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**Syrian President Bashar al-Assad wins third term**

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Earlier, Syria's constitutional court put the vote turnout at 73.47%.

Voting took place in government-controlled areas, but not in parts of the north and east held by rebels.

Tens of thousands of Syrians have died in three years of civil war in Syria, with millions more displaced.

President Assad's key challengers, Hassan al-Nouri and Maher Hajjar, received 4.3% and 3.2% of the vote respectively.

It was the first time in decades that more than one name - outside of the Assad family - had been allowed to stand as presidential candidate.

But the Syrian opposition in rebel-held areas had dismissed the election as a farce, arguing that it has no credibility in the midst of a civil war.

The results of the election were announced by parliamentary speaker Mohammad al-Laham on Wednesday.