

Sheet XIXa: Voting patterns of the inhabitants of Łódź : 2006 Łódź assembly elections

Jerzy Dzieciuchowicz, Karolina Dmochowska

This Sheet 19a contains six maps at a scale of 1:125 000, showing the spatial diversity of the voting patterns of the inhabitants of Łódź during the Łódź Assembly elections in 2006. Two types of elections were considered – the Łódź Assembly elections and the mayoral election. The individual maps show: 1. turnout at the Łódź Assembly elections, 2. winners in the Łódź Assembly elections, 3. support for PiS (Law and Justice – right-centrist conservative political party) 4. support for Platforma Obywatelska RP (Civic Platform – liberal, centrist political party) 5. support for LiD (Democratic Left Alliance - centre -left social-democratic political party) coalition (comprising SLD, SDPL, PD, UP) 6. support for Jerzy Kropiwnicki in the mayoral election (2nd round).

This Sheet 19a presents the most important voting results in the local elections in Łódź, crucial for the management of the city and its development in the near future. The maps are structured so as to accurately illustrate the spatial diversification of the election results through the use of the smallest spatial electoral data aggregation polling units available – polling wards. In order to make the maps legible, only the open polling wards (259) were mapped. These are highly diversified in terms of their area which usually radially increases away from the centre, depending on the population density. The size of the large peripheral wards may have caused lower turnout due to difficult access to polling stations. An additional map shows the spatial range of the wards (fig. 1).

This Sheet 19a is based on the material obtained from the national, district, or local polling stations showing the results in the assembly and mayoral elections in Łódź. These materials are commonly highly appreciated for their credibility and reliability. To develop the relevant maps it took to prepare a digital form of an accurate geo-coded cartographic cartographic underlay including the boundaries of the polling districts and wards delimited in Łódź. The highly time-consuming process of building this underlay required the use of 'address plan' of Łódź. The said underlay and the individual maps were prepared by means of the ArcMap application being part of the ArcGIS software. The multi-layered maps are all at a single scale of 1:125 000, which enables their comparability.

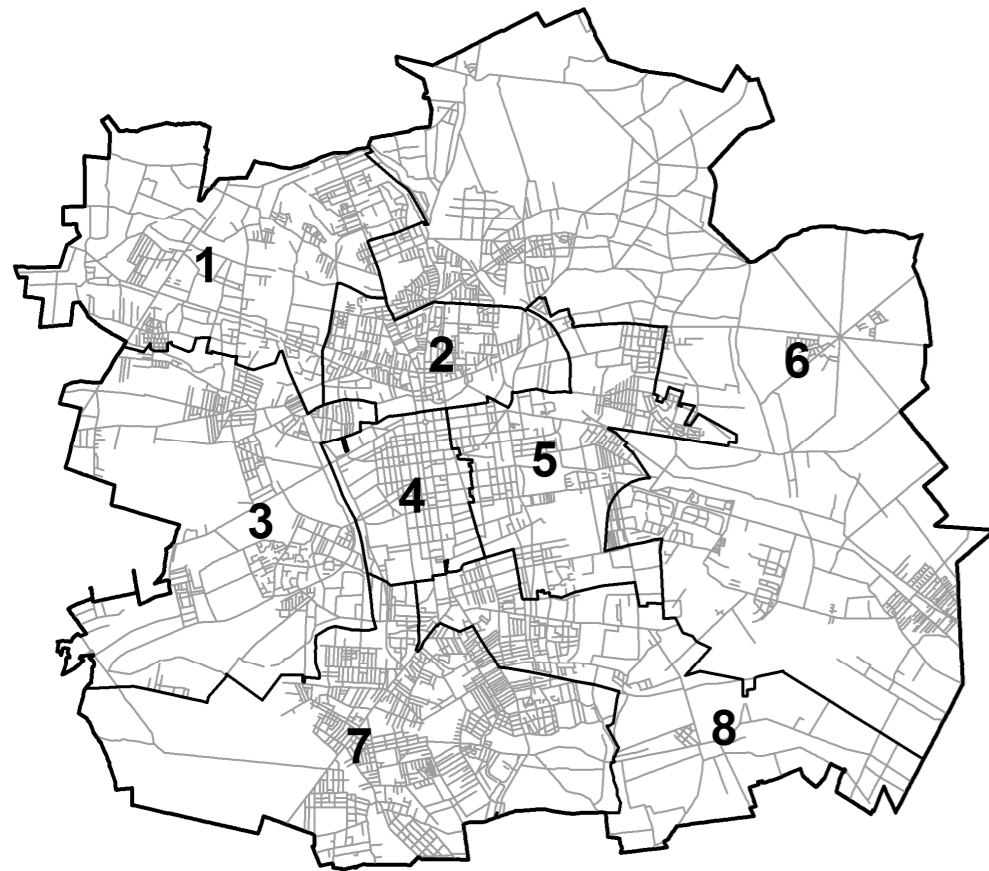


Fig. 1. Electoral district boundaries in the local elections in Łódź in 2006

The turnout at the Łódź Assembly elections (12th November 2006) presented on map 1, is a measure of political participation and reflects voting attitudes and involvement in the socio-political life (tab. 1). Electoral participation is one of the most important indicators of civic activity. Voter turnout or its absence, as well as voting preferences, are determined by the socio-economic status of the voters, i.e. their education, profession, function, and social background (status).

