

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES AND INSIGHTS





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Introduction

In September 2024, the Union Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections (HLC) headed by former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.¹ The HLC proposed that **simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, State Assembly and Local Bodies (One Nation, One Election, or ONOE) be implemented in two phases**. In the first phase, Lok Sabha and State Assembly Elections will be conducted simultaneously and in the **second phase, local body elections, including municipality and Panchayat elections**, will be conducted within 100 days of the Lok Sabha and State Assembly Elections. The Opposition however, opposed the proposal, which led to the opposition leaders expressing their views on the same. The key concerns raised against the proposal by the opposition included **allegations of ONOE lacking broader consensus, undermining Federal structure amongst others**. The Bills for ONOE have been **tabled in Parliament and sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for review**.

The concept of **simultaneous or structured elections has been implemented in various forms across democracies worldwide**, offering valuable insights for India's proposed ONOE initiative. Across the globe, democracies have adopted **diverse electoral models—ranging from fully synchronised multi-level elections to staggered cycles**—each tailored to their unique political, cultural, and administrative contexts. These international case studies are not merely academic exercises; they provide **practical lessons on implementation strategies, challenges encountered, and innovative solutions developed** to address them. By analysing how nations manage election timing, handle Government collapses, and balance cost-efficiency with democratic integrity, India can better assess **the feasibility, benefits, and potential pitfalls of ONOE**. This comparative approach is particularly relevant given India's scale—nearly one billion voters and a complex federal system—making it essential to **draw from global precedents to anticipate logistical demands, safeguard federalism, and enhance voter engagement**.

In preparing this report, **electoral systems of over a dozen established democracies across multiple continents have been examined**. Of these, at least nine – Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa and Sweden – have simultaneous elections at two or more levels of Government. **This comparative analysis provides a robust foundation for assessing the feasibility and potential benefits of the One Nation One Election (ONOE) proposal in the Indian context**. By situating India's proposal within a global context, this study aims to equip policymakers, scholars, and citizens with a robust evidence base to navigate the complexities of this reform.

Comparative Analysis Of International Election Models

Country	Fixed-Term Election	Simultaneous Election	Structured Election	Since When
 Argentina	✗	✓	✓	1983
 Belgium	✓	✓	✓	1993
 Brazil	✓	✓	✓	1988
 Canada	✓	✗	✓	2007
 France	✓	✗	✓	1958
 Germany	✓	✓	✓	1949
 Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	2019
 Nepal	✗	✗	✗	Simultaneous elections attempted in 2017
 Nigeria	✓	✓	✓	1999
 Philippines	✓	✓	✓	1987
 South Africa	✓	✓	✓	1994
 Sweden	✓	✓	✓	1970
 United Kingdom	✗	✗	✗	FTPA between 2011 - 2022
 United States	✓	✓	✓	1845

Overview of Structure and Synchrony of the International Electoral Systems



ARGENTINA



Election Process

Provinces largely control election dates. National and provincial elections are conducted **every four years**.



Synchrony/ Structure

The Double Simultaneous Voting System (DSVS) aligns provincial and national elections. Governed by local laws.



Fall of National Government

Interim President appointed by Congress. New elections called within months to a year.



Fall of Provincial/ State Government

Provincial Governments do not automatically fall with the National Government. New elections held if a provincial Government collapses. Timing of new elections **depends on local laws**.



Voter Turnout

2023 run-off had **76% turnout**, 2015 had 81%. Primary elections typically lower.



Election Spending

2019 national elections
– \$ 190 million
(~0.0425% of GDP)
2023 national elections
– \$ 340 million (nearly double; ~0.0526% of GDP)
Rising voter base, higher operational costs – printing ballots, staffing polling stations and securing election materials.

Overview Of The Election Process



Argentina operates under a **federal system** where each of the 23 provinces and the autonomous city of Buenos Aires can **determine their own electoral dates**.²



Each province has its own **Electoral Management Body (EMB)**, which must coordinate with national authorities to ensure smooth operations during concurrent elections. They report to the **National Electoral Chamber (NEC)**, which serves as the highest authority in electoral matters.³



However, 11/23 provinces choose to hold their elections concurrently with **national elections** to streamline the electoral process. This practice is often referred to as the **Double Simultaneous Voting System (DSVS)**, which allows for both provincial and national elections to occur on the same day, **facilitating voter participation and reducing costs associated with separate election cycles**.⁴



Elections are typically scheduled every four years, with national elections for the presidency and legislative bodies occurring alongside provincial elections. For example, in 2019, **national elections were held on October 27, coinciding with various provincial elections across the country**.⁵

Process Following Fall Of National Government

When the National Government collapses, as seen in historical instances like the resignation of President Fernando de la Rúa in December 2001, the following typically occurs:

1. An **interim President is often appointed by Congress** to stabilise the situation until new elections can be organised. This was the case when Eduardo Duhalde was chosen to lead after de la Rúa's resignation.
2. The **interim Government is tasked with calling for new elections**, which usually occur within a few months to a year after the collapse, depending on the political context and urgency of restoring governance.

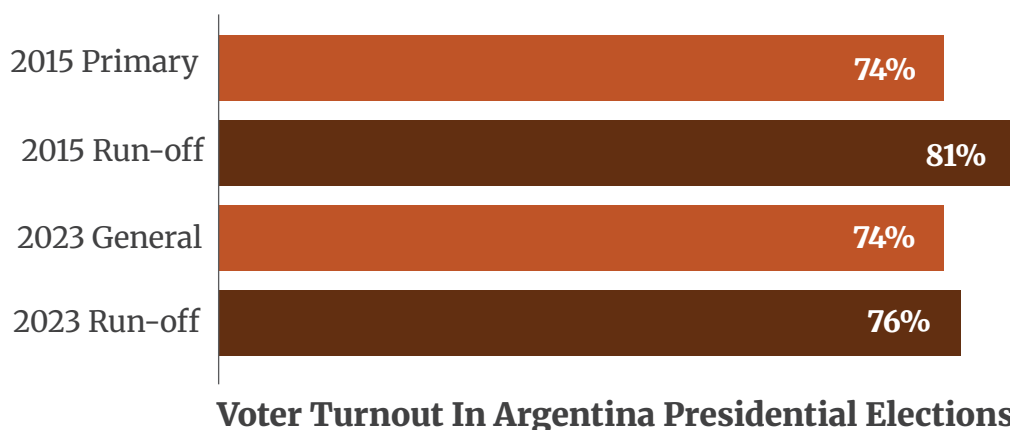


Process Following Fall Of State/Provincial Governments

- A. **Provincial Governments do not automatically dissolve when the national Government falls.** Each province operates independently, and their Governments remain intact unless they face their own crises.⁶
- B. If a provincial Government collapses, the province will typically hold elections to establish a new Government. The **new administration may serve either a full term or the remainder of the previous term, depending on local laws and circumstances.**⁷
- C. If a provincial Government falls and elections are called while a national election is also pending, this could lead to a situation where **different levels of Government are elected at different times.**⁸

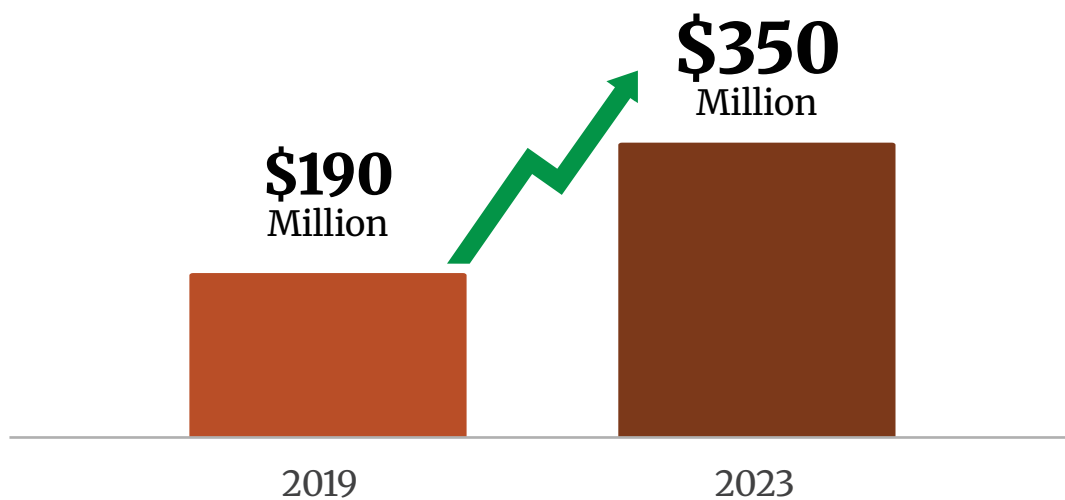
Election Trends And Data

- A. Argentina's 2023 Presidential run-off election between Sergio Massa and Javier Milei saw a robust **76% voter turnout**, indicating strong civic engagement. This figure is higher than the **74% who voted in the October general elections.**⁹
- B. In the 2015 **Presidential run-off election**, turnout was **approximately 81%**, while participation in the **primary elections was lower at around 74%.**¹⁰
- C. However, challenges such as **confusion over different voting systems** can negatively impact turnout if not managed properly. Reports from Buenos Aires during recent elections highlighted **long lines and procedural inconsistencies** that could deter voters from participating fully.¹¹

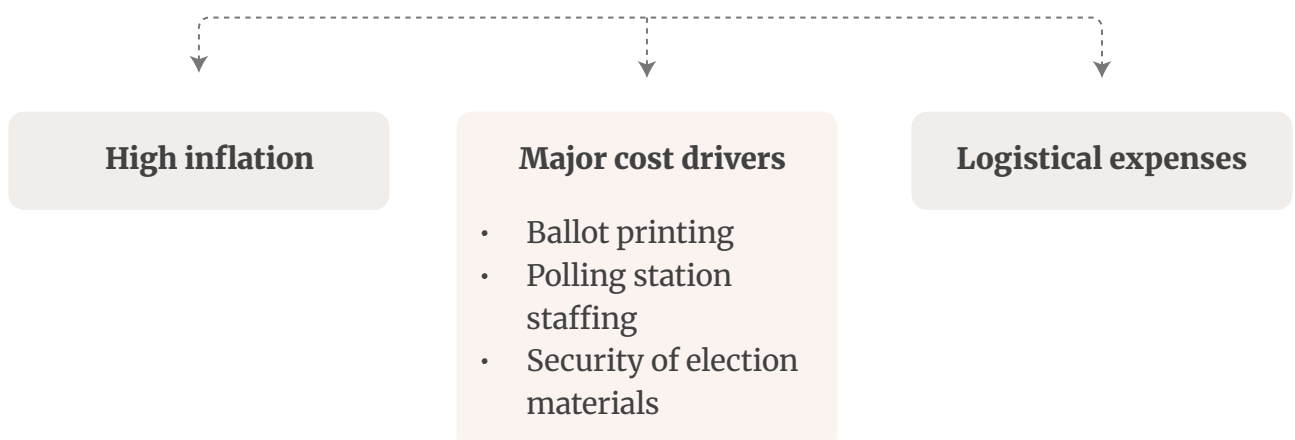


Election Spending

- A. Argentina's **national elections cost nearly doubled from 2019 to 2023**, mainly due to inflation and **increased logistical expenses**. The primary cost drivers included printing ballots, staffing polling stations, and securing election materials.¹²
- B. Administered by the Interior Ministry, the 2023 budget was allocated to the "Impulso al Desarrollo del Sistema Democrático" program.
- C. With a rising voter base and higher operational costs, Argentina's **election spending per voter has increased substantially**.¹³

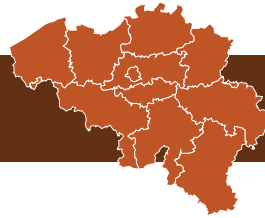


Key Reasons for Increase





BELGIUM



Election Process

Simultaneous federal, regional and European elections in Belgium are held **every five years**, with the most recent one conducted on June 9, 2024.

Organised for **legislative bodies only**, and not for executive functions.



Synchrony/Structure

Simultaneous at federal, regional and EU levels. Governed by Article 96 of the Constitution; mandatory voting ensures high turnout.



Fall of National Government

PM becomes **caretaker PM with reduced powers**. Monarch consults with political leaders, may appoint a formateur to negotiate a new coalition. If this fails, **snap elections** are called, following the standard electoral process



Fall of Provincial/State Government

New elections are called **within 3 months**, with the new administration serving the **remainder of the existing term**.



Voter Turnout

Mandatory voting at federal and EU levels, with heavy penalties for non-participation. 2019 Federal and Regional elections – 90% voter turnout. 2024 Federal and Regional elections – 90% voter turnout.



Election Spending

Decentralised funding structure where the **Federal Government bears 20% of EVM investment costs**. In 2019, Electronic Voting investments and rentals cost between €12–15 million federally (~\$15 - 16 million), with municipalities covering additional expenses.

Overview Of The Election Process



Simultaneous federal, regional and European elections in Belgium are held every five years, with the most recent simultaneous elections occurring on June 9, 2024.



These elections include:¹⁴

1. **Federal elections** for the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate.
2. **Regional elections** for the Flemish Parliament, Walloon Parliament, Brussels Parliament, and the Parliament of the German-speaking Community.
3. **European Parliament elections.**



In Belgium, elections are held only for legislative bodies—not executive roles. Since the 2011 state reform, the Senate is no longer directly elected, reflecting efforts to streamline federal governance and ease linguistic tensions.¹⁵



The election costs are shared between federal regional and municipal Governments.¹⁶



According to **Article 96 of the Belgian constitution**, the **Belgian King must start the formation** of the country's Federal Government. He does this first through consultations with party leaders and the resigning Prime Minister, among others, and later through **appointing the Formator**.



