

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

WOMEN IN ELECTIONS

AUGUST 2024



FREE AND FAIR
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FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK (FAFEN)

General Election 2024

Women in Elections

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is an honor to present election observation reports on behalf of FAFEN, the nation's most extensive election observation network. This report is one of several publications documenting findings from FAFEN's systematic, thorough, and comprehensive observation and evaluation of all stages and key aspects of the General Elections 2024 (GE-2024). I extend my heartfelt congratulations to my colleagues for their significant and successful efforts in organizing, training, and deploying over 6,000 observers. I am deeply grateful to the citizen observers, whose contributions have allowed us to deliver an informed, impartial, and trustworthy assessment of the critical elements of GE-2024.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Muddassir Rizvi, CEO of the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), who spearheaded the program and made a significant contribution to our observation endeavor. Under the able leadership of Rashid Chaudhry, the FAFEN Secretariat team, including Salahuddin Safdar, Hina Tabassum, Azhar Ali, Salman Khwaja, and Fozia Hanif, played a crucial role in devising and overseeing the field observation tools and strategies. I also commend the Finance and Administration teams, led by Sameen Bibi, with able assistance from Ghulam Ahmed, Imran Ashraf, and Adeel Awan, for their effective management of the intricate operations of this observation. Special recognition goes to Rashid Abdullah for his relentless efforts in obtaining accreditation for FAFEN observers from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

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FAFEN is grateful to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), particularly to the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, the Secretary ECP, Dr. Asif Hussain, staff at the ECP secretariat, and the District Election Commissioners (DECs) for their assistance in enabling independent citizen observation. Despite time constraints, the ECP generously facilitated the prompt issuance of accreditation cards to our observers.

I conclude this note with the hope that our reports will inspire a spirited and constructive dialogue on electoral reforms, thereby aiding in the creation of a more inclusive and representative democratic system that prioritizes the prosperity and well-being of all citizens.



Mosarrat Qadeem
Chairperson FAFEN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of women's participation in the General Elections (GE) 2024. By examining women's participation as voters and the factors influencing their turnout, representation, and performance as candidates, this report seeks to contribute to the ongoing discussions on gender equality and democratic governance in Pakistan.

Voter Registration and Gender Gaps

Over the last ten years, the registration of female voters has improved, leading to a narrowing of the voter gender gap from 12.8 percent in 2013 to 7.7 percent in 2024.

- In the last five years, female voter registration has outpaced male voter registration by ten percentage points. Compared to the 17 percent increase in male voters, female voters increased by 27 percent.
- The final voter list for the elections was published in December 2023. As per the numbers, the overall gender gap decreased to less than 10 million for the first time since the 2013 general election. An assessment of the remaining gender-gap (9.9 million) offers significant insights.
 - The remaining gap is predominantly reflective of the under registration of women in the 18-25 and 26-35 age-groups. The two age-groups accounted for 7.3 million (74 percent) of the 9.9 million.
 - In absolute numbers, Punjab accounted for 51 percent of the overall gender gap. However, assessed as the proportion of registered voters, Balochistan has the largest gap (12 percent), followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (nine percent), Sindh (8 percent), Punjab (7 percent), and Islamabad (5 percent).
- This decline in the gender gap reflects a remarkable improvement at the constituency level. The number of constituencies with a gender gap exceeding ten percent has dropped from 571 (172 national and 398 provincial constituencies) in GE-2018 to 140 (38 national and 102 provincial constituencies).

Women as Voters

Female voter participation reflects a mixed trend. Compared to GE-2018, female and male turnout dropped across regions, except Islamabad. However, the share of female voters in the polled votes increased. Consequently, the gap between male and female turnout rates decreased from 10 percentage points in 2018 to 9 points in 2024.

- Women polled 24.4 million of the 58.9 million votes polled in total reflecting an increase of 2.7 million. This increase is almost twice that of the increase (1.6 million) in male votes. Assessed separately for national and provincial constituency elections, the share of female votes in the total votes polled increased as follows:
 - For National Assembly constituencies, the share of female voters in the total number of polled votes increased from 39.4 percent in GE-2018 to 41.4 percent in GE-2024.
 - Regarding the constituencies of provincial assemblies, the proportion of female voters increased from 40 percent in GE-2018 to 41.4 percent in GE-2024.

