

Islamic Parliament of Iran; 4th Term

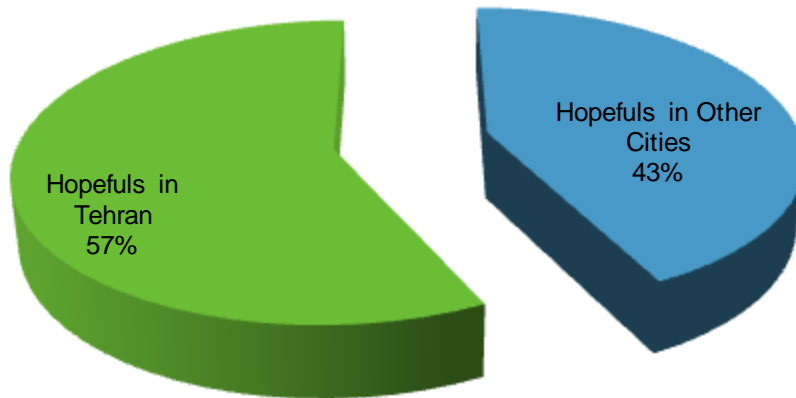
Preface

The fourth term of the Islamic Parliament of Iran took office while the Iraqi imposed war on Iran had ended and the government was busy rebuilding the war-torn country and fixing the economy. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was chosen as successor to Imam Khomeini as the Supreme Leader.

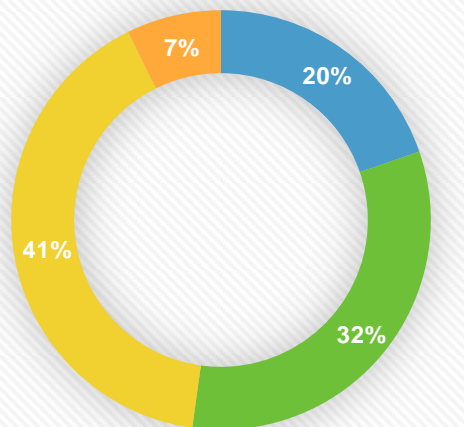
Ambiance in 4th Election

- Number of Hopefuls: 2310
- Number of Eligible Voters: 32465558
- Votes Cast: 18767042
- Voter Turnout: 57.81%
- Date of Election: April 10, 1992
- Number of MPs Elected in 1st Round: 136
- Date of Runoff: May 8, 1992
- Number of MPs Elected in Runoff: 124
- Midterm Elections Held for 14 Seats
- Representative of Armenian Christians in Northern Iran: Vartan Vartananiyan
- Representative of Armenian Christians in southern Iran: Artavas Baghoumiyan
- Representative of Assyrians: Shamshoun Maghsoud Pour
- Representative of Jews: Kouros Keyvani
- Representative of Zoroastrians: Parviz Ravani (Khajeh Sarvi, 2003:95)

Hopefuls Percentage



Percentage of MPs' Vote



■ %50-60 ■ %60-70 ■ %70-80 ■ %80-90

Dominant Political Atmosphere

- After the June 3, 1989 departure of Imam Khomeini, new political alignments emerged in Iran. An important event which influenced these alignments was the fifth presidential election in which then speaker of parliament Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani stood.

- The 4th parliament election was held in a more competitive atmosphere and many influential figures who had registered to run failed to go ahead¹.
- Just like in the previous elections, the left and right leaning factions were vying for seats in parliament. The marking point was that "independent" candidates had also joined the race. (Shadloo, 2007:59)

Presiding Board

1. Speaker

- Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri

2. Vice Speakers

- Hassan Rouhani
- Ali Akbar Parvaresh
- Mohammad Ali Movahedi Kermani
- Hossein Hashemian

4th Islamic Parliament in a Glance

- Total Number of MPs: 274
- First Session Held on: May 28, 1992
- Nine Women Were Elected²
- Number of Approved Laws: 342³
- Number of Resigned MPs: 2
- Number of Deceased MPs: 1 (Sharei, 2017:113)
- The most influential parliamentary block was the faction of "Assembly of War Veterans", closely allied to Independents. Nonetheless, it comprised MPs from other factions.

