



KUWAIT ELECTIONS 2022



On 29 September 2022, Kuwaiti citizens headed to polls to elect 50 members of the National Assembly (Majlis Al-Ommah) following its dissolution by the Crown Prince a month earlier over a deadlock with the government. This infographic provides an overview of Kuwait's parliamentary elections in numbers and their history.

5 districts, 10 MPs, 1 vote
voting system since 2008 consists of 5 districts that elect 10 MPs each, since 2012 voters can vote only for one candidate

19 elections
Kuwait has held 19 elections to the National Assembly since 1963, including two annulled ones in 2012.

70% vs 38%
2013 saw the most newcomers (70%), while 2006 saw the most reelected MPs from the previous term (62%)
46% of the outgoing MPs (23) were reelected in 2022

17th legislative term (2022)
Kuwait had **16** sitting parliaments since 1963 and **39** governments since 1961

888 days
an average term of a dissolved National Assembly (2003-2020, excl. 2012)

51.2% of registered voters in 2022 were women
4% of elected MPs were women (2022)

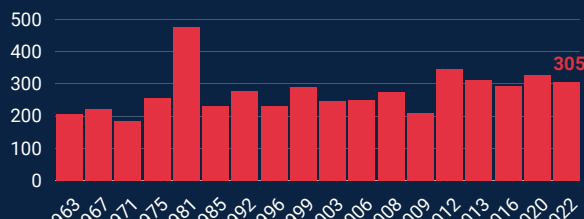


50 members
directly elected for four-years
15 ex-officio members
Ministers appointed by the Emir, at least one which is an elected MP

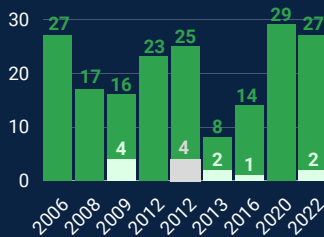
VOTING SYSTEM
1963-1975: 10 districts, 5 MPs each
1981-2008: 25 districts, 2 MPs each
since 2008: 5 districts, 10 MPs each

NUMBER OF VOTES PER PERSON
1963-1971: each voter could vote for 5 candidates
1981-2008: each voter could vote for 2 candidates
2008-2012: each voter could vote for 4 candidates
since 12/2012: single non-transferable vote per voter

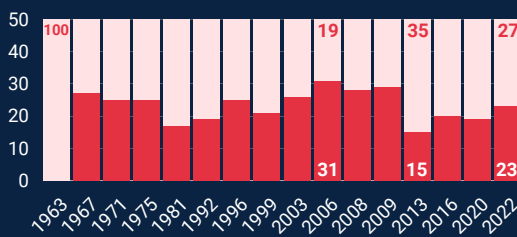
TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES (1963-2022)



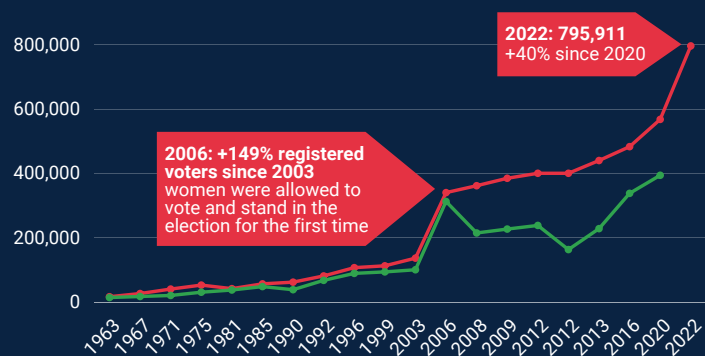
WOMEN CANDIDATES & ELECTED MPs



REELECTED MPs & NEWCOMERS



NUMBER OF REGISTERED & PARTICIPATING VOTERS (1963-2022)



WHO CAN VOTE?

21 voting age
Kuwaiti citizens
persons naturalised for 20+ years
NOT police & military personnel

WHO CAN STAND AS A CANDIDATE?

30 minimum age
Kuwaiti citizens residing in Kuwait
proficient in reading and writing Arabic
NOT police & military, ministers, judges,...

There are no political parties. Candidates run as **independents** or as members of a political associations, which include the Liberals, Muslim Brotherhood, Salafis and Shia Islamists. **Tribal** affiliations also play an important role.

HISTORY OF KUWAIT'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND KEY MILESTONES

1939
The 1938 Legislative Council was dissolved after several members sent a request to Iraq's King to incorporate Kuwait into Iraq.

January 1963
Kuwait was the first Arab Gulf country to establish an elected National Assembly, shortly after independence from the UK and territorial threats from Iraq.

1976
From 1976 to 1981, the National Assembly was suspended by the Emir.

1981
New voting system, was introduced, with more electoral districts (25 instead of 10) and less possible votes for candidates per voter (2 instead of 5).

1986
The Emir abolished the 1962 Constitution and the National Assembly, citing security concerns amid the Iran-Iraq War.

1992
After Iraq's invasion, the National Assembly was restored along with the 1962 Constitution.

1999
Kuwait's Emir Jaber granted women the right to vote but conservatives in the National Assembly overturned the move.

2005
The Assembly approved granting Kuwaiti women the right to vote and run as candidates in the general elections. The first four women MPs were elected in 2009.

2008
New voting system with 5 districts and 4 votes per voter was introduced.

2012
The number of votes was reduced from four to one.

2020
The first parliamentary election since 2003 held in regular term.

LIST OF ELECTIONS

1963	1967	1971
1975	1981	1985
1992	1996	1999
2003	2006	2008
2009	2/2012	12/2012
2013	2016	2020
2022		

ELECTIONS HELD:
after serving full term
after dissolution by Emir
cancelled by Constitutional Court