On February 20, 2004 the House of Representatives decided to also give **voting rights to non-EU citizens in municipal elections**. Migrants residing 5 years or more in Belgium, are eligible to vote in municipal elections.¹⁷



Voting is mandatory for all Belgian citizens aged 18 and over who are registered on the roll - applies to federal and EU elections.¹⁸ **Penalties for non-participation are enshrined in the country's legal framework.** (Enforcement has **softened over time**, with non-voters escaping punishment due to administrative leniency or lack of resources to pursue every case. However the **threat of penalties and cultural expectation sustains the high voter turnout**).¹⁹

1. **Fines for Non-Voting:** Registered voters who fail to vote without a valid excuse may be fined €40–€80 for a first offense,²⁰ and up to €200 for repeat offenses within 15 years.²¹



2. **Loss of Voting Rights & Reform:** Persistent non-voters (missing four elections in 15 years) risk being removed from the electoral roll for 10 years and losing eligibility for certain public roles.²² However, the Flemish Government has abolished mandatory voting ahead of the 2024 municipal and provincial elections.²³

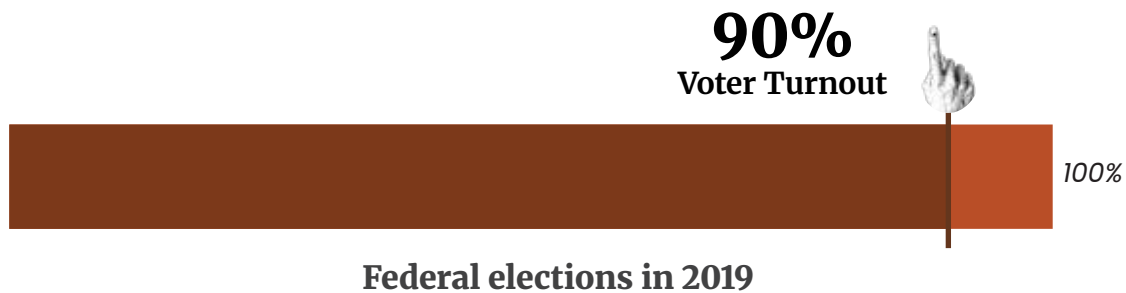
Process Following A National Government Collapse

- A. Following a collapse, the **Prime Minister typically assumes the role of caretaker Prime Minister**. This position involves reduced powers and responsibilities while **maintaining essential Government functions until a new Government can be formed or elections are called**. Caretaker Governments are meant **to ensure continuity in governance during transitional periods**.²⁴
- B. The **Belgian monarch plays a crucial role** in the political process following a Government collapse.²⁵ The **King consults with political leaders and party representatives** to assess the situation and explore options for forming a new Government or calling for elections. The **King may appoint a Formateur, usually a senior politician tasked with negotiating a new coalition**.²⁶
- C. The **formateur engages in negotiations** with various political parties to form a **new governing coalition**. If coalition negotiations fail or if it becomes apparent that no viable Government can be formed, snap elections may be called.
- D. If **snap elections are called, they typically follow the standard electoral process** in Belgium, where **voters participate in Federal, regional, and European elections simultaneously**. The next elections would then determine the composition of Parliament and facilitate the formation of a new Government.²⁷

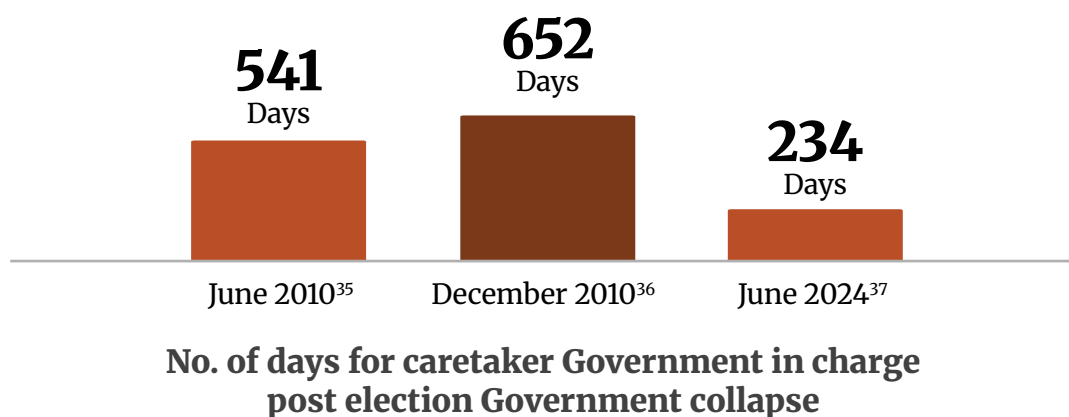
Process Following Collapse Of State/ Regional Governments

- A. If the regional council is dissolved, new elections must be organised, typically **within three months of dissolution**.
- B. Following a collapse, if the President of the region resigns or is removed, the **regional council can elect a new President**.²⁸
- C. If a new President of the regional council is elected through a **special election after a dissolution**, they typically serve out the **remainder of the original term**.²⁹

Election Trends And Data



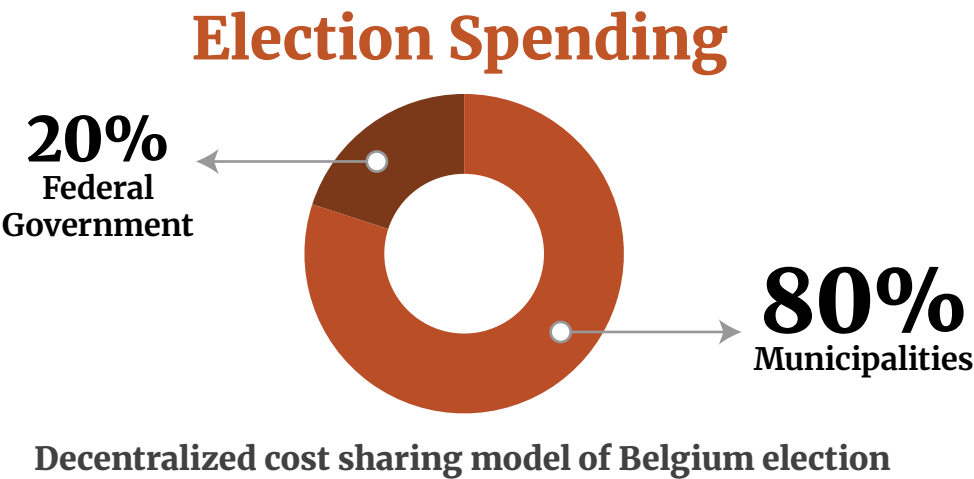
- A. Federal elections in 2019 saw a **high voter turnout of 90%**, with the turnout remaining strong at around **90% in 2024**.³⁰
- B. Voter turnout at the regional level aligns closely with the federal elections,³¹ with a recorded turnout of about **90% in regional elections of 2019 and 2024**.³²
- C. The country has also undergone multiple state reforms aimed at transferring power to the regions.³³ These reforms have reshaped the Senate and transferred significant competencies to the regions. Public support for regionalisation has been a recurring theme in Belgian politics.³⁴
- D. With a **fragmented political party landscape** due to the country's language split – **Belgium does not have national parties** – Government formations have historically been complicated.



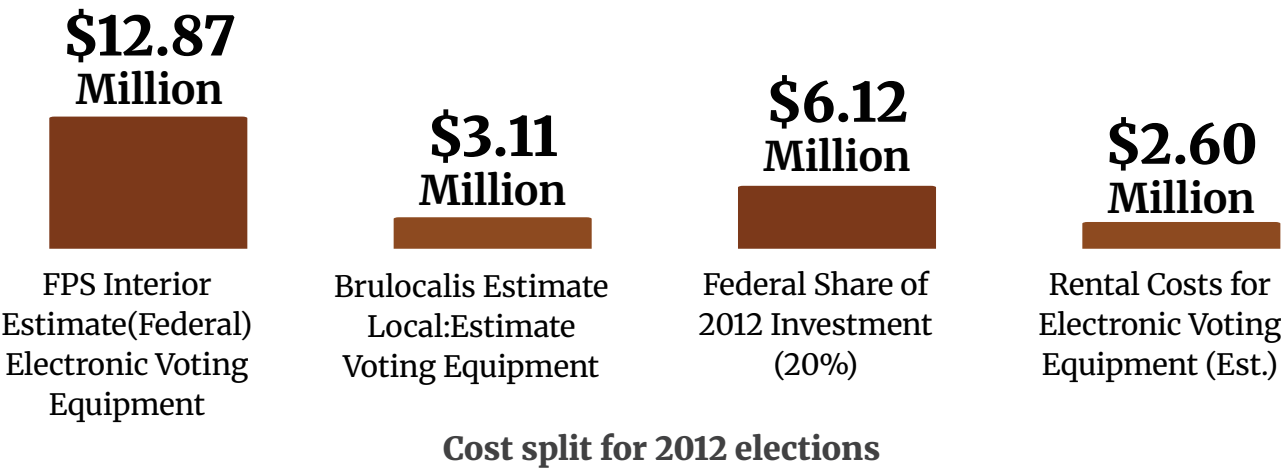
- E. Belgium's **Government, led by Prime Minister Charles Michel, collapsed on December 19, 2018**, after a dispute over an international migration pact.³⁸ After the collapse of the Belgian Government in December 2018, Sophie Wilmès took over as Prime Minister, initially leading a **caretaker Government from October 2019**.³⁹
- F. The next Federal elections were held on May 26, 2019, but the political deadlock continued for nearly **16 months until a new coalition Government was officially sworn in on October 1, 2020**, led by Alexander De Croo. Thus, Wilmès remained in power as Prime Minister from her appointment until the formation of De Croo's Government, which was approximately 10 months after the elections.⁴⁰



G. **The 2024 Belgian federal elections**, held on June 9, 2024, saw significant shifts in the political landscape. The election results led to **complex coalition negotiations**. The eventual "Arizona" coalition, formed between N-VA, MR, CD&V, Les Engagés, and Vooruit, **was finalized on January 31, 2025**.⁴¹



- A. Belgium’s **2019 federal election** was held alongside regional and European Parliament elections, with **costs shared between federal, regional, and municipal Governments**.⁴²
- B. The exact national election budget is not centrally published, but available data suggests that **electronic voting investments and rentals cost between €12–15 million federally**, with municipalities covering additional expenses. (~\$15-16 million).
- C. Belgium employs both electronic and paper voting systems, with **upfront electronic voting investments reaching €29.4 million for 153 municipalities in 2012**, amortized over multiple elections.
- D. The Federal Government covers only **20% of the electronic voting investment costs**, while **municipalities cover 80%**. This decentralised funding structure makes it difficult to isolate a total national expenditure.





BRAZIL



Election Process

Elections every two years, alternating between municipal and general elections.



Fall of National Government

Vice President assumes office; if both positions are vacant, new elections within 90 days.

The newly elected representative serves the remainder of the existing term



Fall of Provincial/State Government

Vice Governor takes over; if both positions vacant, special election. The new administration serves the remainder of the existing term, till the next scheduled municipal elections



Voter Turnout

Generally high, around 78-80%



Election Spending

Brazil's 2022 general elections cost approximately R\$1.3 billion (~\$240 million), excluding voting machine purchases, making it one of the most cost-efficient electoral systems globally (~0.0123% of GDP) Cost per voter were just R\$8.53 (~\$1.70).



Overview Of The Election Process



Elections take place **every two years, in even years, alternating between municipal and general elections**. They always take place on the **first Sunday of the month of October** and, if there is a second round, on the last Sunday of the same month⁴³. This structured electoral calendar is explicitly **codified in the country's legal framework, primarily through the 1988 Federal Constitution⁴⁴** and subsequent electoral legislation, such as **Law No. 9,504/1997, which regulates election processes.**⁴⁵



General election – Held throughout the country for the positions of **President and Vice President of the Republic**, and, in each state, for **Governor and Vice-Governor, Senator, Federal and State Deputy** (in the **Federal District**, for district Deputy).



Municipal election – Held in each municipality for the positions of **Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilor**.



The electoral process in Brazil is a structured system **organised by the Electoral Court (Tribunal Superior Eleitoral, TSE) at the federal level, with Regional Electoral Courts (TREs) managing elections at state and municipal levels.**⁴⁶



Elections are conducted using **electronic voting machines**, ensuring a secure and efficient voting process. Voting is mandatory, and failure to vote without justification can lead to fines.



Following elections, **officials are inaugurated on predetermined dates, typically in January** for federal and state positions.



Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. If the presidency becomes vacant due to resignation or impeachment, the **Vice President assumes office**.
- B. If both positions are vacant, **new elections must be called within 90 days** to fill these roles.⁴⁷
- C. If the President's office becomes vacant in the last two years of the term, Congress will choose a new President and Vice President within 30 days.⁴⁸
- D. The newly elected representative **serves the remainder of the existing term**, not a new full term.⁴⁹

Process Following Fall Of State/Provincial Governments

- A. If a Governor resigns or is removed from office, the **Vice Governor takes over**. If both positions are vacated, a special election is conducted to appoint a new Governor.⁵⁰
- B. If a Mayor is unable to continue in office (due to resignation or other reasons), the **Vice Mayor steps in**. If both positions are vacant, local elections are held to fill these roles.


Election Trends And Data

In response to the **COVID-19** pandemic, Brazil was able to delay the electoral process and shift the date of municipal elections, all **within the bounds of its constitution**.⁵¹

Election Spending

- A. Expenses covered logistics, polling operations, voter education, and maintenance of electronic voting machines.⁵²
- B. The country's long-standing use of electronic voting keeps costs low and streamlined, reducing ballot printing and manual counting expenses, making it **one of the most cost efficient electoral systems globally**.

 **\$240 Million**
Total Election Cost Excluding
Voting Machine Cost

 **\$1.70**
Cost Per Vote
in 2022

 **\$4.94**
Cost Per Vote
2020



CANADA



Election Process

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system; provinces largely control election dates; national and provincial elections every four years. **Fixed date elections** at the Federal level.



Fall of National Government

Prime Minister resigns or seeks to form a new coalition Government; the Governor General dissolves Parliament, new elections called. The **Governor General plays a crucial role** in determining which party leader can form a new Government. The new Government serves a **new term upto 5 years.**



Fall of State Government

The Lieutenant-Governor dissolves the legislative assembly, and new elections are called. **Fall of the federal Government does not affect provincial electoral cycles.**



Election Trends and Data

One-party dominance is common; FPTP can lead to disproportionate seat distribution; **discussions about electoral reform** are currently ongoing. Justin Trudeau resigned, leading to **snap elections in April 2025**, with the victory of the Liberal Party.



Voter Turnout

2025 elections saw a voter turnout of 68.7%, highest since 1993
Voter turnout saw a decrease in the 2021 Federal election, the turnout rate in 2021 was **62.6% , compared to 67% in 2019.**



Election Spending

Canada's 2019 federal election cost approximately was **\$492.4 million, or approximately \$17.99 for each registered elector** – about **0.0212% of GDP.**
The **2021 snap election** cost C\$630 million (~US\$480 million), or 0.0242% of GDP, partly due to pandemic- related expenses. **2025 total election spending details yet to be finalised.**

Overview Of The Election Process



Canada uses a **First-Past-the-Post (FPTP)** electoral system for **Federal elections**. Canadians **do not vote directly for the Prime Minister**; the leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons typically assumes that role.⁵³



Canada's Federal Parliament adopted **fixed-term legislation in 2007 but kept the power to dissolve Parliament early**. The Canada Elections Act mandates that federal elections be held on a fixed date, specifically on the **third Monday in October in the fourth calendar year following the previous general election**.⁵⁴



Fixed-date election laws apply at both Federal and provincial levels, though the timelines vary.



Canada's federal system assigns **distinct electoral authority to each level of Government**—federal, provincial, and territorial—under the **Constitution Act, 1867**.



The Canada Elections Act mandates that federal elections be held on a fixed date, specifically on the **third Monday in October in the fourth calendar year following the previous general election**.⁵⁵



Municipal elections are further devolved to local Governments, with timing set by provincial legislation or municipal bylaws. This decentralized structure means there's **no legal or constitutional mandate to align election dates** across these levels.



Each province sets its own election schedule, often with fixed-date laws (e.g., Ontario's elections occur every four years on the first Thursday in June, per the Election Act). However, Lieutenant Governors retain the power to dissolve legislatures early, akin to the federal Governor General's role.



Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. Canada's Federal Parliament adopted **fixed-term legislation in 2007 but kept the power to dissolve Parliament early.**^{56 57}
- B. A Government collapse can occur due to a **successful vote of no confidence or if the ruling party loses significant support from coalition partners.** For example, in 2011, the **Conservative Government lost a confidence vote**, prompting an election.⁵⁸
- C. While the Act sets a fixed date for elections, it **does not prevent earlier elections from being called.** The Prime Minister can advise the Governor General to **dissolve Parliament and call for an election at any time, provided that it does not exceed five years from the last election.**
- D. Following a Government collapse, the **Prime Minister typically resigns or seeks to form a new coalition Government.** If no viable coalition can be formed, this may lead to new elections being called.
- E. The **Governor General plays a crucial role** in determining which party leader can form a new Government.⁵⁹
- F. If confidence in the Government is lost (often determined by budget votes), **Parliament may be dissolved and elections called.** This process ensures that citizens have a voice in selecting their representatives when political stability is threatened.⁶⁰
- G. A **snap election**—triggered either by the Prime Minister requesting the Governor General to dissolve Parliament or by the Government losing a confidence vote—**results in a fresh mandate.** The new Government's term is **not tied to the timeline of the dissolved Parliament.**⁶¹

Process Following Fall Of State Governments

- A. Provincial Governments **continue their terms unless their own legislatures are dissolved independently**—say, by a no-confidence vote or a premier's strategic call.⁶² The federal snap election **might influence provincial political dynamics** (e.g., parties aligning campaigns or adjusting strategies due to national issues like U.S. tariffs), but it **does not reset their electoral clocks.**
- B. In the event of a Government collapse, the **Lieutenant-Governor (the Monarch's representative at the provincial level) plays a crucial role.** The Lieutenant-Governor has the discretion to **appoint a new Premier or dissolve the legislative assembly** if it is unclear who commands majority support within the assembly.

- C. If the sitting Government loses confidence (for example, through a vote of no confidence), the Lieutenant-Governor may **invite the leader of another political party, who holds a majority in the assembly, to form a new Government**. This can also occur if the Premier resigns or is unable to continue in office.
- D. If no viable Government can be formed, or if there is significant political instability, the Lieutenant-Governor may **dissolve the legislature, leading to an election**.
- E. If a new Government is successfully formed it **will serve a full term, up to 5 years, as stipulated by Section 50 of the Constitution Act, 1867, and Section 4 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**.

PM Justin Trudeau's Resignation And Snap Elections- 2025

- A. A significant electoral crisis has unfolded following **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's resignation announcement on January 6, 2025**, and the subsequent political developments.
- B. His resignation came after the abrupt exit of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland in December 2024, which exposed **deep rifts within the Liberal Party over economic policy** and responses to international challenges.⁶³
- C. Trudeau prorogued Parliament until March 24, 2025, to **allow the Liberals time to select a new leader, effectively delaying any immediate no-confidence votes** from opposition parties like the Conservatives and New Democrats, who had vowed to topple the Government.⁶⁴
- D. Carney called a snap election for April 28, 2025, **after just 10 days in office. The Liberals won a minority Government with 168 seats out of 343**, the fourth consecutive Liberal term but falling short of a majority (172 seats needed).⁶⁵
- E. The newly elected Liberal Government **will serve a new term, potentially lasting up to five years** (until approximately April 2030), assuming it maintains confidence.⁶⁶
- F. The 2025 federal election saw a **voter turnout of approximately 68.7%**, an increase of about six percentage points from the 62.6% turnout in 2021, marking the highest turnout since 1993.⁶⁷ The election saw **increased vote shares for the two main parties** at the expense of smaller parties.⁶⁸



Election Trends And Data

- A. **One-party dominance of the provincial assemblies has been a common occurrence in Canada.** The Alberta Conservative Party (1971–2015); the Nova Scotia Liberal party (1882–1925); and the Ontario Conservatives (1943–85) enjoyed the longest periods of uninterrupted Government office.⁶⁹
- B. The FPTP system can lead to outcomes where **parties gain more seats than their share of the popular vote would suggest is fair.** For instance, in the 2019 Federal election, the **Conservative Party received over 200,000 more votes than the Liberal Party but secured fewer seats** (121 vs. 157) due to winning many ridings by large margins while Liberals won by narrower margins.⁷⁰
- C. There have been **ongoing discussions about reforming Canada's electoral system to adopt proportional representation** or other models that might better reflect voter preferences across regions.⁷¹

Election Spending

- A. Canada's **2019 federal election cost approximately was \$492.4 million, or approximately \$17.99 for each registered elector** – about 0.0212% of GDP.⁷²
- B. The **2021 snap election cost C\$630 million** (~US\$480 million), or 0.0242% of GDP, partly due to pandemic-related expenses.
- C. **Spending details for the 2025 election have not been finalised** yet but are expected to be published by Elections Canada in the coming months.

Federal Election
Cost, 2019

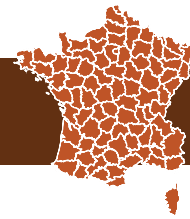
0.0212% of GDP

Snap Election
Cost, 2021

0.0242% of GDP



FRANCE



Election Process

Two-round system for President, Legislature, and Regional elections.

First phase acts as a qualifier, second phase held two or three weeks later. **Senate and regional councils are elected for 6 years** while members of the national assembly serve 5 year terms.



Fall of National Government

The President may resign, pick a successor until snap elections, or appoint a **technocratic Government for six months**. The Caretaker Government retains control, can pass emergency laws. The new Government serves the remainder of the term.



Fall of Provincial/ State Government

President of the region may resign, leading to a new election. Regional council can elect a new president. **New elections within three months if the council is dissolved**. No provision for no-confidence motion. The new Council serves a **full 6 year term**.



Voter Turnout

67% voter turnout in the 2024 national elections. Highest since the late 1990s. Historically low voter turnout averaging at 43%.



Election Spending

France's 2022 Presidential and legislative elections had an allocated administrative budget of €416.4 million (~\$450 million), with **€412.6 million actually paid out**. (~ 0.0174% of GDP)



Overview Of The Election Process



Members of the National Assembly are elected for a 5 year term and Senators are elected for 6 year terms, with half the senate being renewed every 3 years. Regional councils are also elected for a 6 year term.⁷³



France uses a **two-round system**, for all elections – President, Legislature and regional elections. It has been criticised for being **highly disproportional** by artificially boosting large parties.



There are **577 seats** in the French Parliament, which include 13 overseas districts and 11 constituencies that represent French citizens abroad. An **absolute majority** requires a party to hold 289 seats.⁷⁴



The **first phase** of elections acts as a **qualifier**, wherein candidates must get at least 12.5% of locally registered votes in order to stay in the race. If a candidate gets **more than half** of the total votes cast in the first round, they win automatically.⁷⁵



If not, candidates who have met the qualifying criteria will move to the **second phase**. The second ballot is usually held two or three weeks after the first phase of elections.⁷⁶

Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. Government collapse can occur due to a **successful vote of no confidence** or if the ruling party loses significant support from coalition partners.
- B. The **French Constitution** allows for a **caretaker Government** to retain control, with the ability to pass emergency laws to prolong the previous year's budget to ensure continuity.
- C. The retiring President has the following 3 options following a vote of no-confidence:⁷⁷
 - 1. The **President may resign**
 - 2. The retiring President could **pick a viable successor** until snap elections are called.
 - 3. They also have the option of appointing a **technocratic Government** to oversee the administration for a further six months.

- D. In **June 2024**, **President Emmanuel Macron** took a **sudden decision to dissolve Parliament, three years ahead of schedule**, stating that France needed a clear majority to act in serenity and harmony. This was **followed by two-round elections in June and July 2024**.⁷⁸
- E. When a new President is elected following a collapse, they typically serve out the **remainder of the original term**.⁷⁹

Process Following Fall Of Regional Council

- A. Regional councils are established under **Article 72 of the 1958 Constitution and the 1982 decentralization laws (notably the Deerre Act)**, which granted regions autonomous status as territorial collectivities. Their six-year terms are governed by the Electoral Code (Articles L.336 and L.337).⁸⁰
- B. Unlike the National Government, **regional councils lack a formal no-confidence procedure** to oust their executive (the President and administration). They are stable **deliberative bodies elected for fixed six-year terms** under Article 72 of the 1958 Constitution and the 1982 decentralization laws.⁸¹
- C. If a council cannot function—say, due to a President’s resignation or inability to elect a new President after a vacancy (Article L4132-10)—**it may effectively "collapse."** For example, if no candidate secures a majority in three voting rounds during a leadership election, **the council could stall**.⁸²
- D. The "fall" of a French regional council involves **rare dissolution by national decree** (per Article L4132-3 of the General Code of Territorial Collectivities (CGCT)) **or internal paralysis**, followed by new elections within months.⁸³
- E. The new council **serves a full six-year term**, not a remainder, maintaining regional stability within France’s unitary framework. Structurally, this **reinforces centralized control, contrasting with federal systems**. This aligns with Article L4131-1 of the CGCT, which sets the **standard term length, unaffected by the prior council’s lifespan**. For instance, post-2016 merger elections in regions like Grand Est began fresh six-year cycles (next due in 2027).⁸⁴
- F. During a council’s collapse, **prefects and national authorities step in, preserving service delivery** (e.g., schools, public transit).⁸⁵



Insights From 2024 Snap Elections

30 June & 7 July 2024

Legislative elections held (in two rounds) following the dissolution of the National Assembly by President Emmanuel Macron.⁸⁶

8 July 2024

Macron refused the resignation of Prime Minister Gabriel Attal.⁸⁷

16 July 2024

- Macron accepted resignation of the Government,
- Ministers continue as caretaker Government to vote for the President of the National Assembly.⁸⁸

5 September 2024

Michel Barnier appointed as Prime Minister by President Macron.

19 September 2024

Barnier presented his Government

22 September 2024

New Government officially announced

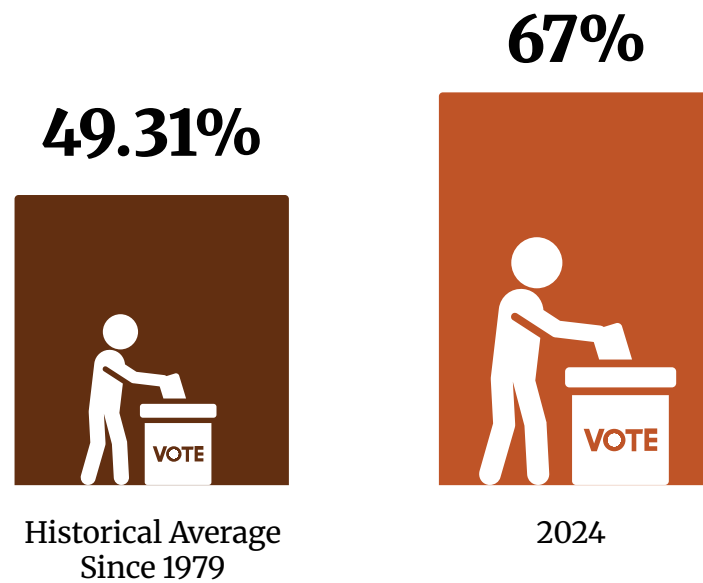
1 October 2024

Barnier delivered his first speech in the National Assembly

After July 2024

No new snap election can be called until at least July 2025, as per the French Constitution.⁸⁹

Election Trends/ Data



2024: France's Voter Turnout Surges to a 25-Year High
Compared to a 49.31% average since 1979⁹⁰

- A. While recent elections like those in 2024 saw higher turnout (51.5%), France has had **historically low voter turnout, averaging at 49.31%** between 1979 and 2024.⁹¹
- B. While it is slightly more representative at the constituency level than First Past the Post (FPTP), it has many **disadvantages such as wasted votes**.
- C. Parties that get through to the second round **barter with those who did not to solicit their official support for their candidate in the run-off**. This can take power away from voters as parties may agree to stand down candidates in future elections, in exchange for support.⁹²
- D. The **two-round system can fragment votes among candidates with similar ideologies**, preventing strong contenders from advancing. For instance, in the **2002 Presidential election**, Lionel Jospin (Socialist Party) narrowly missed qualifying for the run-off due to **vote splitting among left-wing candidates** like Christiane Taubira.⁹³
- E. **Run-off negotiations often result in parties agreeing to withdraw candidates** or trade future political favors. This undermines voter agency by allowing **party interests to override democratic preferences**. For example, smaller parties have historically leveraged their support for major contenders to secure concessions in subsequent elections.⁹⁴



GERMANY



Election Process

Federal elections every **four years, typically on a Sunday**; Personalised proportional representation system (two votes: one for a direct candidate, one for a party list); *Bundestag* elections in 299 constituencies.



Synchrony/Structure

Fixed-term elections governed by law; *Bundestag* elections across **299 constituencies**.



Fall of National Government

Constructive vote of no-confidence; Parliament must elect a successor by an absolute majority; Federal President facilitates discussions; New elections if coalition talks fail.



Fall of Provincial/State Government

Snap elections lead to a full five-year term; Government not dissolved during Federal elections.



Voter Turnout

Comparatively high federal voter turnout often **exceeding 70%**; **2025 record high voter turnout of 84%**. Declining trend observed in recent state elections.



Election Spending

Germany's 2021 federal election **€107 million (~\$125 million)** (~0.0029% of GDP). Increase from €92 million in 2017 (0.0028% of GDP). Costs include poll worker compensation, polling station materials, ballot printing, and voter roll updates.

Overview Of The Election Process



Federal elections are held every four years, typically on a Sunday. This timing allows for the **synchronisation of elections at various levels, including Federal and state elections**, which can occur simultaneously.⁹⁵



The Basic Law and the **Federal Election Act** provide that federal elections must be held on a **Sunday or a national holiday**, no earlier than 46 and no later than 48 months after the first sitting of a *Bundestag* unless the *Bundestag* is dissolved earlier.



Germany uses a **personalised proportional representation system**. Voters have two votes:

1. The first vote is for a **direct candidate in their local constituency**.
2. The second vote is for a **party list in their Federal state**.



This system combines majority voting with proportional representation, ensuring that **both individual candidates and party preferences are represented in the *Bundestag*** (the national Parliament).



Each voter may cast one vote for a candidate in one of 299 constituencies and one vote for **one party's list of candidates in a particular state (land)**. **One member of the *Bundestag* is elected in each of the 299 constituencies in the Federal territory.**



If a candidate for Chancellor does not win an absolute Parliamentary majority — at least 367 votes in the 733-seat Bundestag — **the German President can dissolve the Parliament**. This has never happened in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany.⁹⁶

Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. In Germany, there is a **constructive vote of no-confidence in addition to the procedure for the appointment of a Chancellor made by the *Bundestag***. It is a variation on the motion of no confidence that allows a Parliament to **withdraw confidence from a head of Government only if there is a positive majority for a prospective successor**.⁹⁷



- B. After a federal election or any other vacancy in the chancellor's office, **if the Bundestag fails to elect a chancellor** with an absolute majority of its members by the 15th day after the first ballot, the **President is free either to appoint the candidate** who received a plurality of votes as Chancellor **or to dissolve the Bundestag** (according to Article 63, Section 4 of the Basic Law).
- C. If the chancellor proposes a motion of confidence that fails, they may ask the **President to dissolve the Bundestag**. The President can grant or deny the chancellor's request (according to Article 68 of the Basic Law).
- D. This means that for a Government to be ousted, **a new Chancellor must be elected simultaneously**. The Bundestag must elect a successor by an absolute majority (more than half of the votes). This process **prevents a power vacuum and ensures continuity in governance**.⁹⁸
- E. If the Government collapses, the **Federal President may consult with party leaders to explore options for forming a new Government or calling for new elections**. The President plays a ceremonial role but is crucial in facilitating discussions among political parties.
- F. If there is no immediate election, **parties may enter negotiations to form a new coalition Government**.
- G. If **coalition negotiations fail or if it is deemed necessary, snap elections may be called** to allow voters to decide on a new Government. This process follows the **standard electoral framework established for Federal elections**.
- H. In both cases, federal elections would have to be held on a Sunday or national holiday no later than 60 days after the dissolution.