- At the constituency level, the female turnout trailed behind the male turnout in all but 36 of the 859 national and provincial constituencies. In 27 constituencies (four national and 23 provincial), female turnout exceeded male turnout, while in nine other constituencies, female turnout was equal to male turnout.
- At the polling station level, although not widespread, there remain significant population pockets where female turnout is extremely low. In 230 polling stations of 51 National Assembly constituencies, women either did not vote at all or polled fewer than 10 votes.

Women as Candidates

Political parties awarded tickets almost exclusively to male candidates. However, almost twice as many female candidates as GE-2018 contested, thanks to a surge in the number of independent female candidates. These candidates contested for more constituencies and garnered more votes than the female contestants in GE-2013 and GE-2018.

- A total of 902 female candidates contested the elections for 509 of the 859 national and provincial assembly constituencies. This number reflects twice as many female contestants as the 465 who contested 339 (127 national and 212 provincial) constituencies in GE-2018. Of the GE-2024 female candidates,
 - A total of 310 female candidates (6 percent of the total of 5,190) contested 169 of the 266 National Assembly general seats. Of these:
 - A total of 119 women contested 92 National Assembly seats from different parties' platforms.

While 111 political parties fielded candidates in GE-2024, only 35 awarded tickets to more than 20, and were obligated under Section 206 of the Elections Act to award 5 percent of tickets to female candidates. Fifteen of the 35 did not comply with the minimum requirement.
 - A total of 191 women contested the elections as independent candidates for 123 National Assembly seats.

These constituencies included as many as 77 constituencies where no female candidate was awarded a ticket by any political party.
 - A total of 592 female candidates (5 percent of the 17,988 total) contested 340 of the 593 provincial assembly seats.
- More female candidates won seats and secured a larger share of polled votes.
 - Since 2013, the share of female candidates in the votes polled for national and provincial assemblies has almost doubled (from 2.7 percent in GE-2013 to 4.3 percent in GE-2024).
 - Female candidates won elections for 26 constituencies (12 national and 14 provincial) The number is encouraging as female candidates were successful in securing only 14 and 16 constituencies in GE-2018 and GE-2013, respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan was ranked 112 out of 146 on women's political empowerment, with only a limited number of women in senior positions at the policy and decision-making levels according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2024.¹

Article 25 of the constitution of Pakistan states that "there shall be no discrimination based on sex alone" and that "steps shall be taken to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life." Pakistan has ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which calls upon governments to "take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life," including in elections.

A fundamental political right provided by the Constitution is choosing political representatives in elections, and another crucial mark of political equality is women's ability to represent their communities. Though women are nearly half of the total population, their representation in parliament is 20 percent while a significant gender gap persists among voters, highlighting the need for greater inclusivity and equality in political participation.

The role of women in national politics has long been scrutinized, with their participation in electoral processes often constrained by sociocultural norms and institutional barriers. This report delves into the multifaceted engagement of women in elections in the Pakistani context, examining their roles as candidates and voters.

Historically, women's participation in Pakistani elections has faced significant challenges, with societal expectations often relegating them to the sidelines of political discourse. Recognizing the imperative of women's inclusion in democratic processes, CSOs have worked to elevate their voices and ensure active participation. Through advocacy, awareness campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives, these organizations have endeavored to empower women to meaningfully engage in electoral activities.

In recent years, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken notable strides in addressing gender disparities in electoral participation. In response to the advocacy efforts of CSOs and compliance with legal mandates, the ECP has implemented various measures to enhance women's access to the electoral process. From the stringent enforcement of gender quotas to the facilitation of women-friendly polling stations, these initiatives aimed to create an environment conducive to women's participation in elections.

Political and Electoral Rights of Women in the Constitution

- **Article 25** ensures equality before the law and equal protection of the law and states that there shall be no discrimination based on sex alone.
- **Articles 26 & 27** provide for equal access to public places and equality of employment in the public and private sectors.
- **Article 32** makes special provisions for the representation of women in local Government.
- **Article 34** directs the state to take appropriate measures to enable women to participate in all life and social activities.
- **Articles 51 & 106** provide for reserved seats for women in the legislatures.