Political attitudes are also affected by the course of the electoral campaign and electoral laws (Sobczyński 2004). The turnout indicator shown on this map is the percentage of votes cast compared to the total number of citizens eligible to vote. This measure reflects voting activity better than the ratio of the number of voting ballots issued to the number of eligible voters, as applied in turnout assessment by the Electoral Commission. Issuing a ballot to so-

Table 1. Voter turnout in polling districts of Łódź during the Łódź Assembly elections in 2006

Polling district	Electoral roll	Votes cast	Electoral turnout (percentage)	Valid votes	Political awareness index of
1	78 481	31 491	40,13	30 549	97,01
2	89 514	32 984	36,81	31 891	96,69
3	86 154	34 993	40,62	33 952	97,03
4	73 303	20 147	27,48	19 419	96,39
5	71 333	25 272	35,43	24 336	96,30
6	75 271	29 519	39,22	28 606	96,91
7	76 811	27 519	35,83	26 607	96,69
8	68 382	22 829	33,38	21 877	95,83
Total	619 249	224 754	36,29	217 237	96,66

a - ratio of valid votes to the number of cast votes (%) within a ward  
Source: Own compilation based on data from the State Electoral Committee.

meone is not tantamount to that person casting a vote, as some decide not to vote after they have read the contents of the ballot. Such instances do not happen very often but to some extent they do affect the turnout measurement accuracy.

The turnout in these elections was relatively low, at 36.3% of those eligible to vote (619 249) while inter-ward differences should be considered average. The turnout in Łódź is distributed concentrically and sectorally. In general terms, the turnout values increase centrifugally to exceed 40% in the suburbs, with two exceptions being the sectors that radiate from the central zone i) towards the north-western boundary (Zabieniec and industrial Teofilów) and ii) towards the south-western boundary (Kurak and Ruda) where the turnout is evidently lower than in the areas between these sectors. A particularly low turnout, not exceeding 30%, was recorded in the northern and southern parts of the central zone with old, substandard buildings.

In the Łódź Assembly elections there were 19 electoral committee lists, 130 candidates' lists, and 1028 individual candidates (tab. 2). In order to allow joint participation in allocating the assembly seats, four groups of lists were formed. It must be underscored that only five political groups were successful in the opening round: PO, PiS, LiD, Mieszkańcy Łodzi ('Inhabitants of Łódź') and Jerzy Kropiwnicki's LPO. The number of polling wards where PO was the winner was impressive at 71.02%. PO was followed by LiD, which won in every fifth ward (19.78%), and PiS, which won in less than 1 out of 10 (8.64%). Only in a few wards did LPO and the 'Inhabitants of Łódź' win. The spatial distribution of electoral victo-

Table 2. Electoral Committees with registered lists in the 2006 Łódź Assembly elections,

Electoral Committee	List number	Valid votes		No of candidates	Number of seats
		Number	%		
Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe (Polish Peasant's Party)	1	2 153	0.99	26	-
Liga Polskich Rodzin (League of Polish Families)	2	4 618	2.13	82	-
Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice)	4	46 635	21.47	81	14
Platforma Obywatelska RP (Civic Platform)	5	67 132	30.90	86	16
Lewica i Demokraci (Democratic Left Alliance)	6	53 081	24.43	85	11
Samoobrona RP (Self-Defence)	7	5 241	2.41	81	-
Porozumienie Robotniczo-Ludowe ('Workers Party')	20	490	0.23	37	-
Regionalne Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Łodzi i Województwa Łódzkiego 'Przymierze' ('Alliance' - the Friends of Łódź and Łódź Województwo Regional Association)	21	2 044	0.94	74	-
Alternatywa XXI w. ('The 21st century Alternative')	22	318	0.15	20	-
Stowarzyszenie Inicjatywa Rozsądnych Polaków ('The "Reasonable Poles" Initiative Association')	23	387	0.18	33	-
LPO Jerzego Kropiwnickiego ('Łódź Citizens' Alliance')	24	21 069	9.70	86	2
Mieszkańcy Łodzi ('Citizens of Łódź')	25	1 267	0.58	16	-
Wojewódzki Ruch Samorządowy ('Województwo Local Government Movement')	26	637	0.29	51	-
Unia Polityki Realnej (Real Politics Union)	27	2 922	1.35	44	-
Ruch Ludowo-Narodowy ('National People's Movement')	28	657	0.30	49	-
Samorząd XXI w. ('21st Century Local Government')	29	181	0.08	12	-
Lista Sowińskiego ('Sowiński List')	30	1 105	0.51	47	-
'Lepsza Łódź' Waldemara Bohdanowicza ('Waldemar Bahdanowicz's „Improved Łódź”')	31	4 776	2.20	72	-
Bezpартyjne Forum Samorządowe ('Independent Local Government Forum')	32	2 524	1.16	46	-
Total	19	217 237	100.00	1 028	43

