POSTAL VOTE BEGINS AHEAD OF GERMANY'S SEPTEMBER ELECTION

- 17.08.2021

Reuters (16 August 2021)

Postal voting for Germany's federal election began on Monday, piling pressure on conservative chancellor candidate Armin Laschet to reinvigorate his floundering campaign or else risk losing out to a left-leaning coalition.

An official at the Federal Election Commissioner's office confirmed postal ballots would be sent out from Monday, six weeks ahead of the Sept. 26 election, after which Chancellor Angela Merkel plans to step down following 16 years in power.

Merkel leaves behind a fractured political landscape in which no party enjoys a comfortable lead, and Laschet has seen his ratings slump since he was seen laughing on a visit to a flood-stricken town.

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