¹ "Global Gender Gap Report 2024." *World Economic Forum*, www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2024/.

Working in collaboration with the ECP and CSOs, NADRA made crucial contributions to the efforts, including the establishment of the Inclusive Registration Department (IRD) in 2021, female-only centers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and new tehsil-level centers across the country. Led by women, the department played a significant role in enhancing registration, particularly for women, minorities, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Additionally, special campaigns to enhance registration for women, minorities, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities were launched in collaboration with the ECP and civil society organizations, which facilitated the registration of women and marginalized groups.

i. Enrolment of Women Voters

Section 47 - Special measures for enrolment of women voters - (1) The Commission shall annually publish disaggregated data of registered men and women voters in each National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituency highlighting the difference in number of registered men and women voters.

(2) Where the variation in the disaggregated data under sub-section (1) is more than ten percent in a constituency, the Commission shall take special measures to reduce such variation.

(3) The measures referred to in sub-section (2) shall include action to expedite the issuance of National Identity Cards for women of such constituency by the National Database and Registration Authority and for their enrolment as voters in the relevant electoral rolls by the Commission.

ii. Turnout of Women Voters

Section 91 - Statement about the turnout of women voters - (1) The Presiding Officer shall prepare a gender disaggregated statement of voters showing a total number of men and women voters at the polling station and the total votes cast by men and women voters.

(2) The Presiding Officer shall send the gender-disaggregated statement of voters to the Returning Officer and the Commission at the time of communication of the result to the Returning Officer and the Commission.

(3) The Presiding Officer may, at any stage on the polling day during or after the polling, prepare and send a special report to the Returning Officer and to the Commission if he has reason to believe that women voters have been restrained from exercising their right to vote based on any express or implied agreement.

Section 9 - Power of the Commission to declare a poll void - (1) explains if the turnout of women voters is less than ten percent of the total votes polled in a constituency, the Commission may presume that the women voters have been restrained through an agreement from casting their votes.

iii. Women's Candidacy

Section 206. Selection for elective offices — A political party shall make the selection of candidates for elective offices, including membership of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) and Provincial Assemblies, through a transparent and democratic procedure and while making the selection of candidates on general seats shall ensure at least five percent representation of women candidates.

GE-2024 provides an appropriate milestone to assess the impact of all the legal and policy initiatives put in place to enhance the role of women in Pakistani elections. This report examines the manifestations and developments that reflect women's participation in GE-2024. Drafted with a comparative perspective, this study seeks to contribute to the specific debate on women's electoral participation, as well as to the broader discourse on gender equality in the country.

1. WOMEN AS REGISTERED VOTERS

Closing the gender gap in electoral rolls can help challenge entrenched gender norms and stereotypes, paving the way for an inclusive and egalitarian society where women are recognized as equal participants in public life. The electoral rolls for the 2024 general elections highlight a decreasing disparity in voter registration between women and men. However, a persistent gender gap remains in electoral rolls. This section examines gender gap trends from the perspective of regions, census blocks, and constituencies along with an analysis of voter age groups.

1.1. Trends - 2013 to 2024

Despite the increase in the number of female voters over the past decade, they are still underrepresented as voters, legislators, and political leaders. However, efforts mainly warranted by the Election Act 2017 to include women in the democratic process by registering them as voters resulted in a narrowing of the overall gender gap, from 12.8 percent in 2013 to 7.7 percent in 2024. This decrease has been particularly significant over the last five years, from 11.8 percent to 7.7 percent. Nonetheless, a gender gap persists with 9.9 million fewer women voters. More than half of them – 5,036,268 – are in Punjab, followed by 2.23 million in Sindh and 1.9 million in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

