

TUNISIA

Date of Elections: November 2, 1969

Characteristics of Parliament

The Tunisian Parliament consists of one single House, the National Assembly, composed of 101 Deputies elected for 5 years.

At the elections held on November 2, the entire National Assembly was renewed upon the normal expiry of the previous legislature.

Electoral System

Each Tunisian citizen of either sex, who is at least 20 years of age and is regularly registered on the electoral rolls (revised annually in the first two weeks of January) is entitled to vote in legislative elections. Those who have been convicted of a crime or sentenced to a period of imprisonment greater than 3 months without remission of sentence, those who are non-discharged bankrupts, who are inmates of mental institutions or who have guardians may not register on the electoral rolls. In addition, those serving with the armed forces and the national guard are not entitled to exercise the right to vote. Naturalized foreigners must have held Tunisian nationality for at least 5 years before the elections in order to vote. Voting is not compulsory.

Any member of the electorate, born of a Tunisian father and who is at least 30 years of age, is eligible for the National Assembly, with the exception of governors, magistrates, members of the diplomatic corps and the police force. Moreover, the exercise of public functions which are non-elective and remunerated by State funds, public establishments and public consortia is incompatible with the mandate of deputy. The same applies to the positions of head of a business company, chairman of a governing board or managing director of public or national concerns and of companies with a solely financial aim and which appeal publicly for investments or credit.

Voting in the 35 electoral districts is by majority first simple plurality system with vote-splitting which means that the elector can strike out the names of candidates on one list and may replace them by the candidates on other lists. Each list must contain the names of as many candidates as there are seats to be filled in the relevant constituency.

Should only one list be put forward, the candidates who appear on it are elected, however many votes they receive.

If a seat falls vacant during a legislature, a by-election is held within three months of the vacancy.

In Tunisia, legislative elections are coupled with presidential elections, which are held on the same day, a separate ballot paper being used for each vote.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Tunisia's political forces are grouped into one formation, the Destourien Socialist Party (PSD) which put forward one single list of national coalition in each constituency.

The candidates conducted the electoral campaign with great intensity throughout the Tunisian Republic under the slogan of " Progress through Continuity ", proposed by the PSD manifesto. A new note was brought into the campaign by the constant appeal for participation by the citizens who were promised greater opportunities for dialogue in the future. Centred on the theme of " a type of Socialism that is aware of the human situation and of the problems it must solve ", the campaign included direct allusions to the failure of the agrarian reform programme and called into question the co-operative system in other sectors.

It will be noted that polling was very heavy, in the order of 94.7 % in the legislative elections, and 99.8 % in the presidential elections, as a result of which Mr. Habib Bourguiba, the sole candidate, was re-elected as Head of State.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of registered voters | 1,443,347 |
| Voters | 1,357,735 (94.7 %) |
| Void or blank ballot papers | 6,840 |
| Valid votes. | 1,350,895 |

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

| | |
|---|----|
| Civil servants. | 42 |
| Farmers. | 30 |
| Businessmen and industrialists. | 12 |
| Barristers. | 12 |
| Physicians. | 3 |
| Pharmacists. | 2 |

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Men | 98 |
| Women | 3 |

101

4. *Average Age: 45*