

Beat: Politics

## The citizens tides won the municipalities of Madrid and Barcelona

### The pacts draw a map of Spain fragmented

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**USPA NEWS** - The tenth municipal legislature was launched this weekend with the constitution of the 8,122 Spanish municipalities emerging from the local elections of March 24. In line with the decision at the polls, local political map is very different today than four years ago was drawn.

In nothing it has served the Popular Party (PP) of the Spanish Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, have won local elections in March. The hegemony achieved in 2011 is a thing of the past because the democratic period that begins in the circle of power closer to the citizens -the town councils- has made clear two things: political fragmentation as has not occurred before in recent history of Spain and an almost omnipresent covenants. In many Spanish municipalities, mayors assume power through pacts.

It is the big lie of world politics: some games are totally unwilling to concede defeat, but determined to manipulate the will of the voters so to sit in the chair of power. In Madrid, for example, the PP won 44,000 votes more than the second largest party support, Ahora Madrid. However, an agreement between this newborn formation sharing ideas with populism and the Socialist Party gave mayor of the capital of Spain at the head of list Ahora Madrid, the former Judge Manuela Carmena.

Madrid is only one of the three big cities that have lost the Conservatives. The other two are Barcelona, Madrid where history repeats itself, and Valencia. The so-called 'citizens' tides', composed of social organizations and leftist minority formations, have managed to gain the municipal governments of La Coruna, Zaragoza and Cadiz, as well as Madrid and Barcelona. Valladolid and Sevilla again be governed by the Socialists, in the case of Valladolid after 20 years of conservative rule. Vitoria, the capital of the Basque Country, now has a nationalist mayor. In total, the PP has lost 13 of the 34 provincial capitals that ruled for the past four years, while that in 2011 only won eight provincial capitals, Socialist Party now governs 17.

Conservatives predict a term characterized by "radical" of the left parties occupying the municipal power, full of "extremism" and "many inconsistencies" and accused the Socialists of having "a terrible obsession" that the PP no rule in the municipalities. The Spanish Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, congratulated Tweeter elected mayors of PP and expressed support for those who, having won, could not be elected because of the "eccentric and sectarian" left pacts. Also Deputy Secretary of Organization of the Popular Party, Carlos Floriano, said Saturday that the Socialist Party (PSOE its acronym in Spanish) "has ceased to be an alternative government" to aspire to "lead left."

The words of the conservative leaders were answered by the number 2 of the Spanish Socialists, the secretary of the PSOE, Cesar Luena, who requested an amendment to the PP and accused him of being in "a state of nervousness and shock" and " a spiral of despair" by not yet assumed the post of citizens. According Luena, "in Spain there is a new time in politics" based on "pluralism," "dialogue" and "respect", and said that the PSOE "is leading in all Spain these values."

Both agree, however, to consider the results of the March 24 can influence the legislative elections next November. The populist leader Pablo Iglesias said that this weekend opens a new period of "enthusiasm and hope" that will lead he to win the presidency of the Government of Spain. Socialists also hope their success in local and regional elections March endorsed look at the polls in November. While conservatives hope that the left parties in government fail municipalities and voters will side, once again, by voting for the PP.

#### Article online:

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