

## **Islamic Parliament of Iran; second Term**

### **Preface**

As the term of the first Islamic Parliament of Iran ended, the general election for the second parliament was held in April 1984. The country was in war with Iraq and under tough political, military and economic sanctions, and was reeling from post-revolutionary tensions. What distinguished this election from the previous one was that the required credentials for candidates was faith in Islam and Islamic revolution and standing by people. That is why many hostile groups took up arms in a bid to dissuade people from voting for the political establishment through intimidation. There were also some opposition groups who did not openly stand against the Islamic establishment, but they called for the boycott of general elections and regularly claimed that there was no freedom in the country. (Aqaei Jirhenderh, 2008:41-42)

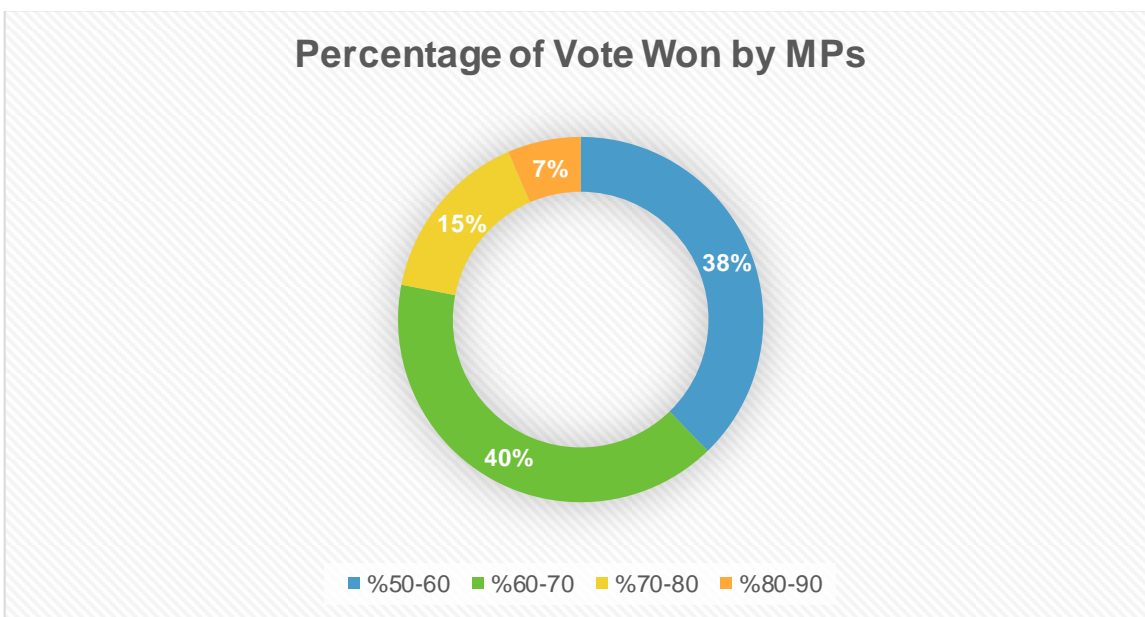
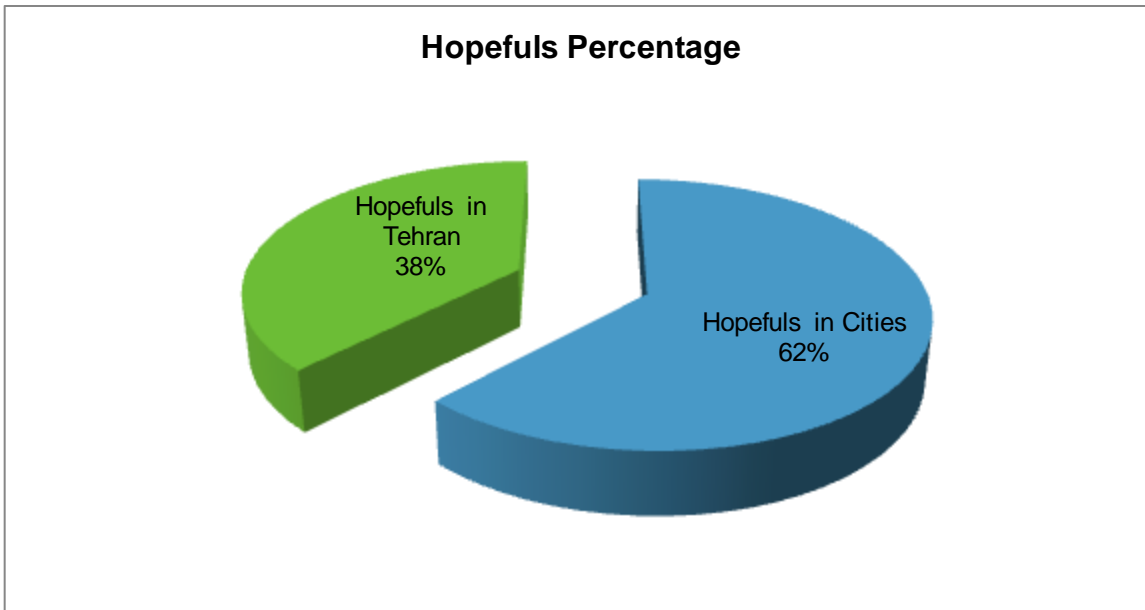
### **Ambiance of 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Election**

