

Islamic Parliament of Iran; 7th Term

Preface

In the 7th parliament, reformists gave their seats to principalists. The most important issues pursued by lawmakers were the economy, the livelihood of lower classes, justice, reduction of discrimination and injustice in the society, resistance to the United States, focusing on national interests particularly in the nuclear issue, supporting domestic producers and defending consumer rights, prioritizing public demand, reviving regulatory bodies, and taking action against economic corruption.

Ambiance in 7th Election

Number of Registered Hopefuls: 5375

Number of Hopefuls in Tehran: 816

Number of Hopefuls in Other Cities: 4559

Date of Election: February 20, 2004

Number of Eligible Voters: 46351052

Number of Participant Voters: 23734677

Voter Turnout: 51.21%

Number of First-Round Electees: 229

Number of Second-Round Electees: 56

Date of Rundoff: December 14, 2004 (Khajeh Sarvi, 2013:115)

Number of Midterm Electees: 10

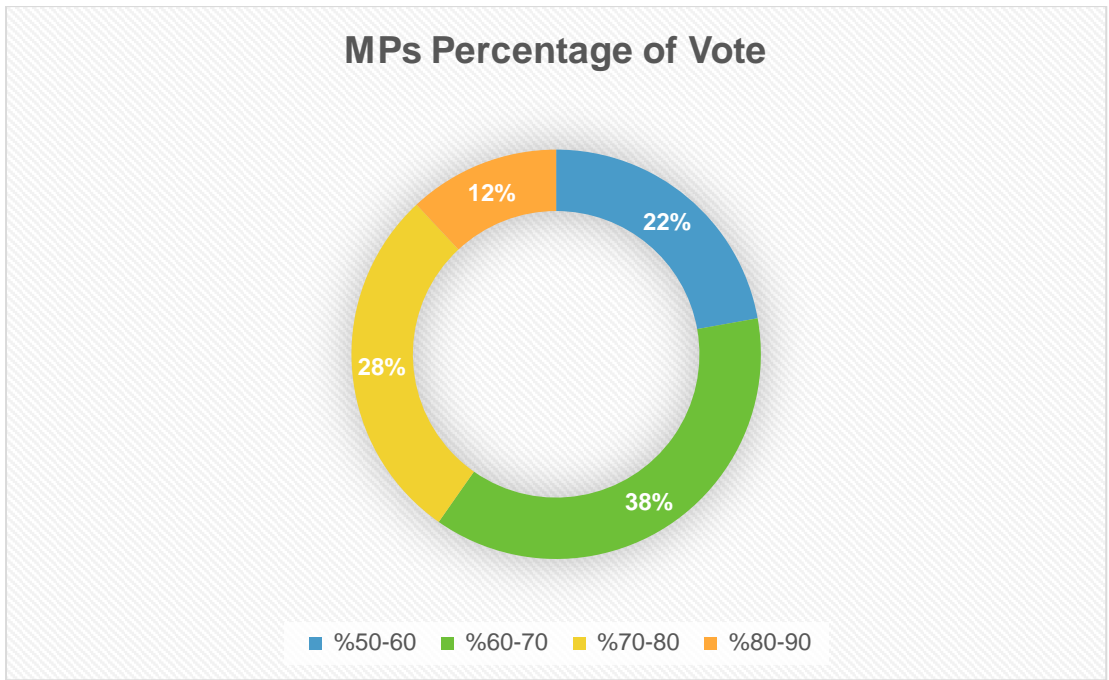
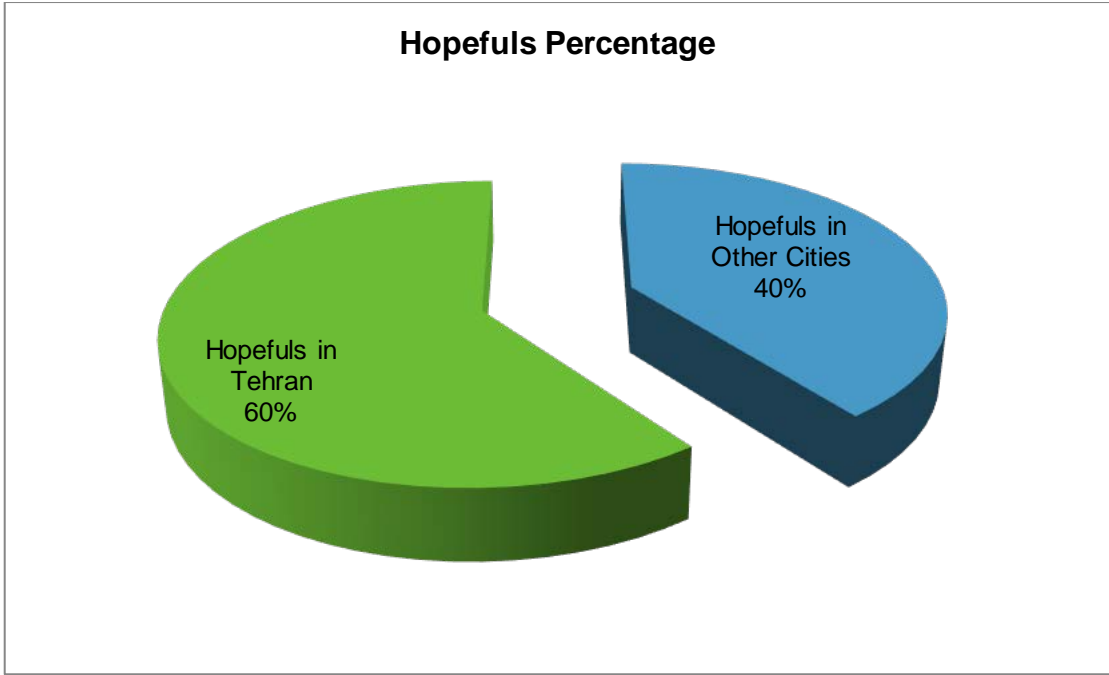
Representative of Armenian Christians in Northern Iran: Georg Vartan

