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ROMANIA SET FOR PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF AFTER COURT CERTIFIES SHOCK FIRST-ROUND RESULT

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By Kieran Guilbert with AP

Romania's top court has certified a little-known far-right populist's shock first-round victory in its presidential election, an outcome that plunged the country into a political crisis amid allegations of electoral violations and Russian interference.

The ruling by Romania's Constitutional Court clears the way for a runoff on 8 December between Călin Georgescu, a Moscow-friendly ultranationalist running as an independent, and centre-right contender Elena Lasconi of the Save Romania Union (USR).

Romania has been in turmoil since Georgescu's victory on 24 November, which raised concerns of possible foreign meddling in the elections of an EU and NATO member state one that is reliably pro-Western and a staunch supporter of Ukraine.

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