Process Following Fall Of State Government

- A. If **State Governments fall** and snap elections are called, the **new administration generally serves a full term of five years**. The Government is **not dissolved during the next Federal elections**.⁹⁹
- B. The **Government of Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) held snap elections in 2012**,¹⁰⁰ following which the Social Minority Government served for a **full term between 2012-17**.

Insights From February 2025 Snap Elections

- A. The **snap election was held on February 23, 2025**, following the collapse of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's "traffic light" coalition in late 2024. **Scholz intentionally lost a confidence vote to enable the dissolution of the Bundestag and call the early election**,¹⁰¹ which was the fourth

early federal election in post-war German history and the first since 2005.

- B. **Voter turnout was 82.5%, significantly higher than the 76.4% turnout in 2021**, marking a record high since reunification. **Early voting participation was notably increased**, especially in eastern states such as Thuringia, Berlin, and Saxony-Anhalt, where turnout surged compared to previous elections.¹⁰²
- C. **Due to electoral reforms, the new Bundestag has 630 members, down from 736**, and the distribution of seats reflected the new thresholds and rules, including the **exclusion of some candidates who won constituencies but lacked proportional list coverage**.
- D. Coalition negotiations between CDU/CSU and SPD began promptly, aiming to form a Government by April 2025. The **coalition agreement was scheduled to be signed on May 5, 2025, with Friedrich Merz expected to be elected Chancellor on May 6, 2025**.¹⁰³

Election Trends/ Data

- A. The 2025 federal elections saw a **record high voter turnout of 84%**, the highest since reunification.¹⁰⁴
- B. While **federal elections in Germany tend to maintain higher voter turnout (around 76% in 2021, state elections have faced challenges** with significantly lower participation rates, as evidenced by the recent North Rhine-Westphalia election (**voter turnout dropped to 55.5% in 2021**, lowest since the state's founding).
- C. **Six no-confidence motions have been held in Germany so far**.¹⁰⁵
- D. This was the **fourth early election** in the post-war German history, and the first since 2005.¹⁰⁶

Election Spending

- A. **Election spending details for 2025** have not been specically updated but are **expected to be in line with previous federal elections**, which saw increased costs due to mail-in voting and pandemic-related measures in 2021.¹⁰⁷
- B. Germany' s 2021 federal election cost an **estimated €107 million (~\$125 million), an increase from €92 million in 2017**, mainly due to higher mail-in voting costs and pandemic-related safety measures.
- C. Costs include **poll worker compensation, polling station materials, ballot printing, and voter roll updates**.
- D. The significant **increase in postal voting** (47% of ballots cast) led to higher costs for ballot distribution and counting.



INDONESIA



Election Process

President, Vice-President, and members of the legislative body are elected on the same day during national elections, which occur every 5 years.



Fall of National Government

The Vice-President assumes temporary leadership. A new coalition Government may be formed or **snap elections** are held following the standard electoral framework. The new administration serves the remainder of the existing term.



Fall of Provincial/State Government

Acting officials manage the region until elections are held. If the assembly is dissolved before its 5-year term ends, elections must be held within a set timeframe. **The new administration serves the remaining term.**



Voter Turnout

Voter turnout saw an increase in 2019 due to the simultaneous scheduling of national and regional elections. The turnout rate in 2019 was **81.69%**, compared to **75.11% in 2014**. The turnout remained high at **80.2% in 2024**.



Election Spending

Indonesia's 2019 general elections cost approximately Rp 25.59 trillion (~\$1.8 billion) (~0.161% of GDP)

It marked a 63.8% increase from the 2014 election budget of Rp 15.62 trillion. Key expenses included printing and transporting ballots, hiring election workers, and increasing polling stations, with the number of polling stations rising from 545,803 in 2014 to 810,283 in 2019.

Overview Of The Election Process



Indonesia also switched to the 'One Nation, One Election' format recently - in 2019. The President, Vice-President, and members of both national and regional legislative bodies are elected on the same day.¹⁰⁸



The 2024 simultaneous regional elections were held in accordance with Law Number 10 of 2016 on Regional Elections. As per Law Number 10 of 2016 article 201 paragraph 8, simultaneous voting in the election of Governor and Vice Governor, Regent and Vice Regent, and Mayor and Vice Mayor in all regions of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia were held in November 2024.¹⁰⁹



Since the "Village Law" (Law no. 6/2014), Indonesia has a three-tier system of subnational Government, with a regional tier composed of provinces (*provinsi*), an intermediate tier composed of regencies (*kabupaten*) and cities (*kota*) and a local tier composed of villages.¹¹⁰



National elections, including those for the President and the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), are held every five years. These elections occur simultaneously, allowing voters to choose both their President and legislative representatives on the same day.¹¹¹



In Indonesia, elections are primarily governed by the 1945 Constitution. Law No. 7 of 2017 regulates additional details concerning general elections and numerous implementing regulations.¹¹²



The Constitution does not specify a month for implementation of simultaneous elections. It only stipulates the elections for the President, Vice President and members of the central and regional legislatures occur once every five years.¹¹³



Currently, Indonesia uses a proportional system in which elected candidates are determined based on the majority of votes (open list).¹¹⁴ (Difference between proportional system and FTPA explained below).



The Regional Autonomy Law 8 gave authority to two levels of regional Government, provinces at the first-order administrative level (ADM1), and regencies and municipalities at the second-order administrative level to make their own policies and local laws.¹¹⁵



Broad Difference Between Indonesia's Proportional Representative System and India's FPTP

Feature	Proportional Representation (Indonesia)	First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) (India)
Constituency Type	Multi-member	Single-member
Voting Focus	Party list	Individual candidate
Seat Allocation	Based on vote share	Winner-takes-all
Representation	Proportional across regions	May lead to disproportionate outcomes

Process Following Fall Of National Government

- Following a collapse, **the Vice President typically assumes office temporarily.**
- The new President may consult with political leaders and stakeholders to assess the situation and determine whether to call for new elections or attempt to form a new Government.¹¹⁶
- If there is no immediate call for elections, **efforts are made to form a new coalition Government that can command majority support** in the legislature.
- In case of snap elections, they follow the established electoral framework where voters participate in choosing their representatives and President again under the proportional representation system.**¹¹⁷
- The new Government will serve out the **remainder of the existing term.**

Law No.10 of 2016: Background And Provisions

- A. The **fragmented scheduling of elections led to logistical challenges, high costs, and inconsistencies in voter turnout and campaign oversight.** Political parties, civil society groups, and the Central Government increasingly voiced concerns about inefficiencies and the potential for electoral fatigue among voters.
- B. Additionally, the **Constitutional Court's rulings in 2013 and 2014 played a pivotal role in shaping the push for reform.** In 2013, the Court struck down a provision that allowed unelected incumbents to remain in office beyond their terms until elections were held, highlighting the need for a more synchronised electoral framework.
- C. These pressures culminated in the **passage of Law Number 10 of 2016 under President Joko Widodo's administration, which aimed to streamline regional elections by making them simultaneous nationwide.**
- D. The Law No 10 mandates the following in the conduct of simultaneous regional elections:¹¹⁸
1. **Unified Schedule:** Mandates simultaneous elections for Governors, Regents, and Mayors nationwide every five years (e.g., November 2024, per Article 201, paragraph 8).
 2. **Standardised Terms:** Aligns regional leaders' terms to end concurrently, streamlining electoral cycles.
 3. **Centralised Oversight:** General Elections Commission (KPU) and Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) ensure consistent voter registration, candidate rules, and campaign monitoring.
 4. **Efficiency Gains:** Reduces costs by consolidating security, logistics, and voter education efforts; Minimises electoral frequency, preventing voter fatigue and administrative strain.
 5. **Voter Focus:** Nationwide election day boosts participation through unified campaigns, though complex ballots challenge voters.
- E. Politically, the law has been **praised for enhancing efficiency and reducing opportunities for local corruption** tied to frequent, isolated elections. Critics, however, argue that it risks overwhelming voters with complex ballots and may favor national parties over regional voices.¹¹⁹
- F. In the context of the November 2024 elections, Law Number 10 of 2016 **ensured that over 500 regions across 37 provinces participated in a single electoral event,** a testament to Indonesia's capacity to manage large-scale democratic exercises.¹²⁰



Process Following Fall Of State/Provincial Government

- A. To fill vacant positions of Governor and Deputy Governor, Regent and Deputy regent, as well as Mayor and Deputy Mayor, **acting Governors, acting Regents, and acting Mayors shall be appointed until the scheduled election.**¹²¹
- B. The Indonesian Constitution mandates that elections for regional assemblies occur every five years, and **if a regional assembly is dissolved prematurely, elections must be conducted within a specied timeframe to ensure continuity in governance.**¹²²
- C. The new Government will serve out the **remainder of the existing term.**

Election Trends And Data

- A. **Until 2002 the President and Vice President were elected every five years by the People's Consultative Assembly (Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat; MPR), but in 2002, a new law decreed that beginning in 2004, both leaders were to be directly elected. In addition, legislation passed in 1999 limited the President to two five-year terms.**¹²³
- B. **The 2019 election was the first in which Presidential and legislative ballots were cast on the same day,** and the administrative burden it put on election workers contributed to **hundreds dying from exhaustion.**¹²⁴
- C. There was a **noted increase in the participation rate** of Legislative Member Elections in Indonesia where the participation rate in the 2014 General Election Legislative Member Candidate Election was **75.11% when conducted separately. The percentage increased to 81.69% in the 2019 Simultaneous General Election.** The percentage increased in the 2019 General Election when the **General Election was conducted simultaneously with the percentage reaching 81.69%.**¹²⁵
- D. **On February 14, 2024, Indonesia successfully conducted simultaneous elections.** It was termed as the **world's largest single day elections** since nearly 200 million people voted across all five levels – President, Vice-President, Members of Parliament, Members of Regional Assemblies and Municipal elections.¹²⁶ **The voter turnout remained high at 80.2%**
- E. A notable example is the **resignation of President Suharto on May 21, 1998,** after weeks of protests and civil unrest during the Asian financial crisis.¹²⁷
- F. Manipulation of rules, votes, and administration occurs in Indonesia, including threshold rules, nomination requirements, permanent voter list data, and money politics.¹²⁸

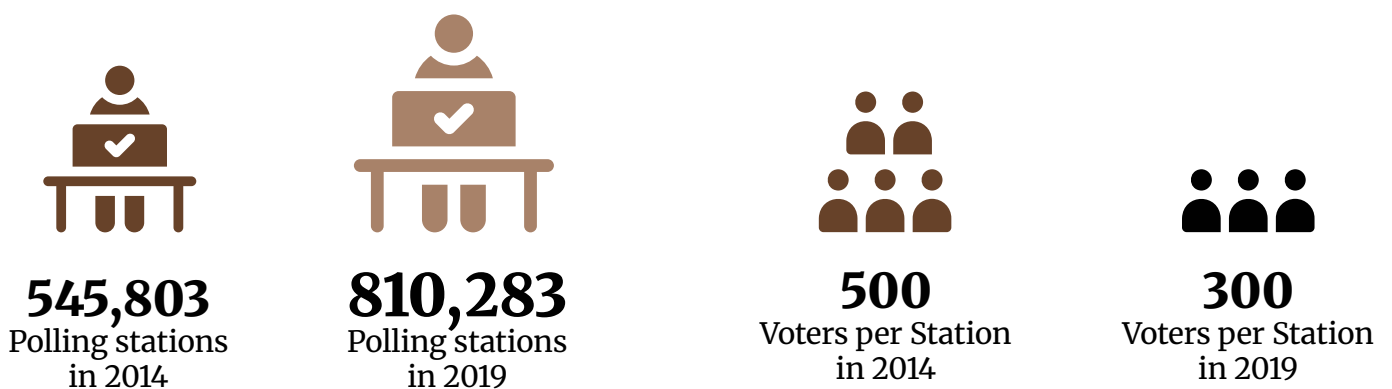
- G. The results of handling **violations in the 2019 simultaneous elections increased sharply to 21,169 cases, or an increase of 58.3% from 2014.** This was due to the material on Indonesia's general election regulations, which overlapped and were not in harmony with the Constitution and judges' decisions.¹²⁹
- H. **The Criminal Investigation Agency handled at least 100 election related cases in 2019 and will currently investigate around 20 cases in 2024.** Additionally, the country **has to hold the second simultaneous election to elect regional heads** throughout Indonesia.¹³⁰

Election Spending

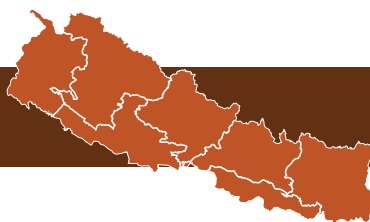
- A. The elections were among the **world's most logistically challenging, requiring over 810,283 polling stations and six million election workers** to manage the voting process across the archipelago.¹³¹
- B. Additional budget increases were due to a **68% rise in election worker honorariums and inflation** over five years, making the 2019 elections **one of the most expensive in Southeast Asia.**



Increased election budget 2014-2019



Rising Polling Stations and Voter Limits Drive Up 2019 Indonesia Election Costs



Election Process

Provinces largely control election dates. National and provincial elections are **every four years**. Nepal held national and state elections **simultaneously once in 2017**.



Fall of National Government

Interim Prime Minister appointed by the council of ministers. If coalition negotiations fail or if no viable Government can be formed, **snap elections** may be called, following standard electoral framework.



Fall of Provincial/State Government

Provincial Governments stay intact after national changes. If one collapses, the President may appoint a temporary head. New elections are held per local law, and winners serve the remaining term.



Voter Turnout

Voter turnout saw a decrease in 2022 General Elections, The turnout in 2017 was 68% compared to 61.85% in 2022.



Election Spending

Nepal's 2022 local elections had a **projected budget of NPR 8.11 billion (~\$63.7 million)**, making it one of the most expensive local elections to date. (**~0.0155% of GDP**)

Nepal's elections are particularly costly due to logistical challenges, remote polling stations, and the high cost of mobilising election personnel across difficult terrain.

Overview Of The Election Process



Nepal has the experience of holding **national and state elections simultaneously once in 2017**. On August 21, 2017, the Nepal Government ordered the holding of national and state elections across the country simultaneously.¹³² This was to be Nepal's **first election after the country adopted a new Constitution in 2015**.