- Date of Election: April 15 1984
- Number of candidates: 1275
- Number of Constituencies: 193 (Azimi Dowlatabadi, 2008:116)
- Mode of Voting: The election was held in three forms: national direct, national indirect, and national for religious minorities<sup>1</sup>. (Kalbasi, 2016:14)
- Number of Eligible Voters: 24143498
- Votes Cast: 15607306
- Voter Turnout: 64.64%
- Number of First-Round Electees: 124
- The runoff vote was held on May 17 1984.
- Votes Cast in Runoff: 6056706
- Number of Second-Round Electees: 124
- Number of Midterm Electees: 30
- Representative of Armenian Christians in southern Iran: Artavas Baghoumiyan
- Representative of Armenian Christians in Northern Iran: Vartan Vartananiyan
- Representative of Assyrians: Atour Khananshou

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<sup>1</sup> National direct election was held in 187 constituencies and national indirect election was held in war-torn countries including Abadan, Dehloran, Mehran, Dasht-e Azadegan, Qasr-e Shirin, and Khorramshahr. Religious minorities including Armenians, Assyrians and Chaldeans, Jews and Zoroastrians also held their own elections.

- Representative of Jews: Manouchehr Kalimi Nikrouz
- Representative of Zoroastrians: Parviz Malekpour (Saleh, 2006:722)



### Dominant Political Atmosphere

- As the first Islamic Parliament's terms ended, Liberals<sup>2</sup>, Marxists, and Leftists<sup>3</sup> were sidelined and political stability took over in the country. Therefore, the election for the

<sup>2</sup> Freedom Movement of Iran along with Abolhassan Banisadr and his likes

<sup>3</sup> Tudeh Party and Mujahideen Khalq Organization

second Islamic Parliament was practically a scene of competition between forces loyal to the Islamic Revolution who followed Imam Khomeini's line (Khajeh Sarvi, 2003:25). In this round of election, candidates put up by the Society of Combatant Clergy and the Islamic Republic Party won the majority of votes. (Fawzi, 2008:106)

- Alongside the Society of Combatant Clergy and the Islamic Republic Party, which were dominant political groups in the country, were two less important groups: Islamic Revolution Mujahideen Organization and Unity Consolidation Office (Mortaji, 1999:31). IRMO was the only non-clerical political establishment that supported the right-leaning faction which comprised an alliance of the Islamic Republic Party and the Society of Combatant Clergy. The Unity Consolidation Office, which was an independent student group, presented a list of young and idealist political forces who were mainly students following Imam Khomeini's line and left-leaning clerics. It was backed by the Islamic Teachers Association and the House of Labor (Shadloo, 2007:35)
- The Freedom Movement of Iran decided to boycott the legislative election. The FMI faction shunned the vote due to conflicts between the dominant faction in the first parliament<sup>4</sup> and FMI<sup>5</sup> faction leaders. (Bashirieh, 2002:47)

## **Presiding Board**

### **1. Speaker**

- Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

### **2. Vice Speakers**

- Mohammad Yazdi
- Mehdi Karroubi
- Mohammad Mehdi Rabbani Amlashi

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Islamic Parliament in a Glance**

- Total Number of MPs: 278
- First Session Held on: May 28, 1984.
- Four women were among new MPs<sup>6</sup>.