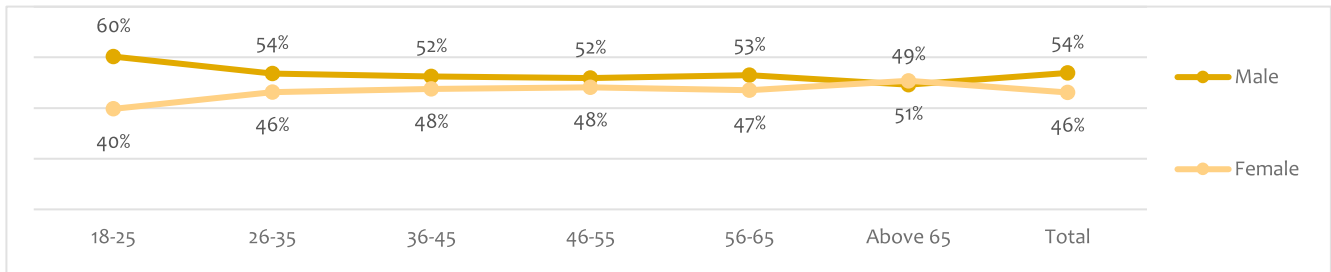
Table 1: Gender Gap (2013 - 2024)

Regions	Absolute			Percent		
	GE-2013	GE-2018	GE-2024	GE-2013	GE-2018	GE-2024
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	2,297,064	2,600,361	1,960,675	16.4%	14.6%	8.9%
Islamabad	49,836	49,142	53,783	8.0%	6.4%	5.0%
Punjab	6,136,068	6,682,862	5,036,268	12.5%	11.0%	6.9%
Sindh	2,017,887	2,482,538	2,230,541	10.6%	11.1%	8.3%
Balochistan	494,117	672,636	660,381	14.8%	15.6%	12.3%
Total	10,994,972	12,487,539	9,941,648	12.8%	11.8%	7.7%

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the gender gap has decreased significantly from 16.4 percent in 2013 to 8.9 percent in 2024. Punjab has also witnessed a decrease from 12.5 percent in 2013 to 6.9 percent in 2024. On the other hand, in Sindh and Balochistan, there was an increase in the gender gap from 2013 to 2018 before registering a decrease in 2024. Islamabad also witnessed a decrease in the gender gap from 8 percent in 2013 to 5 percent in 2024.

Gender disparities in electoral rolls vary across provinces and age groups. The gender gap was highest among the 18-25 and 26-35 age groups. In the 18-25 age group, men make up 60 percent of voters, resulting in a 20 percent gap. In the 26-35 age group, men accounted for 54 percent of voters, while women represented 46 percent.

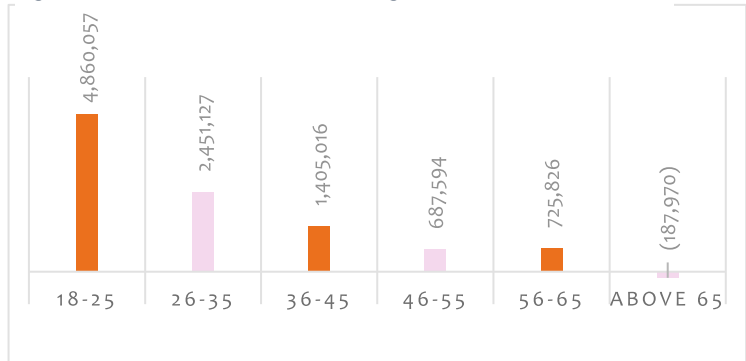
Figure 1: Gender Proportions of Voters as per Age Group



The significant variation in category composition is not the only concern. Of the 9.9 million missing women voters, 7.3 million or three-fourths of the total are in the 18-25 and 26-35 age groups.

In the higher age brackets, the gap decreases. In the 36-45 age group, 52 percent of the voters were men and 48 percent were women. Above the age of 65, female voters outnumber male voters.