Both **general and provincial assembly elections were conducted simultaneously**.¹³³ But the Election Commission of Nepal raised **concerns about the difficulty of organising such concurrent elections** across the country.¹³⁴ As a result, the election in Nepal was **divided into two phases** on November 26 and December 7, 2017.¹³⁵



The phases were **divided based on geography**. The first phase covered 32 mountainous and hilly districts across Nepal. The second phase covered the remaining districts, primarily the Terai region.¹³⁶

Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. A Government collapse in Nepal occurs due to a **vote of no confidence or the withdrawal of support from key coalition partners**.
- B. If the office of Prime Minister falls vacant, the **same Council of Ministers shall continue to act until another Council of Ministers is constituted**.¹³⁷
- C. Upon the collapse of the Government, the **Prime Minister typically resigns, and the ruling coalition disbands**.¹³⁸
- D. After a Government collapse, political leaders engage in **consultations to explore options for forming a new coalition Government**. The **Deputy Prime Minister wields power** while parties engage in negotiations to identify potential alliances that can command a majority in the House of Representatives.¹³⁹
- E. If coalition negotiations fail or if no viable Government can be formed, **snap elections may be called, following standard electoral framework**.
- F. Any **vacancy of seat in the National Assembly shall be filled for the remainder of the term of office in the same manner of election or nomination** as in which the seat of the vacating member was filled.¹⁴⁰

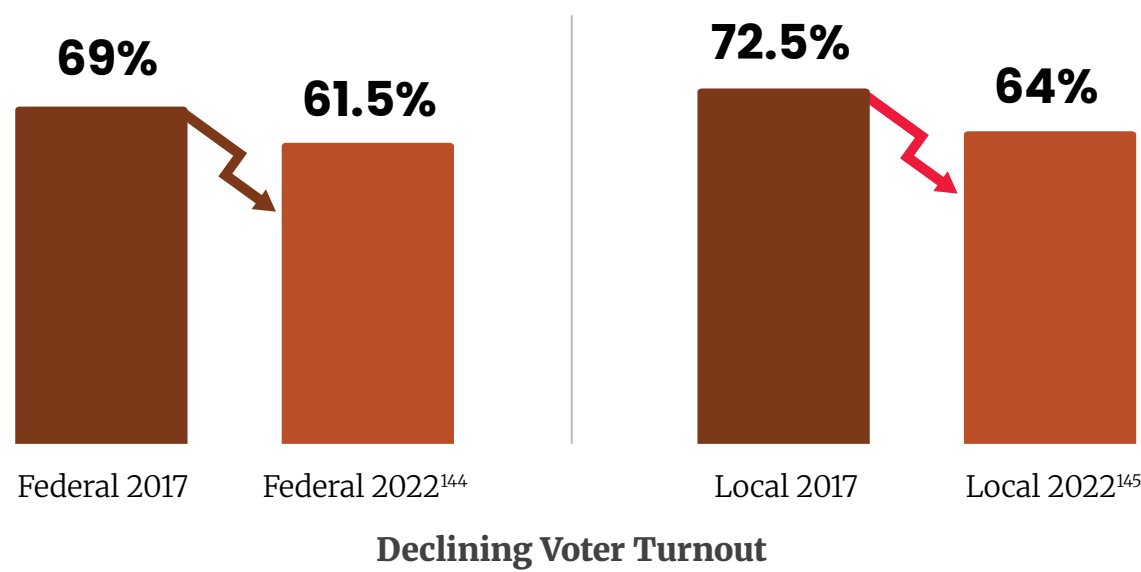


G. In 2024, Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal lost a vote of no confidence in Parliament, after the largest party – Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist Leninist) – in his coalition withdrew its support, forcing him to step down from office after 19 months in power.¹⁴¹ The alliance agreed that Khadga Prasad Oli, the leader of the communist party, will be the new Prime Minister.¹⁴²

Process Following Fall of State/Provincial Government

If the office of the Chief of State of any State falls vacant, the President may designate the Chief of State of another State to act as such also for such State.¹⁴³

Election Trends And Data

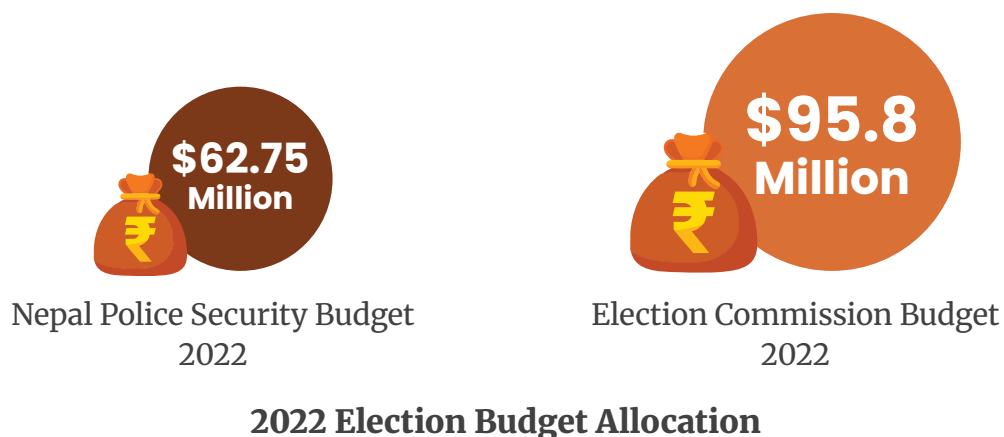


- A. Former Chief Election Commissioner Neel Kantha Uprety highlighted the need for 40,000 polling booths, which could be difficult to manage. Limited space in some areas may make it challenging to accommodate the four to five ballot boxes required. Additionally, conducting simultaneous elections for all three tiers would require nearly 1,000 judges as election officers, a number that may not be feasible to deploy.¹⁴⁶
- B. Requiring voters to select representatives for Parliamentary, provincial, and local levels could result in lengthy candidate lists, making the process cumbersome for many and potentially reducing voter turnout.¹⁴⁷

- C. Nepal has seen **three Governments since the fourth Parliamentary elections in 2022. Prachanda remained the Prime Minister** all three times but changed the coalition partners.
- D. Historically, Nepal has faced **significant political turmoil since transitioning from monarchy to democracy in 2008. The fragmentation of political parties and frequent changes in leadership** have contributed to ongoing instability.¹⁴⁸
- E. In the 16 years since the advent of democracy in 2006, Nepal has had more than ten Prime Ministers, 30 deputy Prime Ministers and countless cabinet Ministers. **No Government has been able to complete a five-year term.**¹⁴⁹

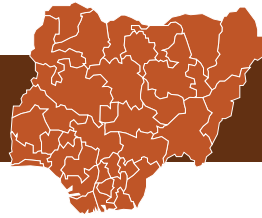
Election Spending

- A. Nepal's 2022 local elections had a projected budget of NPR 8.11 billion (~\$63.7 million), making it **one of the most expensive local elections to date**. Of this, NPR 5.43 billion (~\$42.2 million) was spent by the Election Commission on **election operations, including manpower deployment, voter education, and logistical arrangements.**¹⁵⁰
- B. Comparatively, **in 2017**, NPR 11.28 billion (\$88.58 million) was allocated for local elections, with NPR 7.03 billion (~\$55.21 million) spent, while the federal and provincial elections that year had a budget of NPR 9.7 billion (~\$76.18 million), with NPR 6.41 billion (~\$50.34 million) actually spent.
- C. Nepal's elections are **particularly costly due to logistical challenges, remote polling stations, and the high cost of mobilizing election personnel** across difficult terrain.





NIGERIA



Election Process

Simultaneous national and state elections **every four years**, organized by INEC.



Fall of National Government

Vice President assumes **presidency**; by-elections organised by INEC to fill vacant seats. Legitimately formed Governments serve out the **remainder of the term**.



Fall of Provincial/ State Government

State Governors have **designated successors**; by-elections organized by INEC to fill vacant seats. The new Government will typically serve out the **remainder of the term**.



Voter Turnout

26.72% in 2023;
no state reached 50% voter turnout.



Election Spending

Nigeria's 2023 general elections were **funded with N313.4 billion (~\$680 million)** from the Federal Government, out of the N355 billion (~\$770 million) initially approved (**~ 0.1236% of GDP**) Nigeria's elections are among the most expensive in Africa, driven by the costs of large-scale logistics, security, and the deployment of advanced electoral technology.

Overview Of The Election Process



Elections in Nigeria involve choosing **representatives for the Federal Government of Nigeria as well as the various states in the Fourth Nigerian Republic.**¹⁵¹



The **simultaneous state and national elections typically occur every four years**, and are organised by the Independent National Election Commission (INEC).¹⁵² Structured and fixed-term elections in Nigeria are mandated by the **Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) 1999 and the Electoral Act 2022.**¹⁵³



The electoral roll in Nigeria is maintained by the INEC. As of the 2023 elections, there were **approximately 93.47 million registered voters** in Nigeria.¹⁵⁴

Process Following National/State Government Collapse

- A. The process of handling Government collapse in Nigeria, including succession protocols and by-election arrangements, is primarily governed by the **1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.**¹⁵⁵
- B. The Constitution outlines succession protocols whereby the **Vice President assumes office if the President is unable to serve.** If a legitimate Government replaces the previous one via an established constitutional mechanism, they typically serve out the **remainder of the term.** – Section 146(1).
- C. Similarly in **State Governments, if the Governor resigns** or is incapacitated, the **Deputy Governor assumes office for the remainder of the term.**
- D. If a seat becomes vacant due to a collapse or resignation, section 76(2) and section 116(2) mandate that **by-elections be conducted by the INEC** to fill vacant legislative seats within a specied timeframe.
- E. In **cases of significant instability or security concerns** following a Government collapse, **emergency powers may be invoked** to maintain order and facilitate governance until normalcy is restored – Section 305.



Election Trends And Data

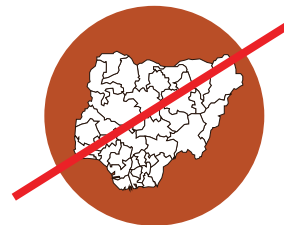
- A. Nigeria has experienced instances of Government collapse, particularly during transitions from democratic administrations :
1. **Military Coups:** Historically, military coups have terminated democratic administrations. In such cases, the **new military Government typically suspends the constitution and governs by decree**. A transition program is then initiated.
 2. **Transitions to Civilian Rule:** When military leaders like General Abdulsalam Abubakar initiated transitions to civilian rule, they outlined **specific timetables for elections including local Government, state, and federal elections**, culminating in the Presidential election held on February 27, 1999. This was part of a broader effort to **restore democracy after years of military rule**. The newly elected civilian Government then served a full term under the new constitution.¹⁵⁶
 3. **Collapse of the First Republic:** The collapse of Nigeria's First Republic in 1966 was triggered by **political instability and a controversial election**. **The army took over**, marking the end of that Government.
- B. **Only two out of Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) recorded up to 50% voter turnout** in the 2019 Presidential election. **Voter turnout has been on a steady decline since 2007**, with only 10 states reaching the 50% mark in 2015.¹⁵⁷



26.72%
Voter Turnout



24.9
Million Voters



No State Reached
50% turnout¹⁵⁸

**Nigeria's 2023 Elections See Record Low Turnout
Amid Logistical¹⁵⁹ Hurdles and Violence¹⁶⁰**

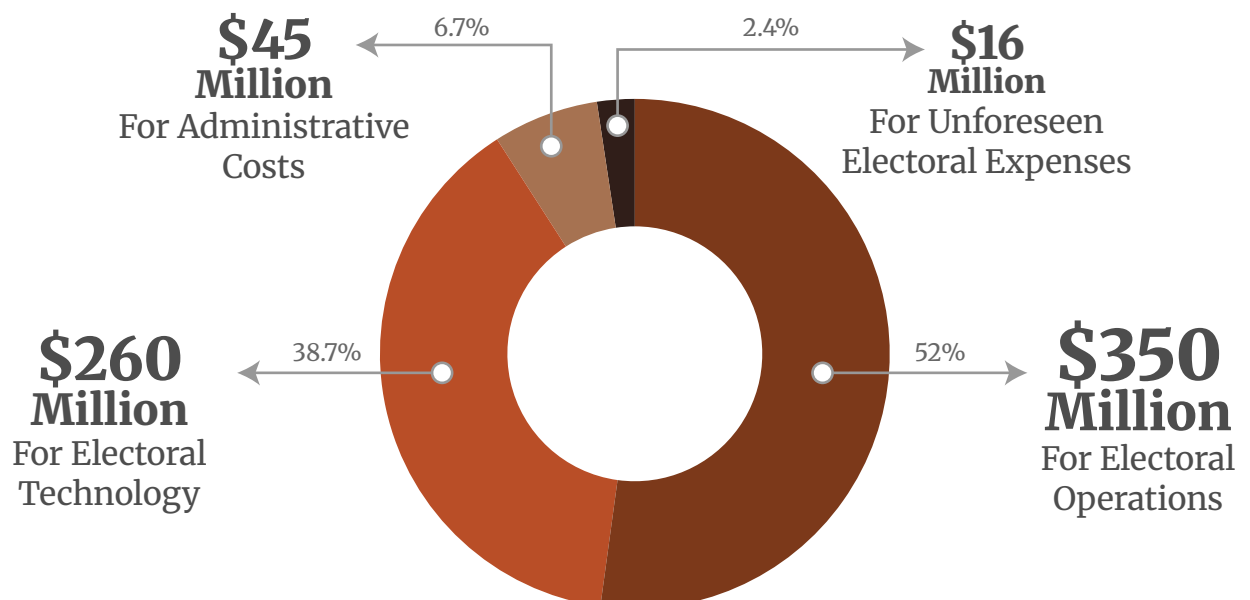
- C. For instance, Human Rights Watch noted that security **threats from groups in the northwest and southeast undermined the elections**, creating a "thick veil of violence" that **discouraged voter participation**.¹⁶¹ The Nigeria Police Force acknowledged limitations in responding to election violence, highlighting gaps in security provision.¹⁶²

Election Spending

Nigeria's elections are **among the most expensive in Africa**, driven by the costs of large-scale logistics, security, and the deployment of advanced electoral technology.¹⁶³



Partial Budget Release for Nigeria's 2023 General Elections



Nigeria's 2023 General Elections Budget Breakdown



PHILLIPPINES



Election Process

Mixed electoral system: President/ Vice President (6-year term); Senators (6-year term with half of them elected every 3 years); House of Representatives (3-year term). **Local elections are held simultaneously with national elections, with elections held every 3 years on the second Monday of May.**



Fall of National Government

When a President resigns/ steps down, the Vice President may assume Presidency temporarily. A new President is appointed if a new coalition leads to successful Government formation. Snap elections following the established electoral framework may be called if a stable Government is not established.



Fall of Provincial/ State Government

Vice Governor/ Vice Mayor assumes office if the Governor/ Mayor's office becomes vacant. The successor serves the remainder of the existing term.



Voter Turnout

Generally high, around 80%; 2022 elections had high turnout of 83.07%.¹⁶⁴



Election Spending

The 2022 Philippine general elections had a total administrative budget of PHP 38.23 billion (~\$730 million). 19.5% increase from the 2016 election budget for the same components.

Attributed to higher investments in election technology, expanded voter registration, and growing administrative costs.

Overview Of The Election Process



The Philippines employs a **mixed electoral system**. For national elections, voters elect:

1. The **President and Vice President** for a term of six years.
2. **Senators (24 total)** for a term of six years, with **half elected every three years**.
3. **Members of the House of Representatives** are elected for three-year terms.



