

BARBADOS

Date of Elections: September 9, 1971

Reason for Elections

Elections were held to renew all the members of the House of Assembly on the normal expiration of their mandate. These had been elected in 1966, prior to the country's gaining independence.

Characteristics of Parliament

The Parliament of Barbados is bicameral. It is composed of the House of Assembly and the Senate.

The House of Assembly consists of 24 members elected for 5 years.

The Senate consists of 21 Senators elected for a like period. Of these, 12 are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister, 2 are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, and 7 are appointed by the Governor-General himself with a view to representing primarily religious, economic, or social interests.

Electoral System

Any citizen of Barbados of either sex who is at least 18 years old, who has resided in a particular constituency for a minimum of 3 months, and who is registered as an elector in that constituency is entitled to vote. Also eligible are Commonwealth citizens, of the required age, who have resided in Barbados for at least 3 years immediately before the election date. Those persons declared insane, undergoing any sentence of imprisonment, or under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months are disqualified from registration.

Persons serving abroad as members of a Mission staff, and members of their household, are qualified to be treated as foreign service electors, and registered as such.

Citizens of Barbados at least 21 years of age, or Commonwealth citizens residing in the country for at least 7 years preceding the election, are qualified to be elected as members of the House of Assembly. Ineligible, for both the House and the Senate, are undischarged bankrupts, the insane, persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, those in judicial or religious posts, those under a sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 6 months, and those convicted of electoral fraud.

The Electoral Law sets strict limits on the amount of expenses a candidate may incur during his election campaign.

For election purposes, Barbados is divided into 24 constituencies; in each, 1 Deputy is elected by simple plurality of vote, on the course of 1 round.

Vacant seats in the Senate are filled by appointment made by the Governor-General in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister or the Leader of the Opposition, depending on the question according to whose advice the seat, before it became vacant, had been filled. By-elections are used to fill vacancies in the House of Assembly.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Three parties contested the legislative elections of September 9, 1971.

The 2 opponents of the majority Democratic Labour Party (DLP) were the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) and the Barbados National Party (BNP). Alongside 2 independents, these 3 groups presented 48 candidates.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Erros Barrow, leader of the victorious DLP party, was re-elected for a third 5-year term and formed a new Cabinet.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Assembly*

Number of registered voters.116,000 (approx.)
Voters.85 %

Political Group	Number of Seats in the House of Assembly
Democratic Labour Party (DLP).18 (+4)
Barbados Labour Party (BLP).6 (—2)
Barbados National Party (BNP).	— (—2)