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Georgian president 're-elected'

Mikheil Saakashvili has been re-elected president of Georgia after a snap poll, preliminary official results suggest.

The election campaign had won him 52.8% of the vote, with most ballot box observers indicating he will not have to contest a second-round run-off.

The opposition has already alleged the vote was rigged and mounted protests in the capital, Tbilisi.

But monitors from the OSCE and Council of Europe said the vote was democratic and the outcome should be respected.

Officials said the 52.8% figure was a tally from polling stations. Some overseas results were still awaited.

"According to these results, there is a fairly high probability that everything will be finished in the first round," general electoral commission chairman Levan Tkeshelashvili said.

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