Local elections for provincial, city, and municipal officials occur **simultaneously with national elections**.



Elections in the Philippines are held **every three years**. The **national and local elections occur on the second Monday of May** but the most significant elections occur **every six years for the President and Vice President**, and every three years for the Senate and House of Representatives. The elections are held on the **second Monday of May**, which is determined by law.¹⁶⁵



The synchronisation of national and local elections is mandated by the **1987 Philippine Constitution** and governed by the **Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines** (Batas Pambansa Bilang 881), enacted on December 3, 1985.¹⁶⁶

Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. A Government collapse in the Philippines can occur due to various factors, including a **vote of no confidence, significant political dissent, or loss of support from coalition partners**.
- B. Upon a Government collapse, the **sitting President typically resigns or is compelled to step down. The Vice President may assume the presidency temporarily**. For instance, in 1986, President Ferdinand Marcos was ousted during the People Power Revolution, leading to Vice President Corazon Aquino assuming office.¹⁶⁷
- C. If **negotiations for formation of a new Government are successful, a new Prime Minister or President may be appointed**, and a new coalition Government is formed. This process can be complex due to the **fragmented nature of Philippine politics**, where multiple parties often have competing interests.



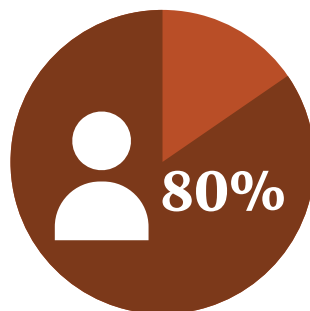
- D. If coalition negotiations fail or if it becomes evident that no stable governing coalition can be established, **snap elections may be called**. The Constitution allows for elections to be held if the sitting Government loses confidence.
- E. In the event that snap elections are called, they follow the established electoral framework where **voters participate in electing their representatives and local officials**. The most recent elections were held on May 9, 2022.

Process Following Fall Of State/Provincial Government

- A. If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the Governor or Mayor, the **Vice-Governor or Vice-Mayor concerned shall assume the office of Governor or Mayor**.
- B. The successor Governor serves only the unexpired term of their predecessor. This means they do not start a new 3-year term, but rather **complete the remaining time left in the original Governor's term**.¹⁶⁸

Election Trends And Data

- A. **The most recent simultaneous elections took place on May 9, 2022**, where voters elected the President, Vice President, members of Congress, and 18,000 local officials including city mayors and provincial governors.¹⁶⁹
- B. Independent poll monitor the Asian Network for Free Elections concluded that each of the **most recent Philippines elections were generally free and fair, with turnout remaining high at about 80%**.¹⁷⁰



Voter Turnout % (2022)

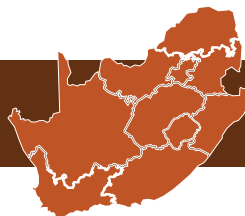
- C. High number of recorded instances of **Election-Related Violent Incidents (ERVI)**, with a total of **1,497 incumbents and candidates killed**, 312 wounded and 147 escaping unhurt from assassination attempts **from January 2006 to August 2023**.¹⁷¹
- D. More than three-quarters of these **assassinations are directed at local politicians and candidates at the barangay level**, which is the lowest level formal Government unit, comparable to a municipal ward or village.¹⁷²
- E. Reported **shortage of resources, including ballot boxes** during the simultaneous elections.¹⁷³

Election Spending

- A. The 2022 Philippine general elections had a **total administrative budget of PHP 38.23 billion (~\$730 million)**, with the largest portion allocated to electoral **supervision and monitoring** (PHP 38.08 billion) and **national and local election operations** (PHP 24.1 billion), which accounted for 63% of the total budget.¹⁷⁴
- B. This marked a **19.5% increase from the 2016 election budget** for the same components. A significant cost driver was the development of software systems and procedures, which had an allocated budget of PHP 964 million, reflecting a **3,485% increase from the 2016 election cycle**.
- C. Other major expenditures included PHP 4.24 billion for the **conduct and supervision of elections, referenda, and recall votes**, PHP 134.6 million for overseas absentee voting registration, and PHP 964.6 million for software and procedural system development.
- D. The Electoral Enforcement and Adjudication Program was allocated PHP 117.9 million, covering **legal research, ruling issuance, and investigation of election law violations**.
- E. The steep increase in election spending was attributed to **higher investments in election technology, expanded voter registration, and growing administrative costs**.



SOUTH AFRICA



Election Process

Provincial and national elections are held **simultaneously every five years**. Municipal elections are held separately.

President is elected by Parliament, not directly by the public.

Independent candidates can contest elections for both the National Assembly and provincial legislatures.



Fall of National Government

Prime Minister or President becomes caretaker. A new coalition Government formed or snap elections called within 90 days. **National and provincial elections held simultaneously.**



Fall of Provincial/State Government

Provincial Governments are **not automatically dissolved when the national Government collapses**. New elections if the provincial Government is dissolved by Premier, majority vote in legislature, or after three years. The new Government **serves a full five-year term.**



Voter Turnout

Voter turnout saw a decrease in 2024 due to the simultaneous scheduling of national and regional elections. The turnout rate in 2024 was 58.57% (General & Provincial Election), compared to 66.05% in 2019 (General election, no data available for provincial election).



Election Spending

South Africa's 2024 National and Provincial Elections are funded through an **allocation of R2.302 billion (~\$120 million)** for the 2024/25 financial year (**~0.0298% of GDP**).

Overview Of The Election Process



Provincial and national elections are held simultaneously every five years in South Africa. The African country has nine provinces. However, municipal elections are held separately from provincial ones in a five-year cycle.¹⁷⁵



South Africa's electoral system is based on a **proportional representation (PR) framework** for choosing members of Parliament and provincial legislatures.¹⁷⁶



The President is elected not directly by the public but through a **Parliamentary system based on proportional representation**.¹⁷⁷



The execution of these elections is entrusted to the **Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)**, a body responsible for the overall administration of the electoral process, in order to maintain its integrity and impartiality. The role of the IEC is very similar to that of the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.¹⁷⁸



At the General Election voters elect the national and provincial legislatures simultaneously. Voters are presented with **two separate ballots – a national ballot, and a provincial ballot**. These ballots list, respectively, all the political parties competing in the election at national and provincial level. **Voters cast one (categorical) vote for the party of their choice on each ballot**, as they see fit.¹⁷⁹



As of 2024, South Africa has made provisions for **independent candidates to contest elections for both the National Assembly and provincial legislatures**, enhancing political diversity within its electoral framework.

Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. When a National Government collapses, the incumbent Prime Minister or President **takes on the role of caretaker leader**. In this capacity, they **oversee essential Government functions with limited powers**, ensuring stability while negotiations for a new coalition or fresh elections take place.¹⁸⁰



- B. The President consults party leaders and stakeholders to explore coalition possibilities. If negotiations succeed, a **new coalition Government is formed, often involving power-sharing agreements** based on electoral strength. However, if no viable coalition can be established, snap elections may be called.¹⁸¹
- C. **In the case of snap elections**, the standard South African electoral process is followed, with both **national and provincial elections conducted simultaneously**.¹⁸² According to South African law, elections must be held within 90 days of dissolving the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures, ensuring **synchronisation even in cases of National Government collapse**.¹⁸³

Process Following Fall of State/Provincial Government

- A. Unlike the national Government, **provincial Governments are not automatically dissolved when the national Government collapses**. A provincial legislature continues to function unless it is explicitly dissolved by the Premier or if its term expires.¹⁸⁴
- B. Under Section 109 of the South African Constitution, a provincial legislature can only be dissolved if a majority vote within the legislature supports dissolution or if three years have passed since its election. **If a coalition forms within the legislature, the provincial Government continues** to function without requiring a fresh mandate. However, if no coalition is established and governance becomes unworkable, **snap elections may be called requiring the Premier to dissolve provincial Governments**.¹⁸⁵
- C. When a new provincial Government is elected following a collapse, it **serves a full five-year term, even if it arises from a snap election**. This means its timeline **may no longer align with the next scheduled national elections**.¹⁸⁶

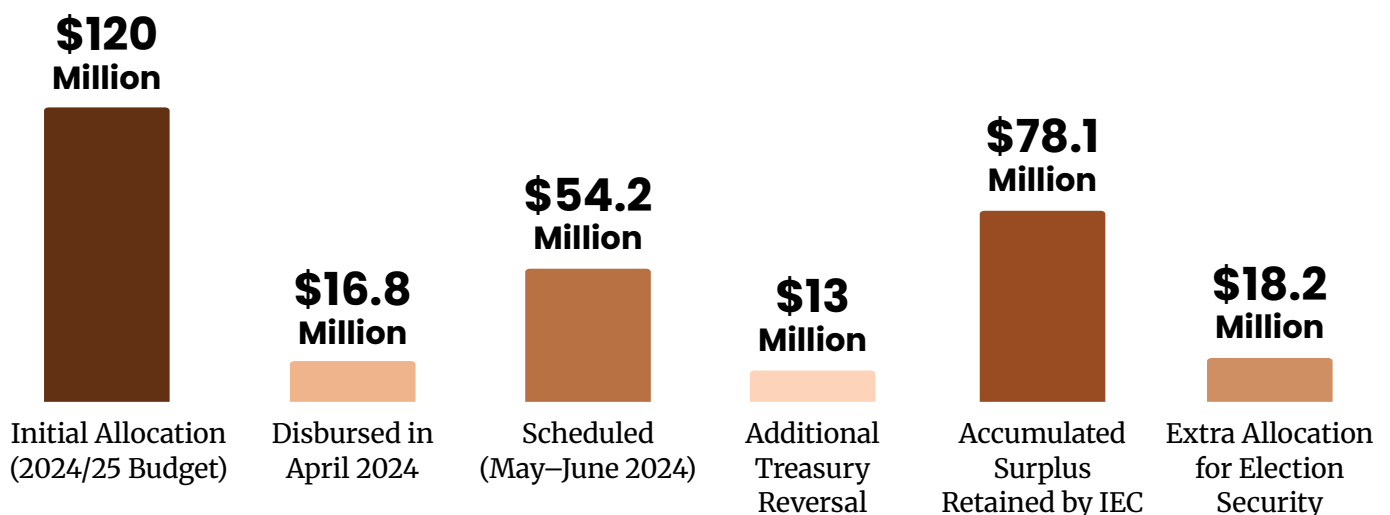
Election Trends And Data

- A. Historically, South Africa has experienced **prolonged periods without stable governance** - for instance, **after the 2019 elections**, it took considerable time to form a functioning Government due to complex negotiations among various political factions.
- B. In South Africa, local and provincial Governments can fall at different times due to various political dynamics, leading to **staggered election cycles**. For instance, if a **provincial Government collapses, it may necessitate new elections that do not align with the national election schedule**. This situation can result in fragmented electoral processes across different regions, where some areas may have new administrations while others remain under existing ones.

- C. A key example of provincial instability occurred in **2020 when the ANC lost its majority** in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, triggering calls for a **vote of no confidence against Premier David Makhura**.¹⁸⁷
- D. Similarly, in 2018, the collapse of the governing coalition in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality led to provincial intervention, where **an administrator was appointed to oversee governance until fresh elections were held**.¹⁸⁸

Election Spending

- A. To ensure adequate resources for the elections, the **National Treasury reversed a planned budget reduction**, making an additional R250 million available to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) compared to previous estimates.¹⁸⁹
- B. The IEC was **also permitted to retain R1.5 billion in accumulated surpluses**, and an extra R350 million was allocated for election security.
- C. Treasury engagements with the IEC confirmed that **election costs could be managed within the entity's baseline budget, avoiding the need for additional funding requests**. Media reports suggesting funding shortfalls were based on misinterpretations of budget documentation, as the IEC's financial needs for the elections have been addressed through surplus retention and targeted allocations.



Budget Allocation for 2025 elections



SWEDEN



Election Process

Multi-level synchronized elections every four years for *Riksdag*, county councils, and municipal assemblies, usually held in September.



Fall of National Government

Vote of no confidence requiring 175/349 votes. PM resigns or calls snap elections. Cross-party negotiations for new PM; **extraordinary elections within three months** if unsuccessful. The new Government serves the remainder of the existing term.



Fall of Provincial/State Government

The Regional Government continues until the original term ends, unless another failure occurs. New municipal administration remains until next synchronized election.



Voter Turnout

84.21% in 2022; hasn't been below 80% since 1950s.



Election Spending

NA

Overview Of The Election Process



Sweden introduced the concept of joint elections in 1970.¹⁹⁰ Sweden holds **multi-level synchronised elections every four years**. This includes elections for the *Riksdag* (the national parliament), the county councils, and the municipal assemblies. The polls are usually held in September.



The Swedish Constitution has specific provisions regarding simultaneous elections. Sweden's Constitution of 1974, with amendments through 2012, regulates *Riksdag* general elections.¹⁹¹ In Sweden, the Constitution directly determines the month of implementation for simultaneous elections.



Sweden's Parliament, the *Riksdag*, has **349 members** and has a **proportional electoral system**, which means that political parties are assigned a number of seats in the elected assembly based on their share of the vote.¹⁹²




Elections in Sweden are carried out on **all levels on a proportional basis**, and **there is no mandatory voting**.



The last simultaneous elections took place on September 11, 2022, with the next scheduled for September 2026.

Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. A **Government can be ousted through a vote of no confidence** (*misstroendevotum*) in the *Riksdag*. For a vote to succeed, it must receive a **majority of at least 175 votes from the total 349 MPs**.
- B. Once a vote of no confidence passes, the **Prime Minister has two main options**:¹⁹³
 - 1. **Resign**: The Prime Minister can **choose to step down immediately**.
 - 2. **Call for Snap Elections**: Alternatively, the Prime Minister may opt to call for snap elections **if they believe that new elections could lead to a different Parliamentary composition** that might support their Government. However, this option is often less appealing due to the proximity of scheduled general elections.

