Mauritius, November 2026: a repair made at the ballot box, by a majority large enough to rewrite the rules

Two years after the 2024 election, what has been repaired, by what legal means, and what still stands in the way?

Mauritius · As of 17 November 2026 · An independent project by Nevo Goor

Correction, 19 November 2026. An earlier version said that V-Dem index values could not be confirmed from the published data; the V-Dem Democracy Report 2026 gives Mauritius a Liberal Democracy Index of 0.64 for 2025, rank 38, and the value has been added to the measures. One other detail was corrected: the source for the lifting of the pre-election social media order, a copy republished by Arab News, was replaced with IOL and the CIVICUS Monitor.

In Mauritius the reversal came through an election, not through a court or a fixed term. The coalition that won in November 2024 took 60 of the 62 elected seats in the National Assembly, and despite departures in 2026 it still holds, according to ConstitutionNet, a majority large enough to amend most of the constitution without the opposition. Since then, a former Prime Minister has been investigated and provisionally charged through existing institutions; he denies the charges and no trial has taken place. A commission to review the constitution has begun work. Most of what has changed so far rests on ordinary decisions and statutes; the largest structural change, a revised constitution, is still being drafted by a majority that can pass much of it alone.

SECTION 1

What changed in 2024

This is the third report in the Recovery Watch series of the Atlas, after Poland and Guatemala.

On 1 November 2024, nine days before the general election, the Information and Communication Technologies Authority ordered internet providers to suspend social media until the day after the vote, citing national security. The order was lifted after about 24 hours. Observers from the Southern African Development Community recorded the concern of most stakeholders about the shutdown.

In the general election of 10 November 2024, the Alliance du Changement won 60 of the 62 elected seats; the other two went to a party from the island of Rodrigues. Turnout was 79.3 percent of registered voters, according to International IDEA. Navin Ramgoolam became Prime Minister, replacing Pravind Jugnauth.

The V-Dem Institute, in its Democracy Report 2026, reports that autocratization in Mauritius was halted and reversed by the 2024 election; L’Express reported the same finding in March 2026.

SECTION 2

The repair ledger

Each row records what was done, the legal means used, and where it stands. The legal means matter because they decide how easily a change can be undone.

AREA	WHAT WAS DONE	LEGAL MEANS	WHERE IT STANDS
Elections and the information space	A change of government by election. The pre-election order suspending social media was reversed within about 24 hours.	Election; an administrative order and its withdrawal.	No change to the power used to issue the order was found in the sources consulted.
Accountability for former office holders	The Financial Crimes Commission arrested former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth in February 2025, after searches of his home and other locations in which about 114 million rupees were seized; he was provisionally charged with money laundering and released on bail. He denies the charges.	Criminal investigation under existing law.	The investigation was still open in October 2026, according to L'Express. No trial has taken place, and he is presumed innocent.
Prosecution service	The Director of Public Prosecutions is no longer under the administrative control of the Attorney General since the 2025 to 2026 budget, according to L'Express.	Budget and administrative decision.	In place. Not written into the constitution.
The constitution	A Constitutional Review Commission Act was enacted in June 2026, and the commission first met on 11 August 2026, according to ConstitutionNet. The Cabinet said electoral reform would be handled separately from a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, according to the Mauritius Times.	Statute creating a review body; any amendment would follow section 47 of the constitution.	In progress. No amendment found yet.
Central bank	The governor appointed under the new government, Rama Sithanen, stepped down in 2025 following pressure from the Prime Minister, and Priscilla Muthoora Thakoor was appointed in his place, according to Currency News.	Executive pressure and appointment.	In office.

AREA	WHAT WAS DONE	LEGAL MEANS	WHERE IT STANDS
Press	The journalist Narain Jasodanand was arrested and released by the police cybercrime unit in September 2025, after a defamation complaint by a son of the then central bank governor; the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister criticised the methods used, and five officers were transferred, according to the CIVICUS Monitor.	Police action; administrative transfers.	No legal change found.

SECTION 3

What the measures show

MEASURE	AROUND 2023	LATEST	COGA FLOOR
Freedom House, total score (0 to 100)	85 (2023 edition)	87 (2026 edition)	Below 70 breaches a COGA floor. Not breached.
RSF World Press Freedom Index	63rd, score 65.56 (2023)	42nd of 180, score 70.92 (2026)	Below 50 breaches a floor. Not breached.
Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index	51 (2023)	48 (2025 index)	Below 40 breaches a floor. Not breached.
V-Dem Institute, Democracy Report 2026	An earlier autocratization episode, before the 2024 election	Autocratization halted and reversed (a “U-turn” country); Liberal Democracy Index 0.64 in 2025, rank 38	No COGA floor on this classification.

The COGA floors in the last column are internal conventions of the Atlas. They are not validated measures and not a forecast.

Press freedom moved most, from 63rd to 42nd place; the Freedom House score rose by two points; V-Dem now classifies the earlier decline as reversed. The corruption score moved down, from 51 to 48. In the V-Dem Democracy Report 2026, the Liberal Democracy Index of Mauritius is 0.64 for 2025, rank 38, and its gain of 0.286 since the reversal began in 2023 is the largest among the countries the report lists as U-turn cases.

SECTION 4

Why the repair sits where it does

Section 47 of the constitution sets three levels of protection. Most provisions can be changed by "not less than two-thirds of all the members" of the National Assembly, a count that includes the additional seats allocated after the election, not only the 62 elected ones. A listed set of entrenched provisions needs "not less than three quarters of all the members". The provisions on the state and on the life of Parliament need both approval in a referendum by "not less than three quarters of the electorate" and the votes of all members of the Assembly.

In March 2026 the Deputy Prime Minister, Paul Bérenger, resigned from the government, and several elected members later moved to the opposition. ConstitutionNet nonetheless reports that the government "still retains a supermajority" able to use section 47. A majority of that size can change most of the constitution without the votes of the opposition. The Mauritius Times has asked whether a parliamentary majority is enough, or whether a new constitution needs "a direct popular mandate".

A majority large enough to change the constitution alone is a capacity, not an act. What matters for the legal footing of the repair is what that majority writes, and whether the changes widen or narrow its own room to act.

SECTION 5

How this is read

COGA distinguishes changes made by ordinary law, which the next ordinary majority can undo, from changes written into a constitution, which are harder to undo. That distinction was applied to countries in decline, to describe whether a takeover of institutions could later be reversed. Here it is applied in the other direction, to a repair. Here "repair" means the reversal that V-Dem describes, not a judgment on every official or decision involved.

By that reading, the repair in Mauritius so far sits mostly on ordinary footing: an election result, criminal investigations under existing law, appointments and an administrative change for the prosecution service. The step that could move it onto constitutional footing, the constitutional review, is under way, and it is in the hands of a majority that the constitution allows to act largely alone.

This is a description of legal footing, not a forecast. The distinction has not been tested on recovering countries, and nothing here predicts what the constitutional review will produce.

SECTION 6

Method and limits

Facts stated without attribution were checked against at least two independent publishers. Where only one publisher was found, the source is named in the sentence. Index values come from the publisher of each index, and editions are named; the 2023 RSF rank and score were checked against the 2023 index. Quotations from French-language sources are translated. Several developments of late 2026, including unrest in October and bills reported in the press, could not be confirmed from two sources and are left out. The analysis is the work of a single analyst; the draft was checked against its sources by an independent reviewer before release.

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