

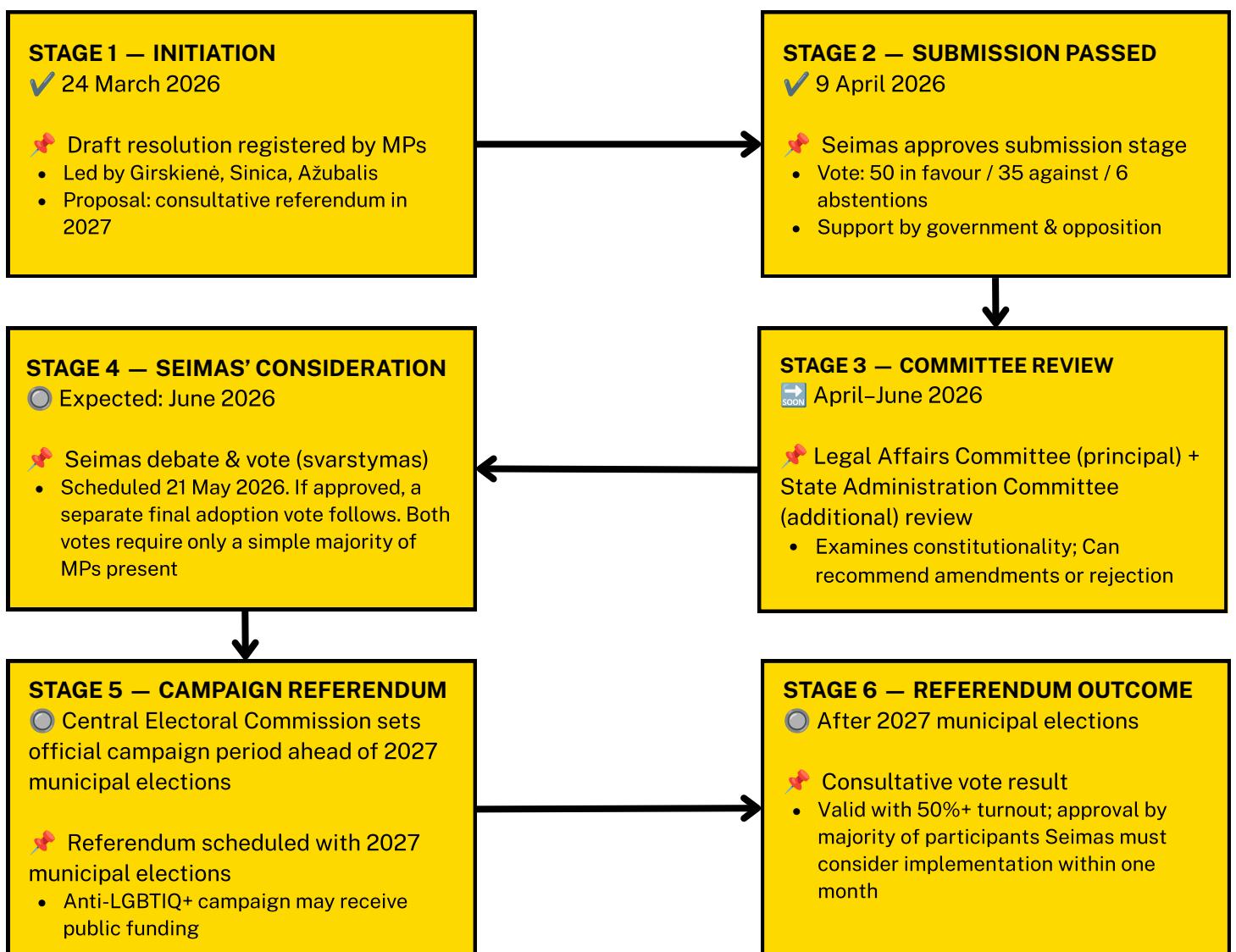
# LITHUANIA'S 2026 ANTI-LGBTIQ+ REFERENDUM



On 24 March 2026, a group of Lithuanian MPs proposed a “consultative referendum” to amend Article 38 of the Constitution to define family exclusively as arising from the marriage of a man and a woman.

Framed as democratic participation, the initiative in reality seeks to exclude same-sex couples and their children from constitutional protection, despite clear rulings from Lithuania’s Constitutional Court, the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights.

But there are still opportunities to stop this referendum from happening.








## DID YOU KNOW?

- The referendum seeks to **overturn the Lithuanian Constitutional Court's ruling of 17 April 2025**, which confirmed that the State must recognise and protect families regardless of the sex of the partners.
- The **Seimas Legal Department** warned that the proposed constitutional amendment would "breach and disrupt the internal harmony of the Constitution" and "would manifestly fail to comply with Lithuania's international law commitments and obligations arising from EU membership."

## BROAD POLITICAL SUPPORT

The proposal attracted broad support across the Seimas, including members from parties affiliated with **multiple European political groups**, across both government and opposition.

 <b>Lithuanian Social Democratic Party</b> 19 MPs voted in favor	 <b>Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union &amp; Christian Families Alliance</b> 11 MPs voted in favor	 <b>Dawn of Nemunas</b> 7 MPs voted in favor Intention to join PFE	 <b>Democratic Union "For Lithuania"</b> 4 MPs voted in favor	 <b>Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats</b> 5 MPs voted in favor
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+ 4MPs with no affiliation with groups in the European Parliament.

## THE NEXT HUNGARY?

Action is needed now to prevent Lithuania from following the path of Hungary, where the government has ruled for over 16 years and **began its consolidation of power with similar constitutional initiatives targeting LGBTIQ+ people** and family rights. What started there as isolated legal changes quickly evolved into a **broader system of institutionalised discrimination and rule of law backsliding**.

Since the beginning of 2026, 4 conferences were held by the **anti-rights movement in Lithuania**, which led to this referendum, including one by the Polish Ordi Iuris (who's been supportive of Russia's anti-LGBTIQ+ policies). **Lithuania has definitely been identified as one of their next targets**.

## ACT NOW!



### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Publicly condemn the proposed referendum as incompatible with EU values and fundamental rights.
- Urgently raise the issue in plenary and through parliamentary questions to the Commission.
- **Political groups (Greens/EFA, S&D, EPP)** should make clear to their members from Lithuania that support for this referendum is incompatible with their core values, and may lead to serious political consequences, including suspension or expulsion from the group.



### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Publicly state that the proposed referendum would violate EU law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Engage immediately with Lithuanian authorities to prevent the adoption of discriminatory constitutional changes.
- Prepare infringement proceedings in case the referendum leads to legislative or constitutional amendments breaching EU law.
- Integrate the issue into ongoing Rule of Law monitoring and reporting.



### MEMBER STATES

- Publicly and privately raise concerns with the Lithuanian government at the highest political level.