Representative of Armenian Christians in southern Iran: Robert Beglarian

Representative of Assyrians: Yonathan Bet Kolia

Representative of Jews: Mauris Motamed

Representative of Zoroastrians: Kourosh Niknam



Dominant Political Atmosphere

- More than 14 alliances, parties, establishments and societies stood in this round of elections. In the Tehran constituency, of 1193 hopefuls, only 65 were famous figures with a political background. They were mainly affiliated with the Alliance of Islamic Iran Developers, Alliance for Iran, Independent Servants of Islamic Iran, Society of Islamic Revolution War Veterans and Free Thinkers Front. Therefore, 1128 hopefuls were little-known and independent. (Movasaq, 2013:150)

Presiding Board

1. Speaker

- Gholam Ali Haddad Adel

2. Vice Speakers

- Mohammad Reza Bahonar
- Mohammad Hassan Abutorabifard

6th Islamic Parliament in a Glance

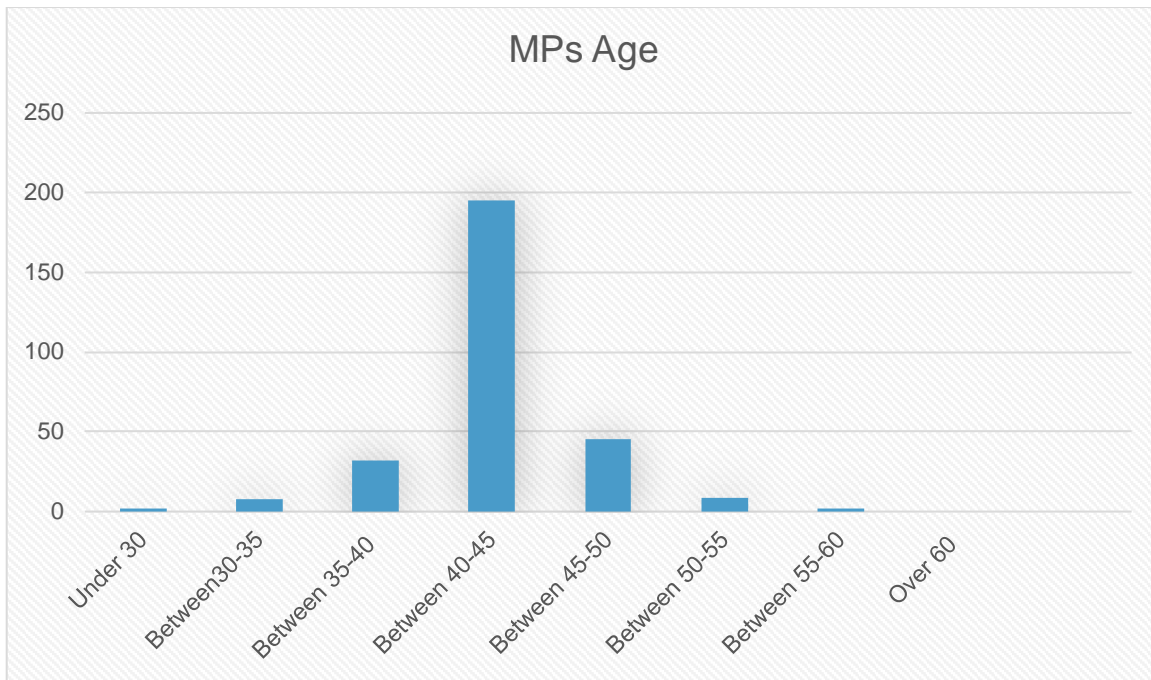
- Total MPs: 295
- First Session Held on: May 27, 2004
- Number of Women: 13¹
- Number of Adopted Laws: 135²
- Number of Sessions Held: 433 (Sharei, 2017:129)

