

LIBERIA

Date of Elections: May 4, 1971

Reason for Elections

The electorate was called to the urns to renew all the members of the House of Representatives on the regular expiry of their mandate.

Characteristics of Parliament

- The Liberian Parliament, or Legislature of Liberia, consists of two Houses:
- The Senate which is composed of 18 members elected for 6 years on the basis of 2 for each county.
 - The House of Representatives which has 52 members elected for 4 years on the basis of approximately 1 per 10,000 electors.

Electoral System

Liberian citizens, irrespective of sex, who are at least 21 years of age, landowners and registered on the electoral rolls may vote in elections with the exception of the mentally defective, persons deprived of their civil rights and those dependent on the State for livelihood. Voting is not compulsory. Voting by proxy is not authorized, but voting in advance is allowed in the case of electors who will not be present on the day of elections.

Every elector may be presented by a political party as a candidate to a seat in the House of Representatives provided he is at least 23 years of age and possesses real estate to the minimum value of 1,000 dollars in the county where he is a candidate; candidates to the Senate must be at least 25 years of age and possess real estate to the value of 1,200 dollars.

Senators and Representatives are elected in single member constituencies by simple plurality of votes.

In the case of a vacancy in one or other of the Houses during a legislature, a by-election is held.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As we have been unable to obtain information or statistics concerning this election, we are only able to state that the True Whig Party, the only political party in existence in Liberia, holds every seat in Parliament.