

ELECTION WATCH

No. 07

Friday, 2 March 2012

Kuwait Parliamentary Elections, 2012

Parliamentary Election was held in Kuwait on 2 February 2012 and it was the country's second in three years and seventh since 1991. Out of 50 seats, 34 went to opposition parties consisting of Sunni Islamists such as the Popular Action Bloc, Islamic Salafi Alliance and Hadas. The *Associated Press* said that 14 seats were won by the political grouping of "Islamists that share many views with groups such as Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood," and 20 seats by "tribal-based candidates."

Summary of the Result

- The biggest margin of victory in each constituency was led by:
 - Faisal al-Duwaisan with 14,094 votes.
 - Jamaan al-Harbash (or *Jama'an al-Hirbish*) with 8,475 votes.
 - Faisal al-Mislem al-Otaibi with 16,383 votes.
 - Musallam al-Barrak.
 - Falah al-Sawwagh.
- The Salafists and their supporters improved from just three in the previous assembly to as many as 12 and the Islamic Constitutional Movement and its supporters improved from just to two to as eight. There are several independent Islamists. The Popular Action Bloc, headed by Saadoun, raised its strength by one seat to five
- Minority Shia number dropped from nine in the previous legislature to seven with Maasouma Al-Mubarak, Rula Dashti and moderate MP Hassan Jowhar emerging as the main losers.
- Seats won by the Liberals fell from five in the previous legislature to two.
- No women were elected to the new house compared to four in the previous assembly.
- Veteran lawmaker and former three-time National Assembly speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun is tipped to become the next speaker.

- Leading opposition figures Jamaan Al-Harbash, Faisal Al-Muslem, Mussallam Al-Barrak and Falah Al-Sawwagh came in first position in the second, third, fourth and fifth constituencies.
- The opposition bagged 18 of the 20 seats available in the fourth and fifth tribal constituencies, in addition to seven seats in the third, at least five in the second and four in the first.
- The new house includes 26 new MPs with 19 fresh members, with the third constituency producing the maximum number of new faces with six.
- The new assembly must hold its first session within two weeks of officially announcing the results.

	<u>FORMAL OR INFORMAL GROUP</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>	
S.No.	NAME	NO. OF SEATS	%
(1)	Sunni Islamist (excluding Salafi Alliance and Hadas)	With Popular Action Bloc- 26	52
(2)	Popular Action Bloc	With Popular Action Bloc- 26	52
(3)	Shia	7	14
(4)	Pro- Government Sunni	5	10
(5)	Islamic Salafi Alliance	4	8
(6)	Hadas (Islamic Constitutional Movement)	4	8
(7)	Liberals	2	4
(8)	Independent	2	4
	Total (Turnout>60%)	50	100

SOURCES:

1. The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR,) Abu Dhabi,
http://www.ecssr.ac.ae/ECSSR/appmanager/portal/ecssr:ECSSR_COOKIE=H6LBPGTcM3gLTQz0x963XDQTS7FIKsRhpnG31hdhGhwzB8VT9ppy!471246939!231811304?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=featuredTopicsPage&ftId=%2FFeatureTopic%2FBishara_Nassar_Sharbal%2FFeatureTopic_1507.xml&_event=viewFeaturedTopic&lang=en&_nfls=false
2. The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR,) Abu Dhabi,
http://www.ecssr.ac.ae/ECSSR/appmanager/portal/ecssr:ECSSR_COOKIE=H6LBPGTcM3gLTQz0x963XDQTS7FIKsRhpnG31hdhGhwzB8VT9ppy!471246939!231811304?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=featuredTopicsPage&ftId=%2FFeatureTopic%2FBishara_Nassar_Sharbal%2FFeatureTopic_1507.xml&_event=viewFeaturedTopic&lang=en&_nfls=false
3. The Kuwait Times, <http://new.kuwaittimes.net/2012/02/03/islamists-reign-as-women-lose-out/>
4. World Tribune, <http://www.worldnewstribune.com/2012/02/05/islamists-register-big-gains-in-kuwaiti-parliamentary-elections/>
5. Ansamed, 3 February 2012,
http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2012/02/03/visualizza_new.html_73783245.html

Compiled by Manjari Singh

**Manjari Singh is a research student in the School of International Studies, JNU.
Email: manjari.jnu@gmail.com**

As part of the policy, the MEI@ND standardizes spellings and date format to make the text uniformly accessible and stylistically consistent. The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views/positions of the MEI@ND. Editor, MEI@ND P R Kumaraswamy