- 
-
- C. A new Prime Minister may be appointed following cross party negotiations, which may typically lead to a minority or coalition Government depending on Parliamentary support.
 - D. If no candidate can secure sufficient support after multiple attempts, **extraordinary elections must be held within three months.**¹⁹⁴
 - E. The **new Government will remain in power for the remainder of the existing term** unless it faces another no-confidence vote or fails to secure enough Parliamentary support for its policies.¹⁹⁵

Process Following Fall of State/Provincial Government

- A. When a **new Regional Government is formed after a collapse, it continues only until the end of the original term's duration**, unless there is another Government failure or exceptional situations that require early elections.
- B. At the local Governance level, if a **Municipal Commissioner's appointment ends during their term, the newly appointed administration remains in office only until the next scheduled synchronised elections**, at which point it is automatically dissolved.¹⁹⁶

Election Trends and Data

- A. In the **general elections of 2022, the voter turnout in Sweden was 84.21% of eligible voters.** The turnout has **not been below 80% since the 1950s.** Many factors influence the high turnout: trust in democratic institutions, respect for the electoral system, and the fact that **Parliamentary elections are combined with elections to local and regional Governments.**¹⁹⁷
- B. People engage in a **split-ticket voting pattern**, demonstrating a distinct voting process within the community. They are **more in line with a multi-level understanding of a political system** with a precise distribution of competencies.¹⁹⁸ This also proves that **Sweden's local elections are independent, not secondary elections determined by national political issues.**
- C. In **June 2021, Stefan Löfven's Government was toppled** due to a dispute over rent controls that led to the Left Party withdrawing its support. **Following the no-confidence vote, Löfven chose to resign** rather than call for snap elections since **general elections were already scheduled for September 2022.**¹⁹⁹

- D. In 2019, Sweden reported over 21,000 election violations, which included various forms of fraud and manipulation, such as **violations of the electoral code and irregularities in the voting process. The 2024 elections also saw significant violations**, indicating a persistent issue with maintaining electoral integrity.²⁰⁰
- E. The simultaneous nature of elections **increases the risk of manipulation at various stages, including voter choice conditioning and vote counting processes.** Reports have indicated that manipulation can occur through various means, such as **monetary incentives or misinformation campaigns aimed at influencing voter behavior.**²⁰¹



Election Process under FPTA

The Fixed-Term Parliaments Act (FPTA) 2011, has been repealed, restoring the Prime Minister's power to call elections at their discretion. The FPTA had set a five-year interval between ordinary general elections, to be held on the first Thursday in May in every fifth year.



Fall of National Government

If the Government falls, the Prime Minister resigns. The ruling party then elects a new leader who becomes Prime Minister and forms a new Government. If instability persists, a general election may be called.



Election Process under FPTA

2024 General election turnout was around 60%, which was lower since 2001, generally voter turnout ranges around 65–66%



Election Spending

The 2019 UK general election cost £ 147.4 million (~\$190 million). The cost per voter was around £ 3.13 (~\$4).

Paper-based voting with manual counting, leading to significant expenses in ballot printing and staffing.

Overview Of The Election Process



The United Kingdom employed a **First-Past-the-Post (FPTP)** electoral system for **general elections**, where Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected to the House of Commons. This system is straightforward but **can lead to outcomes where the winning party does not have an overall majority** of the popular vote.



The **Fixed-Term Parliaments Act (FTPA) 2011** set a **five-year interval between ordinary general elections**. General elections are scheduled to take place on the **first Thursday in May in every fifth year**.²⁰²



The **first election held under the FTPA** took place on **May 7, 2015**. Subsequent elections occurred in **2017 and 2019**, both called under provisions of the FTPA after votes were passed in Parliament.



The UK's devolved assemblies **initially had four-year fixed terms**, later extended to **five years to align with Westminster's five-year fixed term**.

Repeal Of The FTPA

- A. The **FTPA was repealed after the Conservative Party's 2019 manifesto claimed it caused policy paralysis during the 2017–19 Brexit debates**, preventing decisive action when the country needed it most.²⁰³ It **restored the Prime Minister's power to call elections at their discretion**, which had been removed in 2011.
- B. The repeal **reintroduced unpredictability in election timing, leading to logistical challenges and potential partisan advantage for the Prime Minister**. Efforts to include safeguards, such as requiring Parliamentary majority support for election calls, were rejected.²⁰⁴ The structured approach of the FTPA showed **positive results in the historically low voter turnout** in the UK.

Year	2001 - pre FTPA	2005 - pre FTPA	2010 - pre FTPA	2015 - FTPA in effect	2017 - FTPA in effect	2019 - FTPA in effect	2024 - FTPA repealed
Voter Turnout	59.2 %	61.3 %	65.5 %	66.0 %	69.0 %	67.5 %	59.7 %



- C. Before the Fixed-term Parliaments Act (FTPA) was introduced in 2011, UK general elections were called flexibly, with voter turnout gradually increasing from 59.2% in 2001 to 65.5% in 2010. Under the **FTPA, which mandated fixed five-year election cycles, turnout remained relatively stable, peaking at 69.0% in 2017.**²⁰⁵ **Following the FTPA's repeal in 2022, the 2024 election saw a sharp decline in voter turnout to 60.0%, the lowest in 20 years.**²⁰⁶

Process Following A Government Collapse Under The FTPA

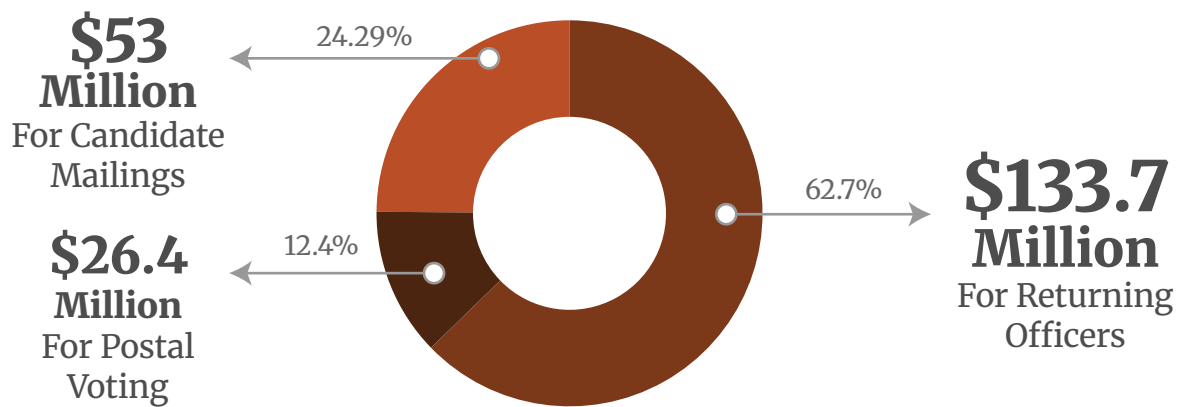
- A. The FTPA included **two mechanisms that could lead to early general elections**. The Act specified that early elections can be held only:
1. A **vote of no confidence** in the Government
 2. A **two-thirds majority in the House of Commons** voting in favour of an early election.²⁰⁷
- B. If a vote of no confidence is passed, the **Government must either resign** or seek to form a new administration that can **gain Parliamentary support within 14 days**. If no viable alternative Government is formed, this **may lead to an early general election**.
- C. **In the past, the Queen dissolved Parliament based on the Prime Minister's advice**. Under the FTPA, Parliament **could only be dissolved as per the rules of the Act**. However, the Act did not change the Monarch's power to suspend (prorogue) Parliament.²⁰⁸

Election Trends And Data

- A. The **first election held under the FTPA took place on May 7, 2015**. Subsequent elections occurred in **2017 and 2019**, both called under provisions of the FTPA after votes were passed in Parliament.
- B. Since 1999, they have completed five full terms, with **only two early dissolutions—both in Northern Ireland** (in 2017 and 2022, due to the resignations of the deputy First Minister and First Minister, respectively). This amounts to **14 full-term sessions and 2 early dissolutions** across all devolved assemblies.²⁰⁹

Election Spending

The UK's election system is **paper-based, with manual counting**, leading to significant expenses in ballot printing and staffing. Postal voting has grown, increasing costs, while **election security is managed through regular police budgets** rather than separate allocations.²¹⁰



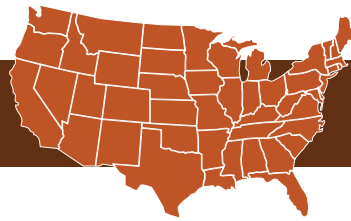
UK General Election 2019 Expenses

Implementation of FTPA

- A. **Intent and Early Success:** Initially introduced in 2011, the FTPA successfully established a framework for five-year fixed Parliamentary terms, creating a more level playing field between major and minor political parties. The Act required a two-thirds majority in Parliament to trigger early elections, theoretically preventing the ruling party from calling snap elections for political advantage. This was demonstrated during the 2010-2015 Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition, where the Act helped maintain Government stability. The FTPA Act was a success in creating a commitment between the political parties, ensuring that the parties serve their full five year terms. It made it difficult for the main party to have undue advantages over smaller parties.
- B. **Challenges during Brexit:** The FTPA was repealed mainly because it caused delays during important times, especially when the UK was negotiating Brexit. Previously, **the Prime Minister could call elections whenever they wanted**, which made election dates unpredictable. This unpredictability can cause problems with planning elections and **might give the ruling party an unfair advantage**.
- C. **Rigidity of the Act:** The Act was too strict, which became a significant problem in 2019, when Parliament was stuck and couldn't function properly. It took **many tries to get permission for an early election, even though the Government clearly wasn't working well**. This showed that while the Act stopped politicians from calling elections just for their own gain, it also made it harder to fix real political problems.(details in Annexure I).
- D. **Rushed Implementation and Repeal:** The FTPA was only the first step in a series of planned changes that never happened. The law was rushed and had many issues. Instead of fixing these problems properly, the UK quickly decided to repeal the Act, which has caused even more uncertainty in politics. **During the repeal process, the Government removed large parts of the Bill and replaced them with new rules without enough time for careful review**. This rushed approach created many of the problems people warned about before the Act was repealed.



USA



Election Process

Presidential elections are indirect via the Electoral College. The executive and legislature are separate, allowing the **Senate to function even with a lame-duck President**. Most states align their elections with federal ones, except KY, LA, MS, NJ, and VA.



Fall of National Government

No formal mechanism for a vote of no confidence.

If a President is removed from office or resigns, the **Vice President assumes the presidency** under the Presidential Succession Act and will serve the **remainder of the existing term**.



Fall of State Government

Each state has its own election laws.

If a Governor is unable to continue in office, the **Lieutenant Governor typically assumes the role for the remainder of the term**.



Election Trends and Data

Heavy influence of money in electoral politics. Under the electoral college system, candidates can win the presidency without winning the popular vote.

Since 2020, **five states have introduced legislation that would separate federal and state elections**.



Election Spending

The 2020 U.S. general election had an estimated **administrative cost of ~US\$4 billion**, making it the most expensive election in history. The **cost per voter was approximately \$25**.



Overview Of The Election Process



The United States employs an **indirect electoral system** for **Presidential elections, primarily through the Electoral College**.²¹¹ When citizens cast their votes for President, they are actually voting for a slate of electors pledged to that candidate.²¹²



Presidential elections are held every four years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This date is also when **various federal, state, and local elections occur, allowing voters to cast ballots for multiple offices on the same day**.²¹³



The timing of U.S. Presidential elections is determined by **federal law 3 U.S.C. § 1, enacted by Congress in 1845.** The law applies to federal elections, including presidential, congressional, and other offices, ensuring consistency across states. It also aligns with constitutional provisions requiring electors to meet in December to cast their votes.²¹⁴



State legislatures can choose to hold elections for state offices (Governors, state legislators) and local offices (Mayors, city councils) on the same day as federal elections, Many states opt for this alignment to save on administrative costs and to increase voter turnout by consolidating election day.



Despite this trend, **five states**—Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Virginia—**continue to hold gubernatorial elections in odd-numbered years.** These states also often schedule legislative elections during odd years.²¹⁵



Each state has its own election laws, which can lead to variations in how elections are conducted. Most states use a winner-takes-all system, where the candidate receiving the most votes in a state gets all of that state's electoral votes (with Maine and Nebraska using a proportional allocation).



The House of Representatives in the US Congress and state assemblies are held every two years. Given the US tradition of primaries, the country is in election mode every other year.²¹⁶



Timing for local elections throughout the United States varies widely. The vast majority of elections for offices below the state level are held on dates other than national Election Day.²¹⁷



Process Following Fall Of National Government

- A. A **system is in place for successors to take over if a President or Governor becomes non-functional**. Lasting the full course through a succession process is possible, though it sometimes results in anomalies such as **Gerald Ford becoming President in 1974 without having contested the election ‘at the level of the people’**.²¹⁸
- B. In the U.S., a Government collapse can occur due to various factors such as **impeachment or significant political crises that lead to a loss of confidence** in the President or administration. However, unlike Parliamentary systems, there is **no formal mechanism for a vote of no confidence**.
- C. **If a President is removed from office or resigns** (as Richard Nixon did in 1974), the **Vice President assumes the presidency under the Presidential Succession Act**. The new President may appoint a new Vice President, subject to confirmation by Congress.
- D. **If a Presidential vacancy occurs** (due to death, resignation, or removal), a special election is not held; instead, the **new President serves until the next scheduled election**.
- E. The **executive branch (headed by the President) and the judicial branch operate independently**. Even a "lame duck" President maintains a separate and independent function from the Senate due to the strict separation of powers.

Process Following Fall Of State Government

- A. If a Governor is unable to continue in office (due to resignation, impeachment, or death), the **Lieutenant Governor typically assumes the role**, as specified by most state constitutions.
- B. If both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor positions are vacant, the line of succession is **determined by the state's constitution** and may involve the Secretary of State, Attorney General, or another designated official.
- C. In some cases, a **special election may be called** to fill the vacant Governor's seat, particularly if the vacancy occurs early in the term. The timing and rules for special elections are outlined in state laws.
- D. When a new Governor assumes office through succession, they typically **serve the remainder of the existing term**.
- E. If a special election is held, the newly elected Governor also **serves the remainder of the term**.

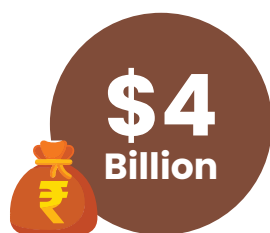


Election Trends And Data

- A. Recent discussions around the **Independent State Legislature Theory (ISL)** have raised concerns about how states might manage their election processes independently from federal guidelines. If upheld by the Supreme Court, ISL **could lead to a bifurcated system where states run separate elections for federal and state offices**, complicating logistics further and increasing costs.²¹⁹
- B. Since 2020, **five states have introduced legislation that would separate federal and state elections**: Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma this year and New Hampshire and Alaska in the 2021-22 legislative session.²²⁰
- C. The USA has a history of interventions, civil unrest, and political shifts, but the **collapse of a State Government would be a novel event**.
- D. The **Electoral College system has faced criticism** for potentially undermining democratic principles. **Candidates can win the presidency without winning the popular vote**, as seen in elections like those in 2000 (George W. Bush vs. Al Gore) and 2016 (Donald Trump vs. Hillary Clinton). This raises **concerns about representation and voter disenfranchisement**.²²¹
- E. The **influence of money in politics has grown significantly** since landmark Supreme Court decisions like Citizens United v. FEC (2010), which **allowed for unlimited corporate spending on elections**. This raises **concerns about equal access to political influence and representation**.²²²

Election Spending

- A. Unlike centralised systems, **election funding is decentralized across 50 states and 10,000 jurisdictions**, with states and counties managing their own budgets.²²³
- B. Costs surged in 2020 due to **expanded mail-in voting** (65 million ballots), pandemic-related expenses (PPE, larger polling sites), and cybersecurity enhancements.