\* a - The electoral committees' lists in the Łódź Assembly elections were organised into the following groups: group 1 - lists 1, 23, and 24; group 2 - lists 2, 4, and 7; group 3 - lists 5 and 31; group 4 - lists 6 and 22  
Source: Own compilation based on data from the State Electoral Committee.

ries is negligibly diversified due to the overwhelming advantage of PO. This party won mainly in the densely populated wards in the central zone, as well as in the transitional and peripheral zones with detached housing and housing estates of blocks of flats. The few victories of LiD are attributed to voters who live in the old housing estates just outside the central zone, as well as those from the periphery with dispersed detached housing of different ages and standards. PiS victories were mainly owing to the electorate inhabiting the peripheral zone, especially the areas with prevalent old detached houses and small farmsteads.

The voters' support for PO was moderately diversified, with only small deviations from the average (30.6%), but within the city the wards showing below-average support were recorded more often. The spatial distribution of votes for PO parallels the absence of votes for PiS. Particularly strong support for PO, exceeding 36%, is found among the voters who live in newly built-up areas in the transitional and peripheral zones, as well as dispersed enclaves in the central areas, with a relatively high percentage of persons with university education background and a high employment rate.

The voters' support for PiS (Law and Justice), measured by the percentage of votes in the total number of valid votes, was quite spatially diversified, and in the majority of wards it was lower than the average (21.8%). It is worth mentioning that in a quarter of all the wards, the support for PiS did not exceed 18.7% and in three quarters it was lower than 24.4%. Following the general trend, this support increases radially away from the centre, in line with the increase of the proportion of population in the post-working age bracket and large households, and the decrease of the proportion of population with university education backgro-

und. In many marginal, rural areas the percentage of votes for PiS was less than 34%. By contrast, very low figures (below 16%) were quite frequently recorded in the transitional zone, in the scarcely populated industrial and warehousing/storage areas.

The spatial diversification of the votes gained by LiD in Łódź was moderate; in 25% of the wards with the weakest support for this party it did not exceed 19.6%, while in 25% of the wards with highest support it exceeded 27.5%. In general, the support for LiD radially decreased away from the centre, and in the central and transitional zones it often exceeded 25%. This was particularly true of the electorate inhabiting post-war estates of blocks of flats, as well as industrial and warehouse districts. For comparison, in the peripheral areas, often agricultural and dominated by PiS supporters, the support for LiD fell below 20%.

The mayoral elections in Łódź took two rounds (12th November 2006 and 26th November 2006), because the first round did not produce conclusive results. In the first round, with 13 competing candidates, the turnout was the same as in the assembly elections (36.3%), while in the second round it dropped to 30.4% and the Mayor Elect was Jerzy Kropiwnicki, member of the Zjednoczenie Chrześcijańsko-Narodowe (the Christian-National Union), whose candidacy had been put forward by PiS. He won 55.69% of the votes (in the first round - 35.84%), against the other candidate Krzysztof Kwiatkowski of PO (27.03% in the first round), whose candidacy had been put forward by the party's electoral committee. The percentage of the votes cast for Kropiwnicki was not highly diversified in spatial terms, from 44.0% to 76.2%. Only in one quarter of the wards was this percentage lower than 52.9% and in general, the support for Kropiwnicki radially increased from the centre towards the periphery and was similar to support pattern for PiS.

As a result of the Łódź Assembly elections, 43 seats were filled. Due to the fact that the present electoral system favours large parties, the seats were divided among only four political groups: 1. PO RP - 16 seats, 2. PiS - 14.3, LiD - 11, and LPO - 2. The elected members of Łódź Assembly form a strongly masculinised bunch, with seven males out of every ten councillors (69.8%). The mean age is 40.8, with the youngest member being 20 and the oldest 67.

For several reasons, the voting patterns of Łódź citizens, as presented on this Sheet 19a, are difficult to compare with the patterns observed in 1998 and shown on the original sheet. First of all, the boundaries and the number of wards had changed, as well as the reasons for voting, and the political scene itself. It is worth noticing that the number of citizens eligible to vote in 2006, as compared to 1998, decreased by 23 100 as a result of the progressive depopulation of the city. At the same time, voting participation slightly weakened, too, as the turnout fell from 37.4% to 36.29%, although in individual wards these values were up (the minimum from 13.96% to 15.4%, and the maximum from 58.3% to 60.95%). In the period under discussion, political preferences of Łódź's population underwent radical changes, as shown by the changes in the spatial distribution of electoral success. In 1998, the prevalent wards were those where the left-wing party (SLD) had a majority, whereas in 2006 the overwhelming majority was represented by the wards y were those of Platforma Obywatelska RP.

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Address map provided by Łódź City Council  
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