

SPAIN

Date of Elections: September 29 to November 16, 1971

Reason for Elections

Elections were held to renew all the elected members of Parliament (*Cortes*) on the normal expiration of their mandate.

Characteristics of Parliament

The Spanish Parliament (*Cortes*) is unicameral. It is composed of members elected by various bodies of electorate, *ex-officio* members, and appointed members. All members are called *procuradores*.

The total number of the members of the *Cortes* is 561. The duration of each legislature is 4 years.

Electoral System

I. *Elected members of the Cortes*

(a) Representatives of Local Governments. These are the following:

1. Representatives of the Communities. The Council of each of the 52 Provinces elects 1 of its members as a member of the *Cortes*.

2. Representatives of Certain Cities. The Council of each of the cities having more than 300,000 inhabitants (Barcelona, Madrid, Malaga, Seville, Valencia, Bilbao and Saragossa (7)) as well as of Ceuta and Melilla (both in Africa (2)) elects one of its members as a member of the *Cortes*.

3. Representatives of 52 Provincial "Deputations" and of the Canarian Interinsular Community. Each of these corporations elects one of its members as a member of the *Cortes*.

4. Representatives of Territories not having the status of Provinces. The local administration of each of these Territories elects one of its members of that administration as a member of the *Cortes*.

Where the member of the *Cortes* ceases to be a member of the Council of Deputation which elected him, he ceases to be a member of the *Cortes*.

(b) "Representatives of the Family"

The electors registered on the electoral lists of each of the 52 Provinces elect 2 members of the *Cortes*.

To be an elector, a person must be " the head of a family " or a married woman. A person who is at least 21 years old and has his or her own household is considered as if he (she) were the head of the family. The elector must, furthermore, be of Spanish nationality and must be in full possession of his (her) civil and political rights. At the time of the 1971 elections, 17,252,103 persons were registered on the electoral lists.

Voting is compulsory. Electoral lists are established every 10 years, and are revised annually.

To be eligible, a person must be born in the Province in which he presents himself for election and must have been a resident of that Province for at least 7 years since the age of 14. Furthermore, such person must be proposed by at least 100 members of the Provincial " Deputation " or 1,000 electors or 5 % of the Province's population, unless he (she) belongs, or has belonged to the *Cortes*, in which case the proposal may be made by 5 members of the *Cortes* or 7 members of the Provincial Council. Those subject to certain disqualifications (for example, those having been deprived of their *patria potestas* or those found guilty in an action for matrimonial separation) are not eligible. Candidates are required to swear allegiance to the National Movement. Judges are not eligible.

By-elections are held if a seat becomes vacant prior to the beginning of the last year of the mandate of the legislature.

- (c) Representatives of the Employers' and Workers' Organizations (*Sindicatos*).

150 members of the *Cortes* are elected by the Central Boards (*Juntas Centrales*) of the Economic (employers) and Social (workers) Sections of each Employers' and Workers' Organization (*Sindicato*) from among the members of the said Boards.

- (d) Representatives of the Royal Academies.

The Royal Academies (Royal Spanish Academy (of the Spanish Language), Academy of History, Academy of Fine Arts, Academy of Physical and Natural Sciences, Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, Academy of Medicine, Academy of Law, Academy of Pharmacy) elect 2 members of the *Cortes* from among their members.

- (e) Representatives of the Supreme Council of Scientific Research.

The members of this Council elect 2 members of the *Cortes* from among themselves.

(f) Representatives of Certain Professional Associations.

The professional associations of attorneys-at-law and medical doctors elect 2 members of the *Cortes* each. The professional associations of engineers, stock brokers, architects, economists, pharmacists, doctors of science and letters, doctors of chemistry or physics, notaries public, solicitors, registrars, veterinaries elect 1 member of the *Cortes* each. Any elected person must be a member of the association electing him.

(g) Representatives of Certain Interest Groups

The official Chambers of Commerce elect 3 members of the *Cortes*. The Chamber of Urban Proprietors and the Associations of Tenants elect 1 member of the *Cortes* each. Any elected person must be a member of the association electing him.

Representatives referred to in paragraphs (c) to (g), above, cease to be members of the *Cortes* if they cease to be members of the association or other body which elected them.

II. *Ex-officio Members of the Cortes*

(a) The Members of the Government

(b) The Members of the National Council

The National Council is the collegial body of the National Movement. The members of the National Council are the following *:

1. 1 elected member for each of the 52 Provinces.
2. 40 members appointed by the *Cavdillo*.
3. 6 members appointed by the President of the Council of Ministers.
4. The Secretary General of the National Council.

(c) The Presidents of 5 High State Institutions, namely, of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Council of State, the Supreme Military Tribunal, the Royal Fiscal Tribunal and the Council of National Economy.

(d) The Heads (Rectors) of the (12) Universities

(e) The Presidents of 3 High Institutions of Arts and Sciences, namely, of the Institute of Spain, of the Supreme Council of Scientific Research, and the Institute of Engineers.

* The National Council has 12 more members: 4 elected by and among the members of the *Cortes*, representatives of local government; 4 elected by and among the members of the *Cortes*, representatives of "the family"; 4 elected by and among members of the *Cortes*, representatives of the Employers' and Workers' Organizations. These 12 persons are, of course, members of the *Cortes* independently of the fact that they are members of the National Council.

Any *ex-officio* member of the *Cortes* ceases to be a member thereof if he ceases to hold the office by virtue of which he held his seat in the *Cortes*.

III. *Appointed members of the Cortes*

The Head of State, after having heard the Council of the Kingdom, appoints not more than 25 members of the *Cortes* on the basis of their rank in the ecclesiastical, military or administrative hierarchy or the services they rendered to the country. These members' mandates may be revoked by the Head of State at any time.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

All candidates had to pledge allegiance to the principles of the National Movement. Political parties are not allowed and could not campaign.

The campaign for the election of the "Representatives of the Family" opened on September 15, 1971, that is, 2 weeks prior to the date of that election (September 29, 1971). The number of candidates (237) in the said election was more than double of the seats available (104). Less than half of the electorate voted (7,294,134 voters out of 17,252,103 registered voters). The poll was particularly low in Madrid (31%), Catalonia and the Basque provinces; it was the highest in the rural provinces of central Spain.

Most of the members of the *Cortes* elected by the local governments are the mayors of the municipalities and the presidents of the provincial "deputations".

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the Cortes*

Elected members	
Representatives of local governments.	114
— of communities.	52
— of certain cities.	9
— of the Provincial "Deputations" and the Canarian Interinsular Community.	53
Representatives of the family.	104
Representatives of <i>Sindicatos</i>	150
<i>Ex-officio members</i>	39
National Council of the Movement	
Elected Members.	53
Members appointed by the <i>Caudillo</i>	40
Members appointed by the President of the Council of Ministers	6
Representatives of cultural institutions, colleges, corporations or professional associations.	30

2. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Sex*

Men	553
Women	8
	561

3. *Average Age of Parliamentarians: 53 years*