MPs Age

- Aged Under 30: 2 MPs
- Aged 30-35: 8 MPs
- Aged 35-40: 32 MPs
- Aged 40-45: 195 MPs
- Aged 45-50: 45 MPs
- Aged 50-55: 9 MPs
- Aged 55-60: 2 MPs
- Aged Over 60: 0 (Fawzi, 2008:135)

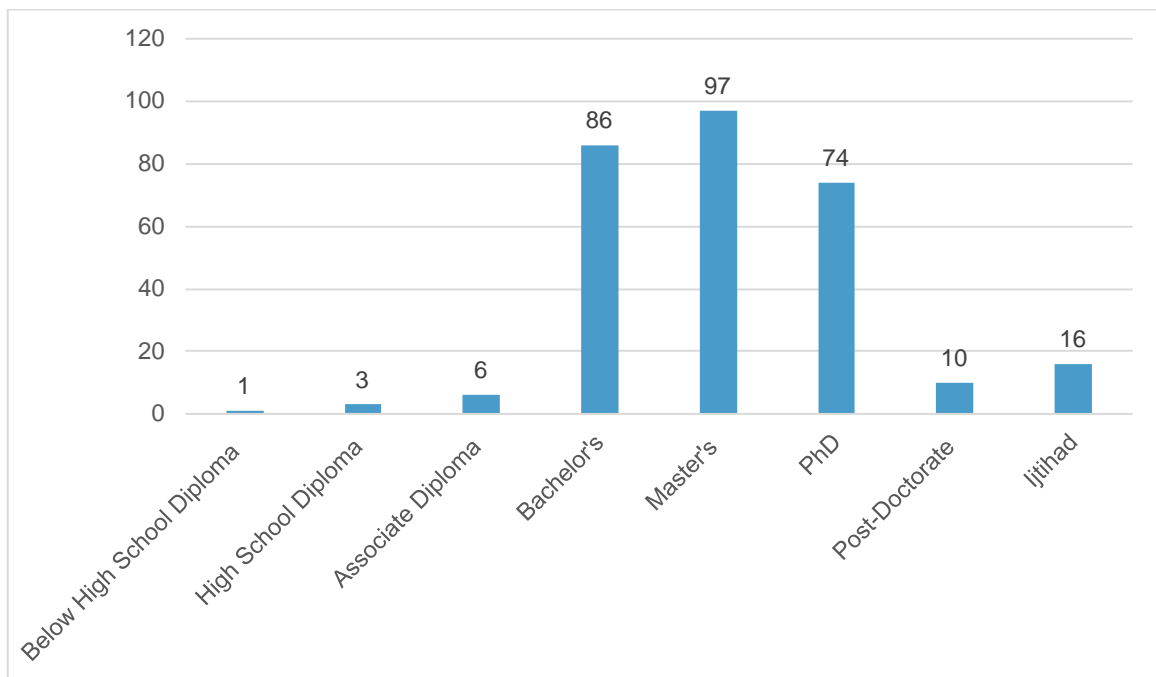
¹ Fatemeh Alia, Laleh Eftekhari, Fatemeh Rahbar, Soheila Jelodarzadeh, Fatemeh Ajorloo, Nayereh Akhavan, Nafiseh Fayazbaksh, Raf'at Bayat, Hajar Tahriri, Eshrat Shayeq, Effat Shariati, Mehrangiz Morovati, and Elham Aminzadeh

² Including 99 bills and 36 motions



MPs Education

One MP did not hold a high school diploma, 3 were high school graduates, 6 held associate diploma, 86 bachelor's, 97 master's, 74 PhD, 10 post-doctorate, and 16 were High-Level Degree in Islamic Jurisprudence (Ijtihad), (Fawzi, 2008:125). Some lawmakers held multiple university degrees.