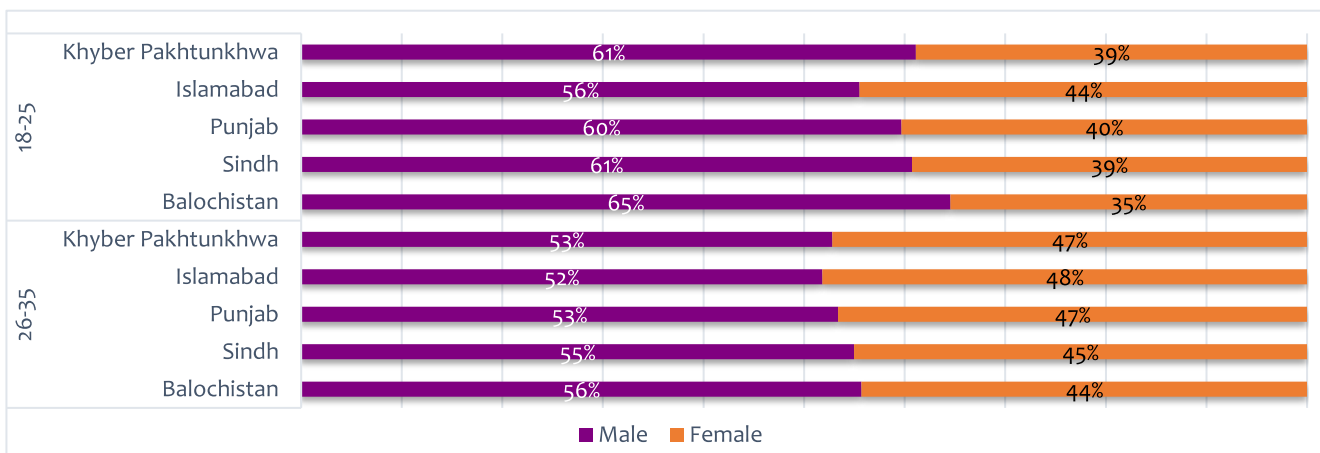
Figure 2: Absolute Gender Gap in Age Groups



1.2. Age Groups and Regions

Although the gender gap decreases in older age groups, the difference is staggering among younger voters. In the 18-25 age group, only Punjab has 40 percent female voters. In the rest of the country, the proportion of women in this category is even lower. Notably, Balochistan has the most significant gender gap in this age group, with female voters constituting only 35 percent of all voters in the age group.

Figure 3: Voters by Age group, Gender, and Region (18-35 years)



In Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the gender gap in the 18-25 age category was 22 percent each. Islamabad had the lowest gap in this category, with 56% of men and 44% of women.

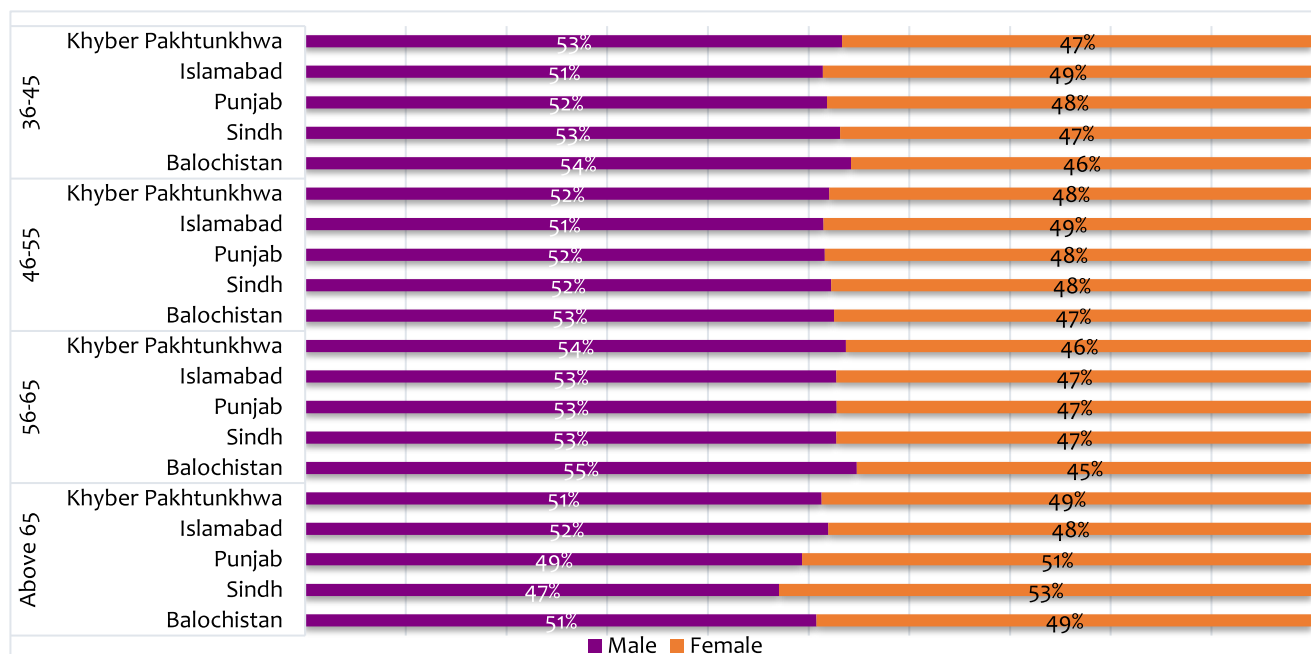
According to the UN Women’s National Report on the Status of Women in Pakistan 2023, “the lack of CNICs closes a whole set of opportunities for women to enhance their role in public life other than registration as voters”. It quotes an ECP report that identifies a lack of CNICs, limited