¹ Mehdi Karroubi, Mohammad Mousavi Khoiniha, Mohammad Reza Tavasoli, Ali Akbar Mohtashamipour, Abdolvahed Mousavi Lari, Fakhroddin Hejazi, Morteza Alviri, Saeed Hajjarian, Abolqasem Sarhadizadeh, Mohammad Salamati, Najafqoli Habibi, Alireza Mahjoub, Gohar ash-Sharia Dastgheib, Fatemeh Karroubi and Marzieh Hadidchi Dabbagh

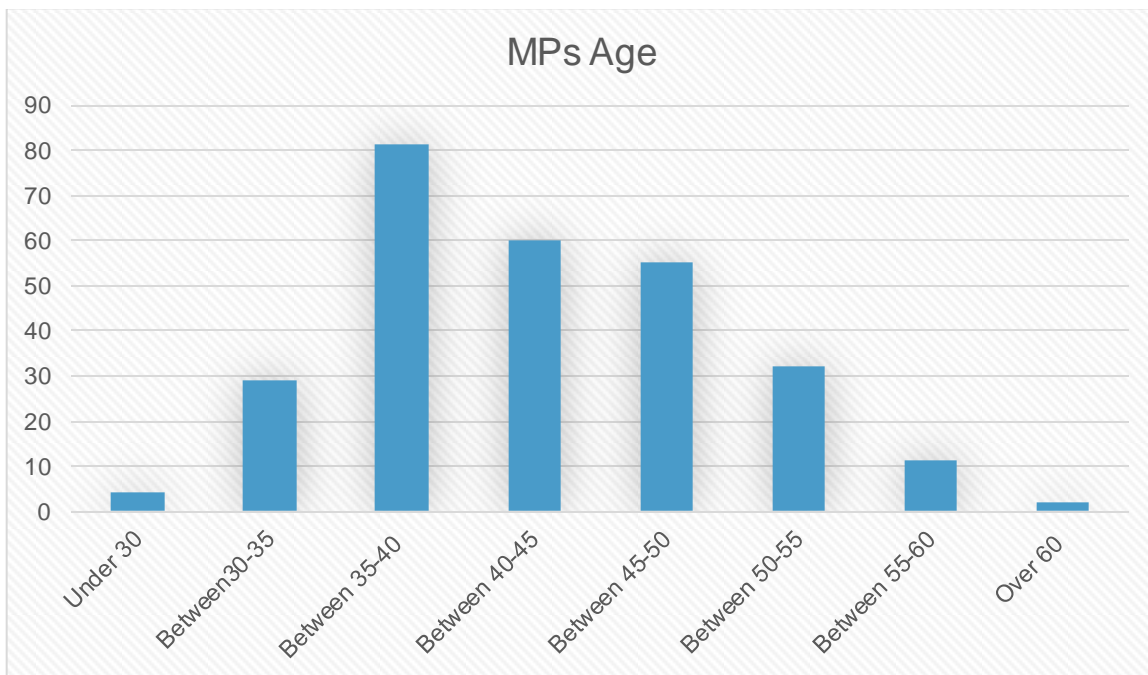
² Fakhr Taj Amir Shaqazi, Maryam Behrouzi, Parvin Salihi, Qodsieh Seyedi Alavi, Nafiseh Fayazbakhsh, Monireh Nobakht, Fatemeh Homayoun Moqaddam, Akhtar derakhshandeh and Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi

³ The main laws adopted in this parliament were as follows: Law on Demarcation of Ardebil province, Law on Authority and Tasks of Head of Judiciary, Law on Establishment of Student Welfare Fund, Law on Judicial Support for Basij, Law on Hearing Action Against Administrative Offenses, Law on Construction Engineering Code, Law on Constitution of Social Security Organization of Armed Forces, Law on Parliament Financial System, Law on Housing Low-Income Families, Law on Iran Free Trade Zones Administration, Law on Establishment of Legal Medicine Organization, Law on Marking Martyrdom Anniversary of Modarress as Majlis Day, Law on Preventing Air Pollution, Law on Banning Cumulative Jobs, Law on Merger of Ministry of Heavy Industry and Ministry of Industry, Law on Distribution of Government Stocks to War Veterans and Laborers, Law on Formation of Public and Revolutionary Courts, Law on Demarcation of Qom Province, Law on Establishment of Medial Council, and Law on Job Description for Majlis Research Center

- Parliamentary factions become more influential in this round of Parliament.
- An Association of Current and Former MPs was set up under this Parliament.
- The most important structural change in the 4th parliament was the emergence of "Executives of Construction". (Jahan-Mohammadi, 2010:99)

