

PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

Q Who can call an early election?

Any combination of
PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT
LEGISLATURE
PRESIDENT

FLEXIBLE TERMS

When the constitution allows politicians to determine when early elections are held.

 **DENMARK**
The prime minister has full discretion.

Q What happens if you move from flexible to semi-fixed or fixed terms by limiting the power of political actors to call elections?

Less frequent elections:

Calling an election is harder so they will happen less frequently, but governments may not last longer.

Reduced vote advantage to incumbents:

Calling an election when you know you can win can boost your vote share by 5%

Fewer bargaining chips for incumbents:

If the prime minister can decide when to call an election, then they can use it as a threat to get what they want.

More election-driven economic policy:

Politicians may be more likely to manipulate the economy to get re-elected.

SEMI-FIXED TERMS

When the constitution allows politicians to call early elections, but only under certain circumstances.

 **UK**
Parliament has limited power to call an election

FOR EXAMPLE, IF:

- Multiple political actors agree
- There's a serious crisis, like failure to form a government
- Enough time has passed since the last election

FIXED TERMS

When the constitution dictates the timing of elections, which can't be changed by politicians.

 **NORWAY**
Elections are held every 4 years.

FIXED TERM PARLIAMENT ACT 2011

An early election is called if:

2/3rds majority of all MPs vote for it

or

Parliament passes a no confidence vote in the government and does not express confidence in a government within 14 days.