mobility, financial limitations, and households' lack of interest in registering women for civic documents.

The gap in the age groups of 26-35 and 36-45, although varying across provinces and Islamabad, is significantly lower than that in the 18-25 category. With increasing age, there is a gradual reduction in the gender gap.

In the higher age groups of 46-55 and 55-65, the gender gap is negligible and reflects the overall population proportions of the two genders.

Figure 4: Voters by Age Group, Gender, and Region (36-65+ years)



Only in the 65+ category, female voters, constituting 51 percent, outnumbered male voters. However, this trend was not uniform across the four provinces and Islamabad. Sindh and Punjab have 53 percent and 51 percent female voters in this category, respectively. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, male voters are 51 percent, while in Islamabad, male voters are 52 percent in this category.

1.3. Variance at The Census Block

Census block data was obtained from a comprehensive roster of polling stations across 251 NA constituencies.²

Table 2: Census Blocks by Category of Gender Gap

Region	Up to 10%	More than 10%	Total
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	13,575	12,332	25,907
Islamabad	565	281	846
Punjab	54,601	26,580	81,181
Sindh	21,581	17,438	39,019
Balochistan	2,974	6,079	9,053
Grand Total	93,296	62,710	156,006

² In 11 NA constituencies, only partial CB data could be obtained, and for the remaining four constituencies, the data could not be included in the analysis due to illegible forms.

Varying levels of gaps were observed in 156,006 of the 177,065 census blocks. Within these 156,006 census blocks, 93,296 had up to a 10 percent gender gap, whereas in the remaining 62,710 blocks, the difference exceeded 10 percent.

1.3.1. Categorization By Volume

In analyzing census blocks to assess gender disparities in voter registration, further subcategories were established to review these disparities.

In Punjab, of the 54,601 blocks, the gender gap in voter registration was up to 10 percent in 30,753 blocks, while it exceeded 10 percent in 26,580. With the highest number of census blocks, Punjab has a significant gender gap in voter registration, with over 26,000 blocks showing disparities exceeding 10 percent. In Sindh, out of 21,581 blocks, the gender gap was up to 10 percent in 14,933 blocks and exceeded 10 percent in 17,438 blocks. Although Sindh has fewer census blocks than Punjab, it still has considerable gender disparities, with over 17,000 blocks showing discrepancies exceeding 10 percent.

Table 3: Census Blocks by Category of Gender Gap and Volume Category of Gender Gap

Region	Up to 10%					More than 10%				
	Up to 50	51 to 100	101 to 200	More than 200	Total	Up to 50	51 to 100	101 to 200	More than 200	Total
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	7,265	4,266	1,865	179	13,575	3,839	3,616	3,699	1,178	12,332
Islamabad	443	99	20	3	565	140	85	50	6	281
Punjab	30,753	18,233	5,402	213	54,601	6,974	9,920	8,395	1,291	26,580
Sindh	14,933	5,429	1,155	64	21,581	5,558	7,041	4,113	726	17,438
Balochistan	2,284	481	179	30	2,974	2,997	1,295	1,153	634	6,079
Total	55,678	28,508	8,621	489	93,296	19,508	21,957	17,410	3,835	62,710

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, out of 13,575 blocks, the gender gap was within 10 percent in 7,265 blocks and exceeded 10 percent in 12,332 blocks. In Balochistan, out of 2,974 blocks, the gender gap was within 10 percent in 2,284 blocks, while it exceeded 10 percent in 6,079 blocks. Despite having the lowest number of census blocks among the regions, Balochistan has significant gender disparities in terms of voter registration.

