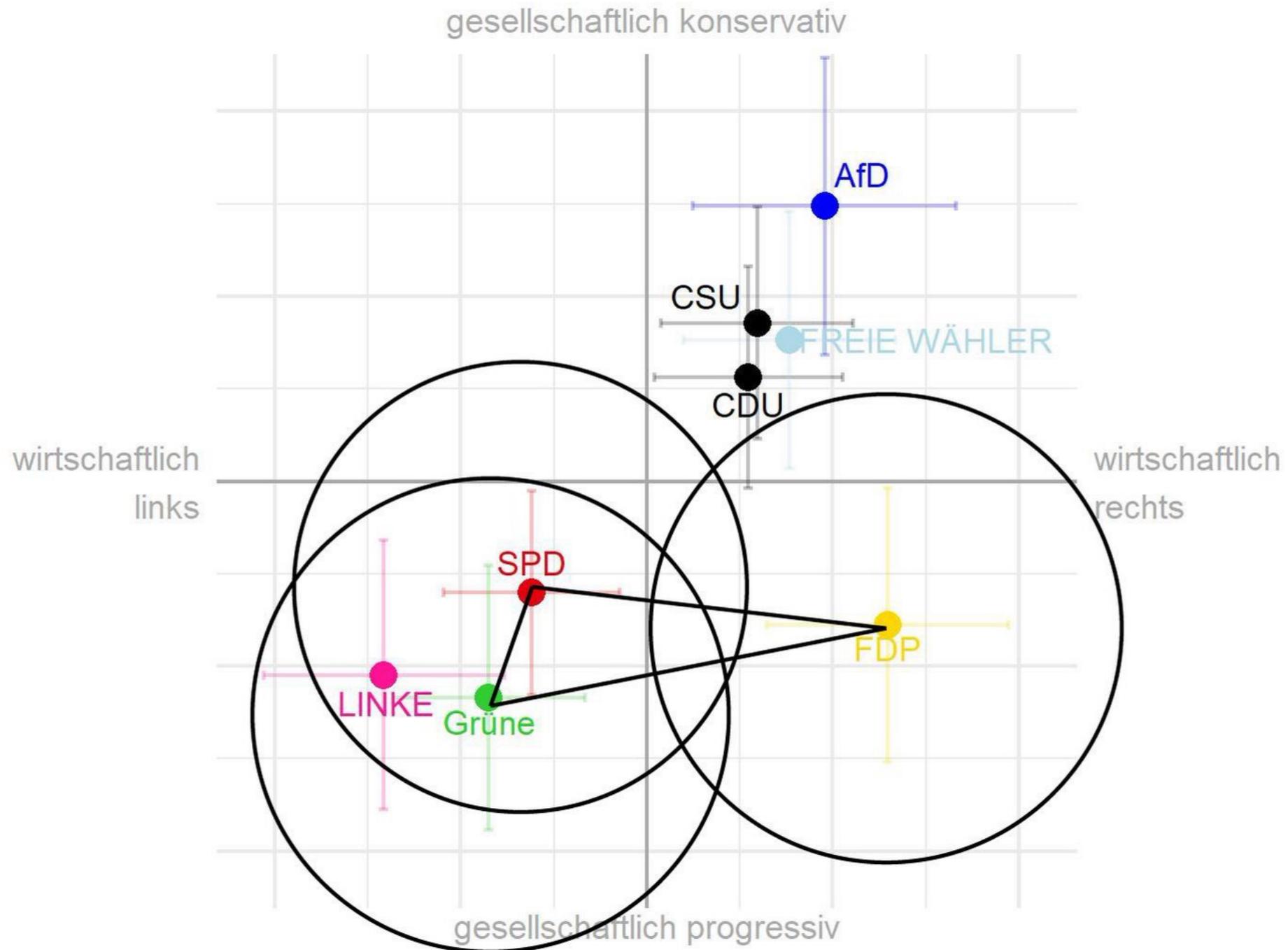


October 1<sup>st</sup>

# The present situation

- Last week: Greens and FDP take initiative to talk (informally prepared for several months)
- This week: "Sounding out" talks between SPD, Greens and FDP
- Friday: decision about taking up formal coalition negotiations
- Most likely result at the moment: a traffic light coalition under Chancellor Olaf Scholz
- CDU in the process of regrouping and electing new leadership
- Complex way to agreement with discrepancies strongest around economic / fiscal policy

# Where do German parties stand? Economic vs. societal preferences



Jankowski/Stecker/Blätte/Bräuninger/Debus/Kurella/Müller/Pickel:  
Open Expert Survey 2021 (<http://oes21.de/>)