

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Date of Elections: May 25, 1971

Reason for Elections

The Korean electors were asked to renew the National Assembly, elected on June 8, 1967, upon the expiry of that legislature. The presidential elections were held on April 27, 1971.

Characteristics of Parliament

The Parliament of the Republic of Korea is unicameral and henceforward comprises 204 members elected for a period of 4 years. One hundred and fifty-three of the Assemblymen are elected in as many constituencies, the 51 others are elected on a national basis.

Electoral System

All Korean citizens of either sex, aged 20 or over, are entitled to vote, with the exception of those who are serving a prison sentence or who have been deprived of voting rights by law. Electoral lists, established on a basis of electoral districts, are revised during election year from the month of January on. Voting is not compulsory.

Every voter over the age of 25 may stand for the National Assembly provided he obtains nomination by a political party. Membership of the National Assembly is incompatible with membership of a local Assembly, with public office, or with the exercise of office in certain public and private enterprises determined by law.

One hundred and fifty-three Assemblymen are elected by simple plurality system in one member constituencies, each one representing not less than 200,000 inhabitants. The 51 other seats — called national seats — are distributed proportionally between the political parties at the national level on the following basis:

- Political parties with less than 5 seats in constituencies, or less than 5 % of the national vote are excluded from this distribution.
- If the percentage of votes received by the leading party (calculated on the basis of the total number of votes polled by all parties concerned in the

distribution) is equal to, or greater than, 50 %, that party may not receive more than 2/3 of the national seats.

— If the leading party polls less than 50 % of the votes, it receives one half of the national seats, the remaining half being allocated proportionally among the other parties.

— When, in the two above-mentioned cases, the second party does not poll twice the number of votes received by the third and all other parties, 2/3 of the national seats not attributed to the leading party will go to the second party, after which the remaining national seats are allocated proportionally among the remaining parties.

— If the party in second position obtains more than twice the number of votes obtained by the third and other parties, it will benefit, together with the others, from a proportional distribution of the national seats not attributed to the leading party, on the basis of the percentage of the votes obtained by each group.

— In each party, the national seats obtained are allocated to candidates according to their order indicated in the lists submitted by the respective parties. If a party obtains more national seats than it has candidates, these excess seats remain vacant.

When a constituency seat becomes vacant during the course of a legislature, a by-election is held within 3 months. If the vacancy in question is for a national seat, it is allocated to the " next in line " of the party list in question.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The electoral campaign opened at the same time as the registering of candidates. The two major parties at issue were the Democratic Republican Party, the majority party in the outgoing Assembly, and the New Democratic Party, the main opposition party. Other political groups, much smaller in scale, only put forward regional candidates. Only the two major parties had candidates running for all electoral constituencies.

The Democratic Republican Party and the New Democratic Party, both conservative, fought the election mainly over the questions of the stationing of American forces in Korea, foreign policy and the active service of the army reserve. Moreover, the opposition party accused the Government of corruption and the election campaign was marked generally by a climate of suspicion and mutual denunciation.

After the elections, the government party retained its majority in Parliament, but with fewer seats than during the previous legislature, while the leading opposition party strengthened its position.

Statistics

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

Number of registered voters.15,610,258
Voters.11,430,202 (73.2 %)
Blank or void ballot papers.	234,280
Number of valid votes.11,195,922

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	To	Number of seats in the National Assembly	Number of seats won in previous election	Number of seats on eve of election
Democratic Republican Party	153* 40**	5,460,581	48.77	86* Ins	129	117
New Democratic Party . . .	152* 33**	4,969,050	44.38	27** } 24 ** 1 ⁸⁹	15	17
<i>Kookmin</i> (National Party).	117* 14**	454,257	4.06	1	—	—
<i>Daejoong</i> (Popular Party) . .	47* 7**	59,359	0.53	—	1	—
<i>Minjoong</i> (People's Party) .	33* 13**	155,277	1.39	1	—	—
United Socialist Party . . .	56* 13**	97,398	0.87	—	—	4
				204	175	158

* Local seats
 ** National seats

2. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Professional Category*

Assemblymen.	65
Party Officials.	38
Industrialists.	18
Lawyers.	16
Public Officials.	11
Farmers.	9
Journalists.	7
Ex-Ministers.	5
Artists.	2
Soldiers.	2
Professors.	2
Writer.	1
Doctor.	1
Others.	27
	204

3. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Sex*

Men.	200
Women.	4
	204

4. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Age Group*

30-40.	26
40-50.	97
50-60.	62
60-70.	17
Over 70.	2
	204

5. *Average Age: 49.5 years*