

## Brazil: Bolsonaro and Lula runoff election

[Clique aqui para ver a notícia no site](#)

It's about poverty and the future of the rainforest: Brazil elects a new president. Challenger Lula is ahead of incumbent Bolsonaro in polls - but there are doubts about the accuracy of pollsters. AreaRead the video transcript expand here The two candidates could hardly be more different. Brazil will elect a new president in a runoff on Sunday. The incumbent right-wing extremist President Jair Bolsonaro and his left-wing opponent, Lula da Silva, are up for election. It's a head-to-head race and a directional decision. A decisive factor for the election could be the increasing hunger in the population - a problem that Bolsonaro repeatedly downplayed. Jair Bolsonaro, Brazilian President "To say that people in Brazil are hungry is a big lie. They don't eat well, I agree. But that they are starving? no You don't see really poor, emaciated people on the street like in other countries.« Inflation and the consequences of the pandemic and Bolsonaro's corona policy are clearly noticeable for the Brazilian population. According to the Getulio Vargas Foundation, one in three people say they can no longer support their family. Lula da Silva fought hunger and poverty in Brazil during his tenure from 2003-2010. In the election campaign, he is taking up the topic again. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Presidential candidate »31 million people are starving because food inflation is very high. Hunger has been eradicated in this country before. Because the government lowered the price of gas and then it went up again, food prices have not come down to this day." Bolsonaro has recently increased government spending enormously. Large parts of it are said to be social welfare payments for the poorest of the Brazilian population - the part from which competitor Lula is said to have received many votes in the first election. Some experts have criticized the procedure and suspect a violation of voting rights. They criticize Bolsonaro for using public funds to gain an advantage in the election campaign. Mayra Goulart, Political Analyst/Federal University of Rio de Janeiro »This creates an artificial situation of economic comfort that improves the government's assessment. Why was Bolsonaro initially seen as a weaker candidate? Because he has a low rating for his government work would have. But through this public voting policy he has artificially created an environment of economic comfort.« With the election on Sunday, a directional decision is also made for the future of the Amazon rainforest - and thus for climate protection. Marcio Astini, Executive Director of the Climate Observatory "What the Brazilians are going to do now in the elections is much more than a change of president - they are fundamental decisions for our country, decisions for the future. We will have to choose between staying with democracy or not, we will have to choose between keeping the Amazon alive or keeping Bolsonaro. It's a choice between the two, because we can't have both at the same time in our country." Through the weakening of environmental authorities and the promotion deforestation, Bolsonaro has driven the destruction of the rainforest. It is estimated to have reached its highest level since 2006. Bolsonaro's competitor da Silva reduced deforestation by more than 70% to a record low in his last tenure. He now promises to rebuild the environmental authorities and thus reduce deforestation. Bolsonaro is keeping a low profile about his plans - he justifies commercial deforestation as a measure against poverty. Da Silva won the first ballot in early October. However, he did not reach the required 50% of the votes. In the current forecasts, da Silva is said to be almost 6% ahead of Bolsonaro with a good 52%. However, the polls are criticized. They recently tended to underestimate Bolsonaro's result. Similar news:

