

WORLD • ELECTIONS

A Make-or-Break Year for Democracy Worldwide

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Elections are no guarantee of democracy. That much we know from who holds them. Even full-blown tyrants crave the legitimacy that, in the modern era, can be provided only by the ballot box—margins of victory doubling as one more tool of intimidation.

But it's also true that democracy does not exist without elections, which is why the year ahead carries such significance. In 2024, more than half the world's population will go to polls—4.2 billion citizens across approximately