2020 U.S. General Election Cost
(the most expensive election in history)



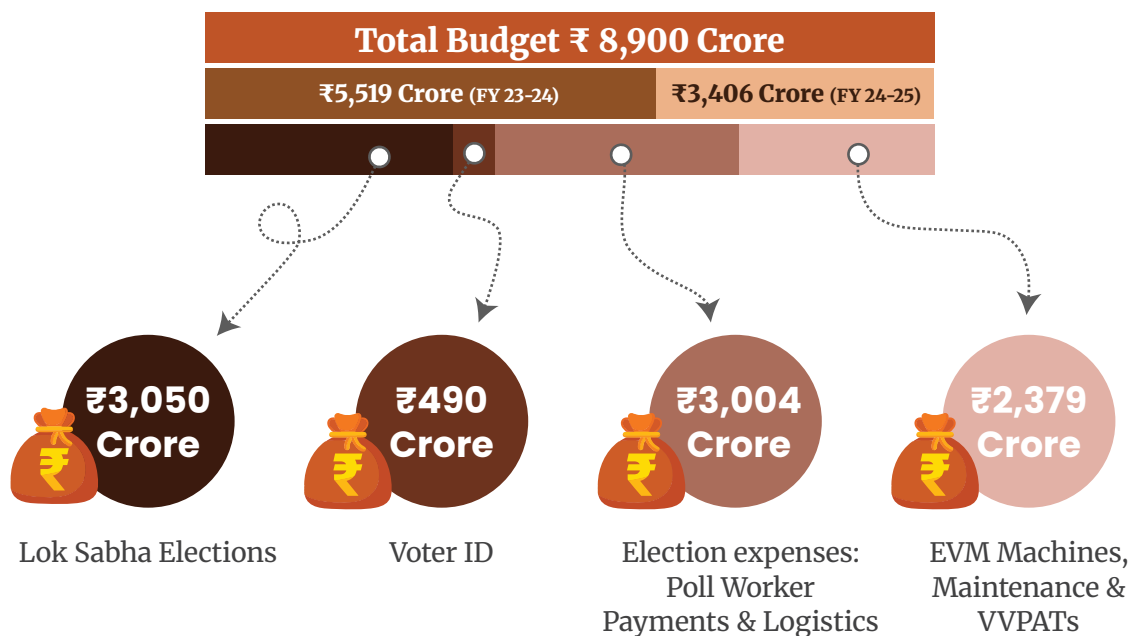
Cost per voter

Case For Structured Election Process In India

International experience with structured and simultaneous elections offers valuable lessons for India. By adopting a structured and tailored approach, India can achieve **greater administrative efficiency, reduce election-related expenditures, boost voter participation, and foster a more stable and predictable political environment**. While challenges remain-particularly in safeguarding federal principles and accommodating the country's vast diversity-the **global evidence suggests that the benefits of a structured electoral process far outweigh the drawbacks, making a strong case for reform**.

Administrative Efficiency And Cost Reduction

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections in India were conducted with a **total administrative budget of approximately ₹ 8,900 crore (~\$ 1.07 billion)**, funded across two financial years (FY 2023-24 and FY2024-25). The ₹ 8,900 crore budget reflects the official Government expenditure on election administration, excluding political party campaign spending, solidifying the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as **one of the most expensive in India's history**.²²⁴



Election Budget Allocation Breakdown 2024

One of the most **persuasive arguments for simultaneous elections is the significant administrative efficiency and cost savings** it can deliver. Countries like Brazil and Indonesia have demonstrated that synchronising elections across multiple levels of Government **reduces the duplication of logistical efforts, minimizes the need for repeated deployment of security forces, and consolidates voter education campaigns**.



Brazil

Brazil 2022 general election: Electronic voting cost just \$1.70 or ₹127.32 per voter—one of the lowest rates globally



Indonesia

Indonesia 2019 & 2024 elections: combined Presidential, Parliamentary, and regional elections on a single day, showcased the logistical feasibility of large-scale, synchronized polls, despite the country's vast archipelagic geography



Argentina

Used the Double Simultaneous Voting System (DSVS) – when provinces choose to hold their elections concurrently with national elections to streamline the electoral process to considerably lower costs

Higher Voter Participation And Engagement

Examples of structured elections have resulted into **higher voter turnout and greater civic engagement**



Belgium

Mandatory voting + synchronized Federal, Regional, and EU elections resulted in **90% turnout**.



Sweden

No compulsory voting, but same-day elections for all levels resulted in strong participation, **reduced voter fatigue**.



Argentina

The Double Simultaneous Voting System (DSVS) combines national and provincial polls, cutting election fatigue and driving turnout—76% voted in the 2023 run-off. Fewer cycles mean more engagement and focused campaigns.



Indonesia

Switched to Simultaneous national and regional elections in 2019 resulted in **81.69% turnout, up from 75.11% in 2014**.

By reducing the frequency of elections, citizens are **less likely to become disengaged, and political parties can focus on substantive campaigning rather than perpetual electioneering**.

Governance Continuity And Improved Policy Implementation

Aligned electoral cycles enhance governance by ensuring stability, continuity, and a **sharper focus on long-term policy implementation**

Disruption from Frequent Elections

Staggered and frequent elections often **shift Government focus from governance to campaigning.**

This disrupts long-term planning and policy implementation.

Predictable Tenure Encourages Long-Term Vision

Countries like Germany and South Africa benefit from structured election schedules.

Fixed tenures allow Governments to plan and execute long-term agendas **without mid-term electoral pressure.**

Caretaker Governance Ensures Continuity

In Belgium, even with prolonged coalition negotiations, a caretaker Prime Minister maintains governance.

This mechanism ensures **uninterrupted administrative functioning.**

Stability in Federal Systems

Complex federal systems like India's require political stability for effective coordination between Centre and States.

Predictable electoral cycles support this stability.

Avoiding "Perpetual Campaign Mode"

When elections are not constant, Governments can **focus on delivering policies rather than winning votes.**

This leads to better governance outcomes.

International Lessons on Electoral Alignment

Countries with aligned electoral cycles show better **policy coordination across different levels of Government.**

Example: The UK's Fixed-term Parliaments Act was an attempt to counter policy paralysis caused by frequent electoral uncertainty.

Enhanced Utilisation Of Electoral Infrastructure



Efficient Use of Electoral Infrastructure

Simultaneous elections enable **optimal use of resources** like:

- Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)
- Polling stations
- Trained personnel



Brazil's Centralized Model

- The Electoral Court in Brazil manages elections centrally.
- Ensures efficient allocation and reuse of resources.
- **Reduces wastage and administrative overhead.**



Opportunities for Electoral Modernization

- Promotes modernization of electoral systems.
- Enables implementation of **uniform voting procedures across all levels** — national, state, and local.



Indonesia's Successful Execution

- Managed the world's largest single-day election.
- Demonstrates **feasibility of massive simultaneous polls with proper planning.**

Constitutional Stability Mechanisms

Structured election systems often include **legal provisions to handle unexpected political crises effectively.**



Examples from Brazil and Belgium

If a Government collapses mid-term, interim Governments are appointed. Special elections are held to complete the remaining term.



Germany's Positive Vote of No-Confidence

Requires a new Chancellor to be elected before removing the existing one. Prevents unnecessary or abrupt elections, ensuring continuity.



France's Semi Presidential System

Fixed five-year Presidential term guarantees predictable governance. Offers flexibility to address crises without disrupting the electoral cycle.



Contrast with UK and Canada

Their flexible systems allow **arbitrary dissolution of Parliament.** Structured systems, by contrast, maintain balance between flexibility and stability.

Predictable Governance Cycles

Most importantly, structured elections create predictable governance cycles, which **benefit not only policymakers but also investors, civil society, and the general public.** Knowing when elections will be held reduces uncertainty, facilitates better planning, and reinforces the credibility of democratic institutions. In Sweden, the regular four-year cycle for all major elections has contributed to a **stable political environment, supporting both economic growth and improved social indicators.**

Insights From Case Studies And Analysis Of ONOE

The Modi Government's vision for One Nation, One Election (ONOE) or a more structured electoral framework draws inspiration from global democracies that have successfully implemented synchronised or streamlined election systems. The ONOE proposal is a **comprehensive reform package that draws extensively from international best practices**. Its provisions for fixed terms, synchronised cycles, continuity during Government collapse, administrative efficiency, and legal safeguards are all supported by successful models in other democracies.

This analysis of 14 democracies reveals that a majority have successfully implemented some form of structured or simultaneous elections, resulting in measurable gains in efficiency, participation, and governance stability. The ONOE proposal is thus **firmly grounded in international best practices, and its provisions reflect the collective experience of countries that have navigated similar electoral reforms**. This evidence-based approach strengthens the case for ONOE as a comprehensive and forward-looking reform for India's democracy.

Fixed-Term Elections And Synchronised Electoral Cycles

Sweden



Report high participation, helped by predictable and less frequent election schedules.

Election Type

National + County + Municipal

Key Facts

Since 1970, elections held on a single day every 4 years.

Indonesia



Report high participation, helped by predictable and less frequent election schedules.

Election Type

All levels

Key Facts

Over 500 regions voted together in 2019 & 2024.

The ONOE proposal's central feature is the establishment of fixed, synchronised electoral cycles for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies. By proposing **two-phase implementation - first synchronising national and state elections, then local bodies within 100 days** - ONOE mirrors the structured approach seen in Belgium and Brazil. This provision is designed to deliver the same benefits: streamlined administration, reduced costs, and improved voter engagement.

Handling Government Collapse And Mid-Term Elections

Best practices from countries like Argentina, Belgium, and Brazil show that **when a Government collapses mid-term, the replacement Government or head of state serves only the remainder of the original term**. For example, in Belgium, if a regional Government collapses, new elections are held within three months, and the new administration completes the existing term. Similarly, in Brazil, special elections fill only the unexpired portion of the term.

The ONOE proposal incorporates this principle, ensuring that any Government formed after a collapse or mid-term dissolution serves only the remainder of the original term. This approach **maintains the integrity of the synchronised electoral cycle and prevents frequent resets of the election calendar** - a practice that has proven effective in maintaining stability.

Administrative Efficiency And Cost Effectiveness

Synchronised elections have led to significant cost savings and administrative efficiencies in countries like Indonesia and Brazil. **Brazil's 2022 general elections, for instance, cost just R\$8.53 per voter (₹ 127.32)** due to the consolidated use of resources, electronic voting, and centralised management. Indonesia's single-day, multi-level elections have demonstrated the **logistical feasibility of such reforms even in large, diverse nations**.

ONOE's phased approach is designed to yield similar efficiencies in India, a country with one of the world's largest electorates. The proposal's **emphasis on coordinated polling, shared infrastructure, and consolidated voter education** is directly inspired by these international successes. The anticipated reduction in repeated deployment of security forces and election staff is a clear reflection of the efficiencies observed abroad. **Synchronised elections could save India over ₹1 lakh crore in five years. In 2024 alone, ₹3,000+ crore was spent on polling stations and ₹8,900 crore on the Lok Sabha polls—0.0266% of GDP.**

Voter Participation And Engagement

High voter turnout is a hallmark of countries with synchronised elections.

Belgium



90%+ turnout due to:
Mandatory voting
Simultaneous elections

Sweden



report high participation,
helped by predictable and
less frequent election
schedules.

Argentina



Argentina's DSVS
technology is used to
reduce voter fatigue and
streamline polling.

India



By reducing the frequency of elections and clustering them into defined cycles, ONOE aims to combat voter fatigue and enhance participation. Robust voter awareness illuminates governance roles, reducing fatigue and boosting participation. **India's 2024 turnout was 65.79%; ONOE could push it toward Belgium's 90%, strengthening democracy.**

Federal Balance And Local Autonomy

Countries with federal structures, such as Argentina and Canada, demonstrate that synchronised elections can coexist with local autonomy.

Canada



Provinces have fixed election dates, but
elections are not always held
simultaneously.

Argentina



Provinces have the autonomy to set
election dates, but many voluntarily align
with national elections for efficiency.

India

The ONOE proposal respects India's federal structure by allowing for **phased implementation and local adaptation**. While aiming for national synchrony, ONOE's **phased model and provision for exceptions** (such as in cases of Government collapse) reflect a nuanced approach, balancing the benefits of synchronisation with the need for flexibility.

Constitutional And Legal Safeguards

Countries with structured election cycles have **embedded legal and constitutional safeguards to ensure stability**. For example, Belgium's constitution mandates the timing and process for elections following Government collapse, and Brazil's laws specify the duration of terms for mid-term replacements.

ONOE's proposed provisions for **amending the Constitution and relevant statutes to enshrine synchronised elections** are directly in line with these international best practices. The proposal's **legal framework ensures that the new system is robust**, predictable, and capable of withstanding political shocks.

Implementation And Transition Strategies

Countries that have moved to synchronised elections, such as **Indonesia and Sweden**, have done so **incrementally**, allowing time for electoral bodies, political parties, and the public to adapt. This phased approach has minimised disruptions and built consensus.

The ONOE proposal's **two-phase rollout is a best practice drawn from these international experiences**. By first aligning Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, and then bringing local bodies into sync, ONOE **ensures a manageable transition** and provides opportunities to address challenges as they arise.

Streamlined Electoral Infrastructure

Countries like South Africa and Belgium have demonstrated the **value of investing in scalable and integrated electoral infrastructure to support simultaneous elections**. These countries have invested in modular polling stations and integrated voter databases, allowing for flexibility, scalability, and better resource utilization during large-scale elections.

South Africa



South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) manages national and provincial elections on the same day, optimising resources through a **single deployment of polling stations, ballot materials, and staff**. This **centralised yet regionally empowered model** ensures efficient logistics and uniform standards across the country.

Belgium



Belgium employs a cost-sharing mechanism among federal, regional, and municipal Governments for election expenses, reducing the financial burden on any one tier and promoting shared responsibility.

India



The ONOE proposal recommends a similar approach for India, advocating for robust **investment in scalable electoral infrastructure**, including modular integrated voter rolls.

Annexure I – Comparison Of UK’s FTPA And India’s ONOE

Aspect	UK Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2011 (Repealed)	Proposed Indian Legislation (ONOE)
Election Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections every five years on the first Thursday in May.²²⁵ Fixed Schedule, dissolved 25 days before vote. 	Lok Sabha elections every five years in April – May. The proposed term starts on the first Monday in June for Lok Sabha (e.g., 3 June 2019) with elections in April-May of the fifth year. State assemblies grouped into two phases for synchronization. ²²⁶
Early Election	Required 2/3rd MP majority or unresolved no-confidence (14 days). ²²⁷	Needs "constructive no-confidence" new Government proposal. ²²⁸
No-Confidence Process	Explicit confidence votes trigger a 14-day Government formation period. Last used in 1979. ²²⁹	Replaces traditional no-confidence with constructive no-confidence requiring an alternative Government proposal.
Key Legal Distinctions	Relied on statutory law with fixed triggers for early elections, limiting executive discretion until repeal.	Constitutional amendments (Article 82A) would enforce term synchronisation, with deferred elections still aligning to Lok Sabha’s timeline. The constructive no-confidence mechanism aims to reduce instability compared to the UK’s simpler no-confidence process.

Aspect	UK Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2011 (Repealed)	Proposed Indian Legislation (ONOE)
Election Deferral	The PM could delay polls up to 2 months. ²³⁰	The Election Commission can defer state polls to match Lok Sabha.
Constitutional Basis	Regular Act of Parliament (not entrenched in constitution). Repealed by Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022. ²³¹	Requires Constitutional amendments (e.g., Article 82A insertion) and statutory changes.
Status	Repealed in 2022. ²³²	Remains a proposal (Constitution 129th Amendment Bill, 2024). Not yet enacted.

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Notes

[illegible]



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