

## ARGENTINA

**Dates of Elections:** March 11 and April 15, 1973

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the national Congress: national Senators and national Deputies. The elections were ordered and organized by the Government which was in power since the revolution of 1966, when both the national Congress and the provincial and municipal assemblies were dissolved.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The national Congress is the supreme legislative body of the federal Government of the Argentine Republic. It is bicameral, consisting of a Chamber of Deputies and a Senate.

The Chamber of Deputies consists of Deputies elected in the 24 electoral districts into which the country is divided, namely, the 22 Provinces, the Federal Capital and the National Territory consisting of the *Tierra del Fuego*, Antarctic and the South Atlantic Islands. Whereas the number of Deputies of the said National Territory is fixed at 2, the number of Deputies in the other districts depends on the size of the population and corresponds to 1 Deputy per 135,000 inhabitants. In the 1973 elections, the total number of seats contested was 243.

The Senate consists of 69 members: 3 from the Federal Capital and 3 from each of the 22 Provinces.

The term of the legislature is 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of either sex — whether they are nationals of Argentina by birth, pursuant to option or through naturalization — who are at least 18 years old and who are inscribed on the lists of electors have the right to vote. Members of the armed forces, persons whose political rights are suspended, criminals or the accused in criminal proceedings, and the insane, however, may not be included in the lists of voters.

The list of voters is under continuous revision to be kept up to date. After the publication of a provisional list 150 days prior to the date of elections, a final list is published 30 days prior to that date.

Voting is obligatory, except for persons more than 70 years old and except in case of certain impediments (illness, other official duties, travel, etc.).

Any candidate for being a Deputy must be at least 25 years old, must have been a citizen for at least 4 years, and must either have been born in the district in which he is a candidate or must have resided there for at least 2 years preceding the date of the elections.

Any candidate for being a Senator must be at least 30 years old and an Argentine citizen for at least 6 years, and must either have been born on the territory of the Province in which he is a candidate or resided there for at least 2 years preceding the date of the elections. Ministers in the Executive, regular clergymen, members of the Administration and provincial governors cannot, at the same time, be members of Congress.

A special provision concerning the 1973 elections excluded the following categories of persons from being eligible as President of the Nation, Vice-President of the Nation, Deputy or Senator: those who, after August 24, 1972, were the President of the Nation, the Chiefs of the Armed Forces, Ministers, Governors and chief executives of municipalities, as well as those who were not permanently in Argentina between August 25, 1972 and the completion of the elections. The first exclusions meant that the leaders of the outgoing regime were ineligible; the second exclusion was intended to exclude General Peron

Deputies are elected in each electoral constituency on the basis of the party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the d'Hondt method. No seat, however, is allotted to any list that obtains less than 8% of the valid votes or — in any district in which the 8% is less than 135,000 — to any list that obtains less than 135,000 votes. Seats are assigned to candidates of each list according to the order in which their names appeared on that same list.

Senators are elected in each of the 22 Provinces and the Federal Capital, equally on the basis of party-lists, according to the following system: each list may contain the names of 2 candidates only, although the number of seats available is 3. The 2 candidates on the list which obtains the absolute majority of valid votes and the first candidate on the list which obtains the next highest number of votes are allotted the 3 seats. If, in the first ballot, none of the lists obtains the absolute majority, a second ballot takes place in which only those 2 lists may be voted on which, in the first ballot, obtained the highest number of votes; the 2 candidates on the list which obtains the absolute majority and the first candidate on the other list are allotted the 3 seats.

Each list, whether of candidates for Deputies or Senators, also contains a list of substitutes. If any vacancy occurs between general elections, it is filled by the unelected titular candidate who is next on the list. If the latter in turn becomes incapacitated, he is replaced by the first substitute on the list.

## General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As the last preceding general elections were held in 1965, those of 1973 were the first occasion to exercise their right to vote for some 4 million (out of 14 million) electors.

Since the elections of 1973 were also for the post of President of the Nation, much of the electoral campaign dealt with that post and the military Government's attitude vis-a-vis General Peron.

Eleven political groups (parties or "alliances") contested the elections. The 2 main contenders were the Peronista alliance under the name of Justicialist Front of Liberation (FRE.JU.LI) and the Radical Civic Union. The first advocated a "programme of national reconstruction", which would comprise the termination of international commitments affecting national sovereignty, changes in economic and social policy, including more participation by workers in the management of enterprises, the lifting of the stage of siege and the release of political prisoners. The Radical Civic Union urged "radical changes" including, in particular, the spending of 25% of the federal budget for education, more care for housing and health, the securing of energy resources and foreign trade.

Each of the 11 political groups presented candidates for the 243 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and the 69 seats in the Senate. Although the election campaign was quite troubled, the elections themselves took place in a relatively serene atmosphere, the polling stations and strategic points in the principal cities having been guarded by more than 200,000 men, half of them soldiers.

As far as the election of Senators is concerned, the first ballot gave definitive results in 9 of the 22 Provinces. In the other 13 Provinces and the Federal Capital, the Senators were elected only as a result of the second ballot.

The Justicialist candidate, Dr. Hector Campora, was declared President-elect, due to take office on May 25, 1973.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Congress

Number of registered voters . . . . .	14,259,619
Voters . . . . .	12,241,637 (85.84%)
Void ballot papers . . . . .	119,853
Valid votes . . . . .	12,121,784

Political Group	Votes obtained *	%	Number of Seats in the Chamber of Deputies	Number of Seats in the Senate
Justicialist Front of Liberation (FRE.JU.LI) . . . . .	5,908,414	49.56	143	43
	2,537,605	21.29	51	12
Popular Federalist Alliance . .	1,775,867	14.90	20	5
Popular Revolutionary Alliance	885,201	7.43	12	—
Republican Federal Alliance. .	347,215	2.91	10	4
	235,188	1.97		—
Social Democratic Party . . .	109,068	0.91	—	—
Socialist Workers' Party . . .	73,796	0.62	—	—
Popular Front of the Left. . .	48,571	0.41	—	—
Neo-Peronist Movements (Other than the FRE.JU.LI)	**	**	6	5
Action Party of Chubut. . . .	**	**	1	—
			243	69

\* Votes bearing on presidential elections.

\*\* As these groups did not participate in the presidential elections, statistics on their votes obtained are not available.

### 2. Distribution of Members of Congress according to Professional Category

Members of the legal profession . . . . .	94	26
Employees. . . . .	30	2
Tradesmen. . . . .	23	4
Teachers. . . . .	17	7
Company executives. . . . .	11	—
Members of the medical profession. . . . .	10	9
Businessmen and industrialists. . . . .	9	4
Economists and public accountants. . . . .	8	—
Technicians. . . . .	6	—
Manual workers. . . . .	6	—
Pensioners. . . . .	6	2
Farmers and land owners. . . . .	4	5
Students. . . . .	3	—
Journalists. . . . .	2	—
Pharmacists. . . . .	—	3
Engineers. . . . .	—	3
Others. . . . .	14	5
	243	69

### 3. Distribution of Members of Congress according to Sex

Men . . . . .	225	66
Women. . . . .	18	3
	243	69

*4. Distribution of Members of Congress according to Age Group*

	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
20-30 . . . . .	13	—
30-40 . . . . .	40	8
40-50 . . . . .	74	16
50-60 . . . . .	76	27
Over 60 . . . . .	29	15
Data unavailable.	11	3
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