NATIXIS
CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT BANKING

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EMEA Macro Snapshot

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Chart 1: Regional election result: Berlin

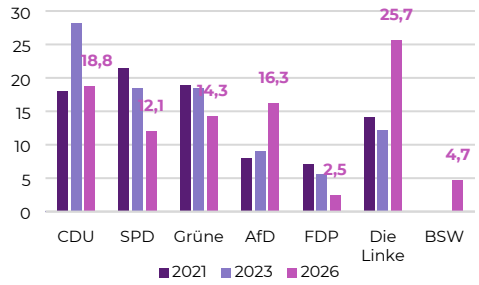
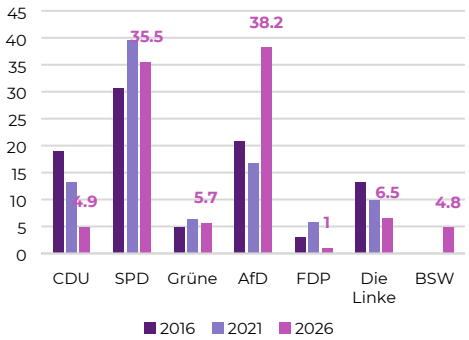


Chart 2: Regional election result: MWP



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German Regional Elections: Another Election, Another Major Defeat for the CDU

The elections in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (MWP) and Berlin marked the end of Germany's super-election year. Once again, the results dealt a crushing blow to the federal governing parties.

In Berlin, the far-left party, Die Linke (The Left), secured the largest share of the vote with 25.7% (**Chart 1**), more than doubling their result from the previous election. The second successful party was the AfD, which finished third with 16.3% (+7.2 points). Meanwhile, the coalition partners, the CDU and the SPD, ended up in second and fifth place, taking 18.8% (-9.4 points) and 12.1% (-6.3 points) respectively. The Greens were the final party to enter the Landtag with 14.3% of the vote.

In MWP, the AfD achieved another record-breaking election result, securing 38.2% of the vote (**Chart 2**), just ahead of the SPD at 35.5%. The Greens and Die Linke also managed to enter the Landtag. Crucially, for the first time in its history, the CDU failed to cross the 5% threshold in a regional election.

In both Berlin and MWP, we expect the regions to be governed by SPD/Green/Die Linke coalitions, led by an SPD Minister-President in MWP and a Die Linke Minister-President in Berlin. For the latter, this would mark only the second time in the party's history, following Thuringia in 2014.

For the CDU, failing to pass the 5% threshold in MWP will intensify pressure on Chancellor Friedrich Merz, following his party's defeat in Saxony-Anhalt and Baden-Württemberg. Consequently, debates regarding his position will grow. While still unlikely in 2026, his replacement can no longer be ruled out. The North Rhine-Westphalia regional election on 27 April 2027, will be a crucial test. Hendrik Wüst, the current state's Minister-President and a frontrunner to succeed Mr Merz, is set to defend his seat. A resounding victory there could pave his way to Berlin.

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