

UULGAUIA

Date of Elections: May 30, 1976

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following the premature dissolution of the legislature in May 1976. Previous general elections had taken place on June 27, 1971.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Bulgaria, the National Assembly, is composed of 400 deputies elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Bulgarian citizens at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote unless they are serving a sentence of imprisonment or have been declared insane.

Electoral registers are revised before each election at the level of the municipality by the executive committee of the local people's councils. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors are eligible for the National Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is not deemed incompatible with any other function.

Candidates are generally members of a political party. They can in fact be nominated either by a party, a social or economic organization or directly by the electorate, in which case the support of at least 20% of the voters of the particular constituency is required.

The 400 deputies are elected in a like number of constituencies by absolute majority vote. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority on the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second or subsequent ballots are held until these requirements are met.

By-elections are held to fill National Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections unless the vacancy occurs within the last six months of the legislature.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The National Assembly was dissolved one month before the end of its term so that the general elections might be held at a more suitable time of the year. As in the past, candidates for the National Assembly were proposed by the country's two political parties, various social and economic organizations and individual electors in the different constituencies. The Bulgarian Fatherland Front, the mass organization unifying political and social groups, trade unions, the youth movement and individual citizens, in turn nominated one candidate for each one of the 400 constituencies; these included 272 members of the Bulgarian Communist Party, 100 members of the Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union and 28 candidates without party affiliation. All were elected on polling day, which was marked by a massive voter turnout. Female members chosen numbered 78.

On June 16, the new National Assembly met to elect the State Council and the Council of Ministers.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly

Number of registered voters.	6,379,348
Voters.	6,375,092 (99.93%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	4,461
Valid votes.	6,370,631
<i>Votes in favour of the Fatherland Front</i>	<i>6,369,762</i>

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
Bulgarian Communist Party.	272	272 (+4)
Agrarian People's Union.	100	100 (=)
Non-party.	28	28 (-4)
		400

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

State, party and public officials, scientists and artists.	295
Workers in agriculture, industry, construction and transport	105
	400

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3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	322
Women.	78
	400

4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group

18-30 years.	33
31-60.	292
Over 60.	75
	400