

SAN MARINO

Date of Elections: May 28, 1978

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following the premature dissolution of this body in March 1978. Previous general elections had taken place in September 1974.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of San Marino, the Grand and General Council, consists of 60 members elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All citizens of San Marino who are at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their political rights are entitled to vote. Disqualified, however, are the mentally infirm, persons deprived of their full legal capacity and persons convicted of electoral offences or crimes punished by detention of more than one year.

Electoral registers are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Voting by correspondence is not permitted.

Except for persons holding ecclesiastical offices or titles, all qualified electors who are at least 25 years old, literate and domiciled in San Marino may be candidates to Parliament. Consuls and honorary consuls of foreign States and members of the police or security forces cannot simultaneously be members of Parliament, as cannot together spouses or a parent and child. Candidates to Parliament must belong to a political party.

San Marino is divided into 33 electoral constituencies. In each, members of Parliament are elected according to a party-list system with proportional representation of seats. Voters indicate their preference either for a list or for a maximum of six candidates.

The councillor whose seat falls vacant during the five-year term for whatever reason is replaced by the candidate from the same party list who received the next greatest number of votes.

The Grand and General Council is wholly renewed if it loses one half plus one of its members.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1978 elections were called on March 6 in order to resolve a four-month governmental crisis produced by the fact that the Socialist Party, in November 1977, withdrew its support for the minority Christian Democratic Government. Parliament was dissolved on March 23.

On polling day, the ruling Christian Democrats — in power since 1957 — gained one seat and retained their previous position of largest single party in Parliament. The new Government was nevertheless ultimately to be formed by the Communists (16 seats) and two socialist parties (15 seats), which together claimed an overall parliamentary majority. The Grand and General Council approved this new leftist Government by one vote on **July 17**.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Grand and General Council

Number of registered electors.	19,615
Voters.	15,491 (78.98 %)
Blank or void ballot papers.	410
Valid votes.	15,081

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	/o	Number of Seats
Christian Democratic Party	60	6,380	42.30	26
Communist Party of San Marino	60	3,791	25.14	16
Socialist Party of San Marino	60	2,077	13.77	8
Unitary Socialist Party	60	1,678	11.13	7
Social Democrats	60	629	4.17	2
Committee for the Defence of the Republic	12	426	2.82	1
Marxist-Leninist Party	10	100	0.66	—
				60

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

Civil servants.	36
Lawyers.	6
Businessmen.	3
Artisans.	2
Others.	13
	~60

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

Men.	57
Women.	3
	60