

KUWAIT

Date of Elections: January 27, 1975

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Kuwait, the National Assembly, is composed of 50 members elected for 4 years. In addition, Ministers of the Government who are not elected members of the National Assembly are considered *ex-officio* members of Parliament.

Electoral System

Only men at least 21 years of age who are natural-born Kuwaitis or who have been naturalized citizens for 10 years are entitled to vote. Electors must, moreover, reside in Kuwait and have their names entered on the electoral register of their home constituency. Persons are disqualified from being electors if they have been convicted and not yet rehabilitated, while the right of suffrage is suspended as to military and police personnel.

Within each constituency, electoral registers are compiled by committees appointed by the Ministry of the Interior and are revised every February. Voting is not compulsory. Voting by post or proxy is not permitted.

Candidates to the National Assembly must be Kuwaiti by origin, possess the franchise, be over 30 years of age and be able to read and write Arabic well. Civil servants and members of the army or police services must resign from their offices if they stand for election. Company directors may not at the same time be members of Parliament.

As there are no political parties in Kuwait, candidates to the National Assembly run in an individual capacity. They must make a cash deposit of 50 Kuwait *dinar*, which is reimbursed if the candidate obtains **1/10** of the votes cast in his constituency.

Kuwait is divided into 10 electoral constituencies. In each, voters choose 5 candidates from among those whose names appear on different lists. The 5 candidates in each constituency who obtain the most votes are considered elected.

If a seat falls vacant between general elections, a by-election is held within two months of the date on which the vacancy was registered. No by-election is held to fill a vacancy which occurs within 6 months of the end of the Assembly's term.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1975 general elections were the fourth since parliamentary democracy was instituted in the country in 1962.

In accordance with the Electoral Law, the decree which set the date of the elections and opened the electoral campaign was published more than one month before the date fixed for the elections.

Since the formation of political parties is unauthorized in Kuwait, some 260 individual candidates ran for the 50 elective seats of Parliament on the basis of their own campaigns. They were obliged to announce their candidacy during the 10 days following the publication of the election decree.

Almost 60 % of Kuwait's adult and literate registered male electorate participated in the voting. As compared to the previous legislature, the newly-elected Assembly was characterized by its younger membership.

Following the elections, the Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, was reappointed Prime Minister. He named his Cabinet on February 9.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections

Number of registered voters	52,994
Voters	30,863 (58.2 %)

2. Distribution of Elected Members of Parliament according to Professional Category

Civil servants.	30
Merchants and businessmen.	10
Lawyers.	3
Physicians.	2
Journalists.	2
Engineers.	1
Bank managers.	1
General contractors.	1

50

3. *Distribution of Elected Members of Parliament
according to Sex*

Men	50
Women	—
	50

4. *Distribution of Elected Members of Parliament
according to Age Group*

30-39 years	10
40-49	27
50-59	10
60-69	3
	60