

IRAN

Date of Elections: July 9, 1971

Reason for Elections

Elections were held to renew all the members of the Chamber of Deputies and one-half of the Senate on the normal expiration of their mandate.

Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Iranian Parliament consists of:

- The Chamber of Deputies (*Majlis*), composed henceforth of 268 Deputies *;
- The Senate, composed of
 - 30 elected members (15 from Teheran and 15 from the provinces);
 - 30 members appointed by the Shahanshah (15 from Teheran and 15 from the provinces).

Both Senators and Deputies serve for a 4-year term.

Electoral System

Electoral requisites:

Majlis: Iranian subjects of either sex at least 20 years of age who are residents of, or have lived at least 6 months in their constituency, are entitled to vote. Insane persons and those placed under guardianship, those officially converted from Islam, fraudulent bankrupts, beggars and those who earn their living through indecent occupations, criminals and persons convicted of offenses punishable under Islamic Law, persons who have been convicted of political crimes against the Government and the independence of the State, and regular members of the armed forces are ineligible to vote.

Senate: Iranian subjects of either sex at least 25 years of age who have been residents of their constituency at least 6 months are entitled to vote. Those legally placed under the care of an executor or administrator and those sentenced for crimes and/or misdemeanors or deprivation of civil rights who have not been legally rehabilitated are barred from voting, as are regulars of the armed forces and the gendarmery.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 12.

Electoral lists are revised before each election. Voting is not compulsory.

Majlis: All Iranian subjects of either sex between the ages of 30 and 70 who are of Muslim religion (except those representing minority religions, i.e., Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Judaism), who are able to read and write Persian, who have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness and who are well known in their constituency, may be candidates. The following persons cannot be elected: members of the Shah's immediate family; Governors-General, Governors and their deputies, court presidents, public prosecutors, Attorneys-General and tax officials, all within their own jurisdiction; fraudulent bankrupts; criminals and other convicts liable to punishment according to Islamic Law; public sinners, heretics and those converted from Islam by religious court; persons convicted of political crimes against the Government and the independence of the State. Also ineligible are chiefs of government departments in their jurisdiction as well as Ministers and their deputies, although other government officials are eligible, provided they resign from their government posts after their election and for the period they serve as Deputies.

Senate: Candidates of either sex must be Iranian subjects not under 40 years of age; furthermore, they must be Muslims (except those representing minority religions, i.e., Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Judaism), must be either from their own constituency or well known to the residents of the constituency, and must have a reputation for honesty, trustworthiness and a high degree of familiarity in the affairs of the State.

Persons having these qualifications should, in addition, belong to one of the following categories: religious leaders who have been elected to the *Majlis* at least 3 times; those who have acquired the rank of Minister, Ambassador, Governor-General, Chief Justice, Attorney-General or Section-Chief at the State court and/or those who have at least 20 years of judicial service; retired high-ranking military officers (Brigadier-General, Major-General, Lieutenant-General); those who have acquired the rank of professor with at least 10 years of service; those who have had at least 20 years of civil service and have acquired the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary or an acting and/or under-secretary in the Ministry; landlords and merchants who pay direct taxes of at least 500,000 Rials annually; and eminent lawyers who have served for 15 years as attorneys-at-law and who have a doctorate at-law or have 20 years of judicial or legal service.

Government officials within their jurisdiction, persons sentenced for crimes or misdemeanors or deprivation of civil rights even though they have been rehabilitated, and persons placed under guardianship are ineligible.

The same requirements, except the disqualification for government officials within the area of their official jurisdiction, are applicable to Senators appointed by the Shah.

Deputies are elected by simple plurality in constituencies where only one Deputy is elected; in others — i.e., where more than one Deputy is elected — the several candidates receiving the most votes are elected. As for Senators, electors may vote for as many as are allotted to that particular province.

A by-election is held to fill a seat which falls vacant between general elections.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The ruling *Iran Novin* (New Iran) party, headed by Prime Minister Hoveyda, and the moderate opposition *Mardom* (People's) party participated in the electoral campaign, which ended on July 5, 1971. An imperial decree had fixed July 9 as the date of the general elections.

While both groups supported the Shah's reform program called the "white revolution," the Prime Minister traveled extensively, focusing on local needs and problems and seeking public approval of his program by urging a larger participation by electors.

Elections took place for 268 seats in the *Majlis*, which had been increased from its previous membership of 219 Deputies in view of the growth of the electorate since the last elections, as well as for the Senate. The extreme nationalist pan-Iranian party, which had elected 5 Deputies in 1967, boycotted the elections, claiming that its newspaper had been censored and that the Government had exercised a monopoly over campaign broadcasting on State television and radio.

Once more, the Government gained an overwhelming victory; its 230 seats won in the *Majlis* represented a slight proportional increase on its outgoing strength.

On September 13, 1971, Prime Minister Hoveyda formed a new Cabinet at the Shah's request.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in Parliament*

Number of registered voters	8,000,000 approx.
Voters	2,800,000 (35%) approx.

Political Group	Number of Seats in the <i>Majlis</i>	Number of Seats in the Senate
<i>IranNovin</i>	230	28
<i>Mardom</i>	37	2
Independents.1	—
	~268	~ 30 *

* 30 other Senators are appointed by the Shah.

2. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Sex*

	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
Men	257	56
Women	11	4
	268	60