## **MPs Age**

Aged Under 30: 4 MPs

Aged 30-35: 33 MPs

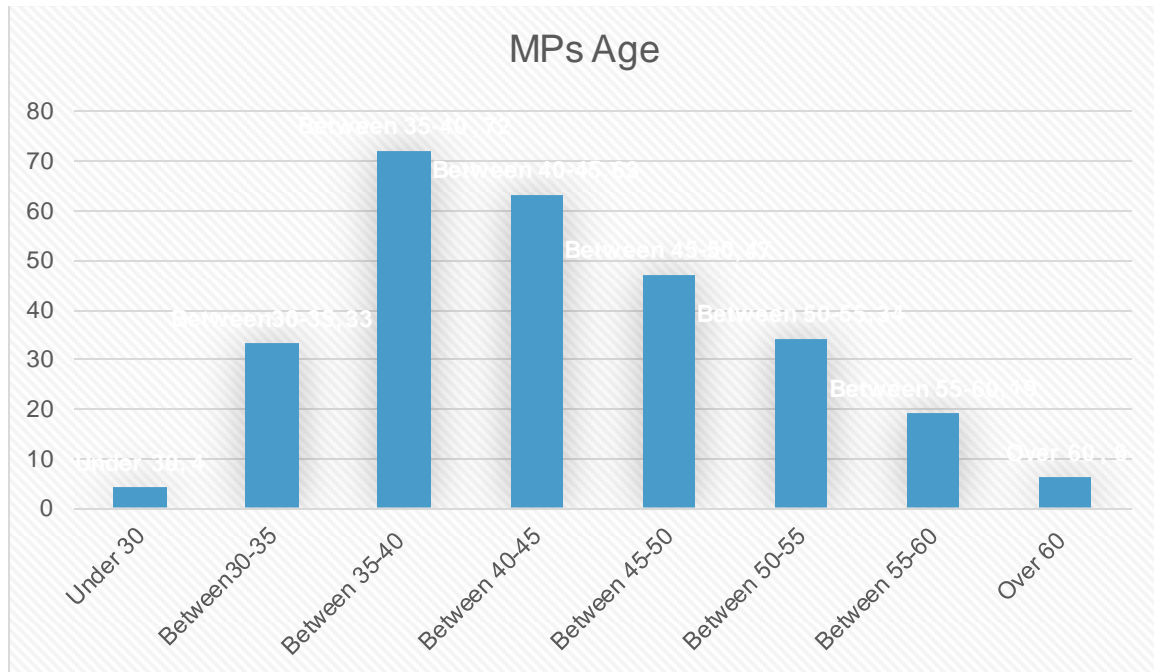
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<sup>4</sup> Islamic Republic Party and Independents