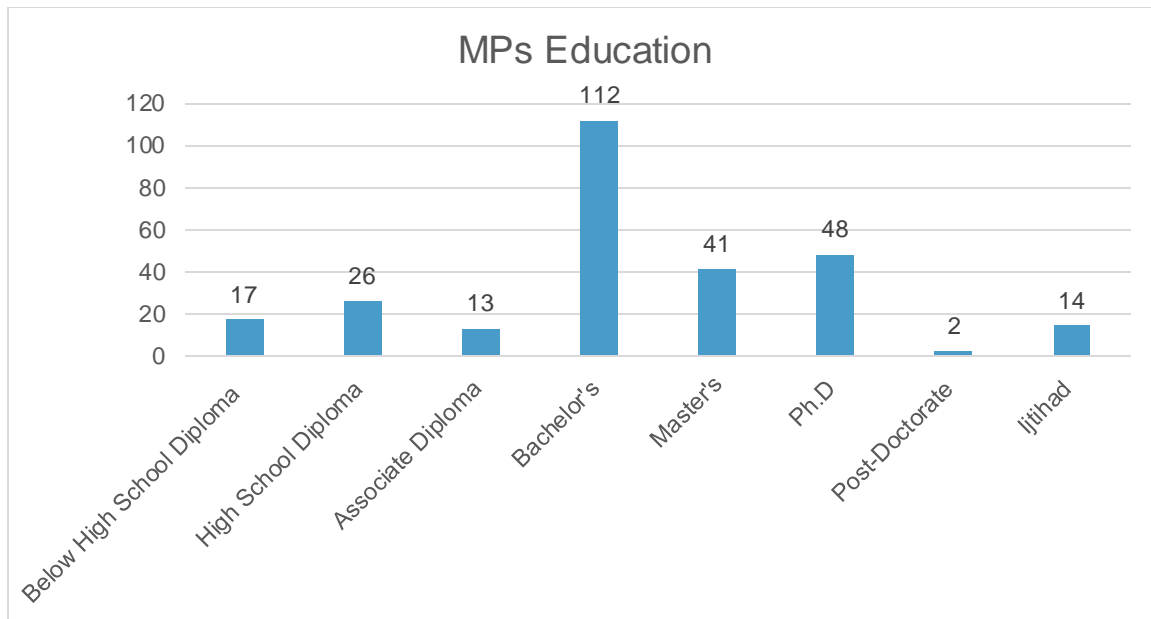
MPs Age

Aged Under 30: 4 MPs
 Aged 30-35: 29 MPs
 Aged 35-40: 81 MPs
 Aged 40-45: 60 MPs
 Aged 45-50: 55 MPs
 Aged 50-55: 32 MPs
 Aged 55-60: 11 MPs
 Aged Over 60: 2 MPs (Fawzi, 2008: 111)



MPs Education

Seventeen MPs did not hold a high school diploma, 26 were high school graduates, 13 held associate diploma, 112 bachelor's, 41 master's, 48 PhD, 2 post-doctorate, and 14 were High-Level Degree in Islamic Jurisprudence (Ijtihad). (Fawzi, 2008:89). Some lawmakers held multiple university degrees.



Marking Events

1. MRC Established

The Parliament Research Center (MRC) was set up at the beginning of the 4th parliament as the research arm of the legislative body. It was tasked with carrying out scientific research and outlining bills and motions before deliberation by MPs. (Movasaq, 2003:22)

2. 1983 Budget Bill

This budget bill required the government to dip into hard currency reserves for defense equipment, basic commodities, medications, and petroleum products. The government moved to unify the foreign exchange rate and scrapped the hard currency rationing scheme. That significantly changed people's life and livelihood. Freeing up the hard currency conversion rate and adopting free market economy stoked up inflation which sometimes exceeded 50%. (Sharei: 2017:77)

3. Karabakh Dispute

When the 4th parliament was in office, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia were in conflict over Karabakh. Iran backed Azerbaijan in the dispute due to more cultural and civilizational commonalities. The MPs on April 13, 1993 released a statement in support of Azerbaijan, demanding that Armenia pull out of the Azeri territory. (Azimi Dowlatbadi, 2008:55)

4. Balkan Crisis

In reaction to the Serbs' aggression of Bosnia Herzegovina and the genocide of Muslims, the Presiding Board of Parliament released a statement on July 23, 1992, condemning the crimes and the unjustified silence of international organs. Once more on November 7, a group of 185 MPs issued a statement protesting these crimes. (Sharei, 2017:78)

5. 2nd Development Plan

On December 20, 1993, the government submitted the 2nd Five-Year Development Plan to parliament for approval. Many experts believe that inflationary conditions and continued price hikes, which intensified pressure on consumers of middle and lower deciles, were the product of the 1st Development Plan. The Planning and Budgeting Committee of Parliament started deliberations on the budget bill on May 16, 1994 and approved it on November 15. (Azimi Dowlatabadi, 2008:45)

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