

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Date of Elections: November 14, 1971

Reason for Elections

Elections were held to renew all the members of the People's Chamber who, elected in 1967, had reached the normal expiration of their mandate.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), the People's Chamber (*Volkskammer*), consists of 500 seats; 434 filled by election by popular vote, and 66, for Representatives of Berlin, elected by the Municipal Council of East Berlin. The latter Deputies have no right to vote.

Electoral System

Every citizen of the GDR who is 18 years of age on election day has the right to vote. Persons under tutelage, guardianship or wardship, the insane and persons who have been deprived of their civil rights by court decision are deprived of their right to vote. Furthermore, the right of persons who, on the ground of a court sentence are imprisoned, as well as persons who are detained, is suspended.

Electoral lists are drawn up within the constituencies; any elector may request a revision if he thinks a list wrong or incomplete. Voting is not compulsory.

Every citizen can be elected to the People's Chamber if he has reached the age of 21 on election day, provided he is not disqualified as an elector.

The Council of State (*Staatsrat*) fixes, with due regard to the population of each constituency, the number of Deputies elected in the 67 constituencies. In each, those Deputies gaining the most votes, in the course of one ballot, are elected.

In case of a vacancy occurring between general elections, the seat is filled, by decision of the Chamber, by one of the substitutes on the "reserve list", which is made up of the unsuccessful candidates to the elections.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On June 24, 1971, the People's Chamber fixed November 14, 1971, as the election day.

All candidates appeared on a single list submitted by the National Front of Democratic Germany. The latter, led by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, embraces the various political parties and mass organizations in the country.

As in the 1967 elections, voters had a choice among a number of candidates — 584, including 199 women — appearing on the official lists to contest the 334 seats. All candidates who received more than 5 % of the valid votes were considered to have been elected, those in excess of the number of seats available being placed on a reserve list in order of votes received.

Sixty-six Representatives were also elected by the Municipal Council of East Berlin.

The newly-elected *Volkskammer* met on November 26 to nominate the members of the Council of State and on November 29, 1971, to approve the new Council of Ministers.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the People's Chamber*

Number of registered voters.11,401,090
Voters.11,227,535(98.5%)
Blank or void ballot papers.3,196
Valid votes.11,224,339
<i>Votes in favor of the National Front of Democratic Germany.</i>	<i>.11,207,388 (99.5 %)</i>

Political Group	Deputies	Number of Representatives from 'Berlin	Total
Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED)	110	17	127
Liberal Democratic Party of Germany (LDPD)	45	7	52
Christian Democratic Union (CDU)	45	7	52
National Democratic Party of Germany (NDPD)	15	7	52
Democratic Peasants' Party of Germany (DBD)	4.-)	7	52
Free German Trade Unions (FDGB)	60	8	68
Free German Youth (FDJ)	35	5	40
Democratic League of the Women of Germany (DFD)	30	5	35
Democratic Cultural League (DKB)	11	3	14
	<hr/> 434	66	500

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Industrial workers	219
Clerks	102
Intellectuals	101
Agricultural workers	77
Other	1
	~500

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men	341
Women	159
	~500

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

21-25	31
26-30	30
31-40	102
41-50	214
51-60	80
Over 60	43
	500