<sup>5</sup> Freedom Movement of Iran

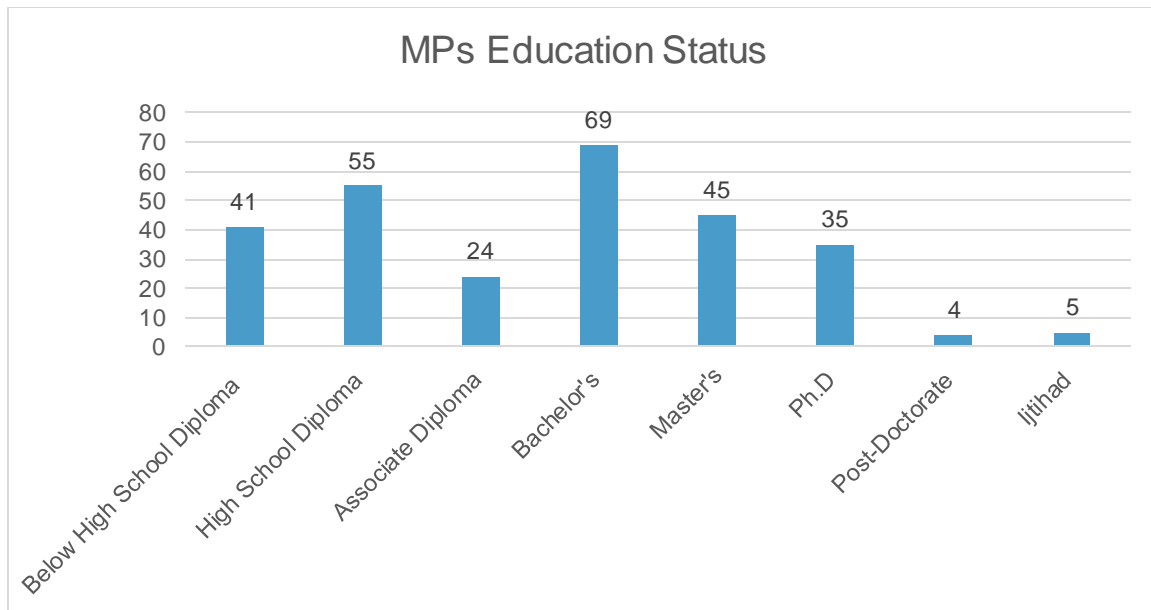
<sup>6</sup> Marzieh Hadidchi Dabagh, Gohar ash-Sharia Dastgheib, Maryam Zafarani (Behrouzi), Ateqeh Seddiqi Rajaei

Aged 35-40: 72 MPs  
 Aged 40-45: 63 MPs  
 Aged 45-50: 47 MPs  
 Aged 50-55: 34 MPs  
 Aged 55-60: 19 MPs  
 Aged Over 60: 6 MPs (Fawzi, 2008:90)



### MPs Education

Forty-one MPs did not hold a high school diploma, 55 were high school graduates, 24 held associate diploma, 69 bachelor's, 52 master's, 35 PhD, 4 post-doctorate, and 5 were high-level degree of Islamic jurisprudence (Ijtihad) (Fawzi, 2008:78). Some lawmakers held multiple university degrees.



## Marking Events

### 1. 99 Votes Issue

When the second parliament was in office, the issue of vote of confidence in Mir-Hossein Mousavi as prime minister was highlighted. It is referred to as the "99 votes" story, referring to the number of opponents.

Seyed Ali Khamenei agreed to run for president on condition that he would not nominate Mousavi for prime minister. Mr Khamenei was elected president in 1985. Imam Khomeini did not agree with sidelining Mousavi and Mr Khamenei was faced with a dilemma. On one side he felt that Mousavi's nomination as prime minister was not in the best interests of the nation while on the other Imam Khomeini favored Mousavi's premiership.

He finally nominated Mr Mousavi for prime minister. On the day of voting, 162 voted in favor, but 73 opposed and 26 abstained. The number of votes against and abstentions equals 99. From that day onward, some lawmakers accused these 99 lawmakers of opposition to the Supreme Leadership. (Darabi, 2009:88)

### 2. Expediency Council Established

Since all pieces of legislation adopted by the Islamic Parliament needed to be endorsed by the Guardian Council for compliance with Islam and the Constitution, in some cases, differences became serious. In the absence of a body to have the final say, then president Ali Khamenei, speaker of parliament Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, chief justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Mousavi Ardebili, prime minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, and Ahmad Khomeini signed a letter in February 1988 to Imam Khomeini, asking for a solution. In response, Imam Khomeini on February 6, 1988 ordered the establishment of an Expediency Council comprising Guardian Council's theologians plus members Ali Khamenei, Akbar Hashemi

Rafsanjani, Gholam-Reza Tavassoli, Mohammad Mousavi Khoeiniha, and Mir-Hossein Mousavi<sup>7</sup>. (Kalbasi, 2016:21)

### 3. Other Events

The second parliament debated the role and performance of the Islamic Republic Party and its shutdown, the role of the Society of Combatant Clergy and its internal differences which led to the emergence of the Assembly of Combatant Clerics. Meantime, the main issue was to run the country during years of war. The MPs' views on the necessity of defending the country, their visits to war-affected areas and encouraging people to resist and adopting military legislation dominated the second parliament. (Sharei, 2017:55)

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<sup>7</sup> The Expediency Council was included in the Constitution following the 1989 revision.

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