

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Dates of Elections: 8 April and 13 May 1988

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Consultative Assembly, comprises 270 members elected for 4 years. According to the Constitution, the Zoroastrians and Jews have one representative each, the Assyrian and Chaldean Christians together have one representative, and the Armenian Christians of the South and North each elect one representative.

Electoral System

All Iranian citizens who are at least 16 years of age and sane are entitled to vote.

Qualified electors of 26 to 75 years of age who have a belief in and an active obligation to Islam and the system prevailing in the Islamic Republic of Iran are eligible to be elected to Parliament. They must moreover have expressed faithfulness to the Constitution and have sufficient literacy and physical well being. Candidates of religious minorities are exempted from the obligation to Islam. Among the disqualified are persons who played leading roles in strengthening the former regime, large landowners, persons belonging to illegal groups, those convicted of action against the State or apostasy and drug addicts.

The President of the Republic and his counselors, the Prime Minister, Ministers, deputy ministers and their advisers, members of the Council of Guardians, members of the High Judicial Council, the Head of the Administrative Court of Justice, the Head of General Inspection, certain public officials and religious leaders, and members of the armed forces all hold positions deemed incompatible with candidacy for the Consultative Assembly unless they resign therefrom sufficiently in advance of registration.

Parliamentary elections are conducted in two rounds of voting, absolute majority being required in the first and simple majority in the second. The number of unsuccessful candidates who may run in the second stage is restricted to the highest gainers and to twice the number of seats to be filled in the constituency concerned. If the number is less than double, all remaining candidates may run. If those remaining are equal to or less than the number of unfilled seats, the second round is not held and the results of the first ballot are conclusive.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies which arise between general elections. No such elections are, however, held within the last six months of the legislature's term, unless the total number of filled Assembly seats falls below 200.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The election date was set on 27 August 1987. The Islamic Republican Party, founded in 1978 to bring about the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of the country's religious leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini, and the ruling party since then, had officially been disbanded in June 1987. In its absence, the poll was seen as a contest between supporters of an Islamic-type capitalist economy and radicals who favoured a socialist-style system. Altogether some 1400 candidates (including approximately 30 women) were in the running.

Voting on 8 May was held amid the continuing armed conflict with Iraq, with bombings on major cities throughout the day. Of the Assembly's 270 seats, 188 were filled in the first round of voting. Final results after the second round of 13 May gave victory primarily to the radicals advocating widespread nationalization, as well as militants favouring pursuit of the war against Iraq, rather than religious conservatives and proponents of a swift end to the conflict who saw this as the first step towards economic recovery. Among those elected were many new, young members. Ahmed Khomeini, the Ayatollah's son, was one of the successful candidates.

The newly-elected Assembly held its inaugural session on 28 May. On 30 June, Mr. Hossain Moussavi was re-elected Prime Minister.

Statistics*1. Results of the Elections*

Voters	17,004,403
Blank or void ballot papers	220,872
Valid votes.	16,783,531

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	267
Women.	3
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	270

3. Distribution of Deputies according to Age

25-35 years.71
36-45 »121
46-55 »53
56-65 »13
66-75 »2
	260*

* Pending by-elections for 10 seats.