

## TUNISIA

**Date of Elections:** November 3, 1974

### **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 Tunisia, the National Assembly, is composed of **112** members \* elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens aged 20 years or more, of either sex, who have had Tunisian nationality for at least 5 years and who possess full civil and political rights are entitled to vote if their names appear on the electoral registers. The following persons may not be registered as electors: those convicted of crime; those convicted of offences which carry either an unsuspended sentence of imprisonment in excess of 3 months or a suspended sentence of imprisonment in excess of 6 months; those under guardianship; undischarged bankrupts; the insane; and members of the armed forces and the National Guard.

Electoral registers are revised annually during the first two weeks of January. Voting is not compulsory.

Candidates to Parliament must be qualified electors who are at least 30 years of age and born of a Tunisian father. Governors, magistrates, certain local public officials and members of the police force cannot be elected. The exercise of public functions which are non-elective and remunerated by State funds, public establishments or public collectivities are generally incompatible with the office of deputy. Also incompatible are offices which involve working for a foreign State or an international organization.

Candidates must be submitted during the third or fourth week preceding the elections. Candidates may not run in an individual capacity. The Electoral Code contains certain regulations as to the use of propaganda during the election campaign.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 8.

Tunisia is divided into 22 electoral constituencies. In each, 4 to 7 candidates, who appear on party lists, are elected by simple majority. Each list must contain the names of as many candidates as there are seats to be filled in the relevant constituency. The elector casts as many votes as there are seats to be filled and, in doing so, may split his vote among candidates of different Usts. Seats are allocated to the candidates who have obtained the largest number of valid votes.

Should there be only one list presented the candidates appearing on it are automatically elected.

A parliamentary seat which becomes vacant between general elections is filled through a by-election which is held within 3 months of the vacancy occurring. No by-elections are however held within the last 12 months of the scheduled end of the legislature's term.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

In accordance with the Electoral Code, the election campaign opened two weeks prior to polling day.

As is customary in Tunisia, deputies to the National Assembly and the President of the Republic were to be chosen the same day. For all these posts, only the Destour Socialist Party (*Parti socialiste destourien* — PSD) — the country's sole political group — put up candidates. They campaigned on the theme of a "contract of progress" between the country's social classes such as would achieve a new type of society which would be neither socialist nor capitalist. The PSD had made similar recommendations during its Ninth Congress held September 12-15, 1974, when Prime Minister Hedi Noura had called on the country's trade unions to co-operate with the Party in advancing such cause.

As at the last elections, a large turnout of voters gave their approval to the PSD list of parliamentary candidates, 71 of whom were new to the Assembly. Unchallenged presidential candidate Habib Bourguiba, founder of the PSD, was re-elected for a fourth term.

#### Statistics

##### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly*

Number of registered voters. . . . .	1,623,743
Voters. . . . .	1,573,291 (96.8 %)
Void or blank ballot papers. . . . .	2,076
Valid votes. . . . .	<b>1,571,215</b>
<i>Votes in favour of the candidates of the PSD list . . . . .</i>	<b>1,571,215</b>

T, .... , „ Political Group	Number of seat g
Destour Socialist Party (PSD).	.112 *

11 seats added since last elections.

### 2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Civil servants, salaried clerks.	.60
Members of the teaching profession	.14
Farmers.	.12
Businessmen.	.10
Lawyers.	.6
Physicians.	.6
Engineers.	.2
Jurists.	.1
Journalists.	.1
	112

### 3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men.	.109
Women.	.3
	112

### 4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

30-45 years.	40
46-60.	.64
Over 60.	.8
	112