

INDONESIA

Date of Elections: July 3, 1971

Reason for Elections

Elections were held to elect 360 of the 460 members of the House of Representatives. These were the first general legislative elections since 1955, and the second in the history of the Republic.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Indonesian Parliament, the House of Representatives (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakjat*), consists of 460 members. Of these 360 are popularly elected and 100 — members of the armed forces and the government — are appointed by the President of the Republic.

All Representatives have 5-year terms of office.

Electoral System

All Indonesian citizens, male or female, over 17 years of age have the right to vote, except members of the military, certain classes of criminals, former members of the Communist Party (PKI) and its mass organizations, and those allegedly involved in the 1965 coup attempt.

Electoral lists are revised at least 105 days prior to election day. Voting is not compulsory.

Any citizen of Indonesia who is at least 21 years of age, whose native tongue is Indonesian and who knows how to read and write, who enjoys full civil rights, who respects the *Pantjasila* and who is registered on the electoral list may stand for election to the House of Representatives. In addition, all candidates must belong to a political organization. Members of the military, the insane, those convicted by juridical decree and those allegedly involved in the 1965 coup attempt are ineligible.

Voting in the 26 constituencies is by the party-list system with proportional distribution of seats; voters make their choice by piercing party symbols on a ballot paper identical throughout Indonesia. Thereafter the party winning the seats itself selects the Representatives to fill the same.

A successor is chosen by the former Representative's party to fill a seat which becomes vacant between general elections.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The first general elections in 16 years were contested by 9 political parties (compared with 28 in 1955) and the Government-sponsored " Joint Secretariat of Functional Groups " (*Sekber Golkar*).

The *Sekber Golkar* is not officially regarded as a political party, as civil servants, who play a major part in it, are forbidden by law to join any party. It is a federation of 260 trade, professional, and regional organizations, ranging from civil servants, teachers, journalists and students to village chiefs, farmers and fishermen. These organizations were formed under President Sukarno's regime to counterbalance the growing influence of the Communist Party, especially among Government employees, and were brought under Governmental control in 1968 to provide President Suharto's military regime with a civilian basis.

All candidates had to be approved beforehand by an election committee nominated by the Government. Of 3,840 names submitted, 735 were eliminated from the provisional list approved on March 10, 1971, and 83 more from the final list adopted on April 20. The number of *Golkar* candidates was reduced by only 11, from 549 to 538, leaving it with more candidates than any other party.

The election campaign officially opened on April 29 and continued until June 28, giving a week's respite before the elections themselves. The political parties were forbidden to criticize the Government in their propaganda, to discuss religious questions, to spread the ideas of the late President Sukarno or to praise his memory, and the texts of all party broadcasts had to be submitted 10 days beforehand for official approval. The primary issue discussed by *Golkar* was that of economic development for the country.

Voting took place on July 3 without serious incident; the only disturbance occurred near Djakarta, where four polling booths were set on fire. About 94 % of the electorate cast their ballots. The results showed an overwhelming victory for the *Golkar*, which won 236 of the 360 elective seats.

On October 3, 1971, the outgoing Parliament dissolved itself to make way for the newly-elected body, sworn in on October 28.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Representatives

Number of registered voters	58,179,245
Voters	54,699,509 (94 %)

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats in the House of Representatives
Joint Secretariat of Functional Groups (<i>Sekretariat Bersama Golongan Karya — " Sekber Golkar"</i>).	538	34,348,673	62.8	236
Moslem Scholars' Party (<i>Nahdatul Ulama</i>)	397	10,213,650	18.7	58
Indonesian Moslem Party (<i>Parmusi</i>).	327	2,930,746	5.4	24
Indonesian Nationalist Party (PNI).	506	3,793,266	6.9	20
Moslem Political Federation (PSII).	309	1,308,237	2.4	10
Protestant Christian Party (<i>Parkindo</i>).	*	733,359	1.3	7
Catholic Party (<i>Partai Katolik</i>).	*	603,740	1.1	3
Moslem Party (<i>Perti</i>).	*	381,309	0.7	2
Movement for the Defense of Indonesian Independence (IPKI).	295	338,403	0.6	—
Party of the Masses (<i>Partai Murba</i>).	*	48,126	0.1	—
				360 **

* Exact number of candidates unavailable; estimated at between 100 and 200.

** 100 additional Representatives are appointed by the President of the Republic.

2. Distribution of Representatives according to Sex

Men	427
Women	33
	460