Marking Events

1. Special Economic Zones Governing Law

The adoption of this law in 2005 was an effective action in supporting economic activities and establishing international business ties, boosting regional economy, production and processing of commodities, transfer of technology, and non-oil exports. This law was effective in job creation, attracting domestic and foreign investment, re-export and transit of commodities. That was an important way of expansion of free-market economy in the country. (Movasaq, 2013:160)

2. Reasonable Interest Rates

Adoption of the law on reasonable banking interest rates with the focus on usury-free banking operations was an important economic measure undertaken by parliament in favor of vulnerable social classes³. (Azimi Dowlatabadi, 2008:155)

3. State Services Management Law

This law was adopted, one decade after it was first discussed among civil servants, military personnel as well as retirees. Citing Article 85 of the Constitution, the parliament adopted this law to take effect for five years on a trial basis⁴. (Khajeh Sarvi, 2013:12)

4. Article 44 of Constitution General Policies

The implementation of Article 44 of the Constitution was an important economic indicator in the country. The 7th parliament took an important step in this regard. (Movasaq, 2013:166)

5. Access to Peaceful Nuclear Technology

This law, along with the government's requirement to suspend voluntary measures in case of being reported to the UN Security Council and the law requiring the government to reconsider its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, was among important laws adopted in the 7th parliament⁵. (Mansour, 2012:90)

³ MPs in the 7th parliament adopted this law requiring the government to reduce banking borrowing rates. That cut the lending rates in 2007 to 12%.

⁴ Among the ramifications of this law was people's involvement in the administrative system, creation of balance in state affairs, management stability, relaxation of administrative red tape, downsizing the government, establishment of justice, creation of peace of mind among civil servants and regular monitoring of service providing to people.

⁵ This law was adopted by the parliament for access to peaceful nuclear technology in the face of threats against Iran. It required the government to take practical steps within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and

6. Note 13 of 2007 Budget Bill

After the administration of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took office, the 7th parliament reversed its previous legislation and approved gasoline rationing. The 2007 budget bill and Note 13 on gasoline rationing constituted a measure by the 7th parliament to save hard currency⁶. (Khajeh Sarvi, 2013:129)

7. Law on Hiring Hourly Paid Teachers

The adoption of a law on hiring hourly paid teachers based on the 3rd Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan of Iran occurred in the 7th parliament. Salaries of hourly paid teachers had remained unpaid for years, causing infuriation. The MPs finally required the government to employ 40,000 hourly paid teachers in a bid to allay their concerns⁷. (Mansour, 2012:100)

8. DST Law

In order to save energy, the MPs adopted a law on daylight savings time (DST), which had turned into a bone of contention between the government and lawmakers. The government was required by this law to put clocks forward one hour at the start of Iran's calendar year for six months. (Mansour, 2012:135)

9. Toughening Law on Punishment of Economic Saboteurs

As per this law, an establishment or agency of an enterprise, institute, company or group just for gaining income from the increased number of members in a way that any new membership would generate income would amount to economic corruption. This law facilitated action against pyramid scheme companies which had caused problems within many families and imposed negative economic consequences on the society and people. (Aqabakhshi, 2013:120)

international relations to hire scientists and researchers and benefit from domestic and international facilities and follow up on the International Atomic Energy Agency's obligations.

⁶ This piece of legislation partly saved hard currency in the country and consumption of gasoline was managed. It also contributed to reducing air pollution, expanding public transport system, and government's attention to railway and inter-urban transportation.

⁷ Furthermore, in order to follow up on teachers' demands, the MPs established a bloc in the parliament to deal with the issues of teachers.

10. Nationality of Children Born to Iranian Mother and non-Iranian Father

This law was an important piece of legislation in the 7th parliament within the framework of its objective to respect families and support women who had married non-Iranian men like Afghans or Iraqis and had children⁸. (Aqabakhsi, 2013:124)

- In addition to the aforesaid law, some other important pieces of legislation which pertained to economic, cultural, social, and political issues were as follows: Law on Financing Compensation of Drought or Cold Snap, Law on Establishment of Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-Sized Industries, Law on Regulating Money Market, Law on Abortion Therapy, Law on Activation of Press Jury to Prevent Abandonment of Article 168 of the Constitution, Law on Regulating Border Transactions, Law on Supporting Industrial Zones in Villages, Law Requirement the Government to Endure Balanced Rural Development, Law on Facilitation of Youth Marriage, Law Banning Destruction of Education Buildings Affiliated with Ministry of Education, Law on Increasing Annuities of Martyrs' Parents, Law on Administrative Court of Justice, Law on Revival of Office of Deputy Minister of Education for Physical Education and Entertainment, Law on Combating and Controlling Tobacco, Law on Fingerprinting of American Subjects at Points of Entry, Law on Clothes and Fashion, Law Supporting Rights of Car Buyers, Law on Facilitation of Granting of Banking Facilities and Reducing costs of Projects and Accelerating Implementation of Manufacturing Projects and Increasing Financial Resources and Efficacy of Banks, Law on Setting Tariffs for Nursing and Modifying Nursing Service Fees, Law on Early Retirement of Civil Servants, Law on Social Security Insurance for Construction Workers, Law on Money-Laundering, Law on Removal of Obstacles to Manufacturing and Industry. (Mansour, 2012:156)

⁸ Based on this law, children born to Iranian mothers will be authorized to study in Iran in case of residence and demand Iranian nationality after reaching age of 18.

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