In the census blocks, where the gap was up to and more than 10 percent, further subcategories were formed to evaluate their extent. The blocks with up to a 10 percent gap showed that 55,678 blocks exhibited a gender gap of up to 50. In other words, more than 50 men than women were registered as voters. In 28,508 blocks, the gap ranged from 51 to 100, while 8,621 and 489 blocks showed a gap between 101 and 200 and more than 200, respectively. Among the blocks with a gender gap exceeding 10 percent, 19,508 blocks showed a disparity of up to 50. This disparity ranged between 51 and 100, 101 and 200, and over 200 in 21,957, 17,410, and 3,835 blocks, respectively.

1.4. Variance in Constituencies

The progress in women's nationwide registration is evident in the declining number of constituencies in which the gender gap exceeds 10 percent of registered voters. Of 266 National Assembly constituencies, the gender gap is over 10 percent in 38 constituencies. In provincial assemblies, the gender gap remains above 10 percent in 102 out of 593 constituencies. In the 2018 general elections, the numbers of national and provincial constituencies with more than a 10 percent gender gap were 173 and 398, respectively.

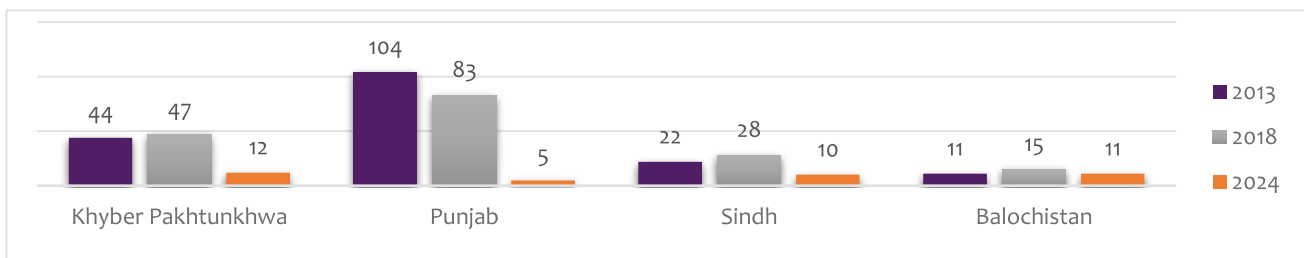
The significant decrease in the number of such constituencies indicates substantial improvements in women's registrations over the last five years. This reduction in numbers is a testament to the remarkable coordinated efforts of the ECP, NADRA, and civil society.

1.4.1. National Assembly Constituencies

Reflecting a remarkable improvement in gender representation, the number of constituencies with a gender gap of up to 10 percent has increased by 121 since the 2018 elections, from 99 to 228 in 2024.³ The gender gap in the remaining 38 constituencies was more than 10 percent. This reflects a significant and consistent improvement from 2013 to 2024. From 181 constituencies in 2013 to 91 in 2018 to the current 38, the significant decline underscores the success of significant efforts by key stakeholders led by the ECP.

Among the 38 constituencies, 12 were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11 in Balochistan, 10 in Sindh, and five in Punjab.

Figure 5: Number of National Assembly Constituencies with Over 10% Gender Gap (GE-2013-2024)



In Balochistan, the NA-266 Killa Abdullah-cum-Chaman constituency has the highest disparity, with 102,778 or 29 percent fewer female voters. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the NA-42 South

Section 47 of the Elections Act of 2017

Special measures for enrolment of women voters.

— (1) The Commission shall annually publish disaggregated data of registered men and women voters in each National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituency highlighting the difference in number of registered men and women voters.

(2) Where the variation in the disaggregated data under sub-section (1) is more than ten percent in a constituency, the Commission shall take special measures to reduce such variation.

(3) The measures referred to in sub-section (2) shall include action to expedite the issuance of National Identity Cards for women of such constituency by National Database and Registration Authority and for their enrolment as voters in the relevant electoral rolls by the Commission.

³ The total number of National Assembly constituencies in 2018 were 272, which have been reduced to 266 after the merger of FATA into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower constituency has 85,560 or 18 percent fewer female voters.

Table 4: National Assembly Constituencies with the Highest Gender Gap in 2024

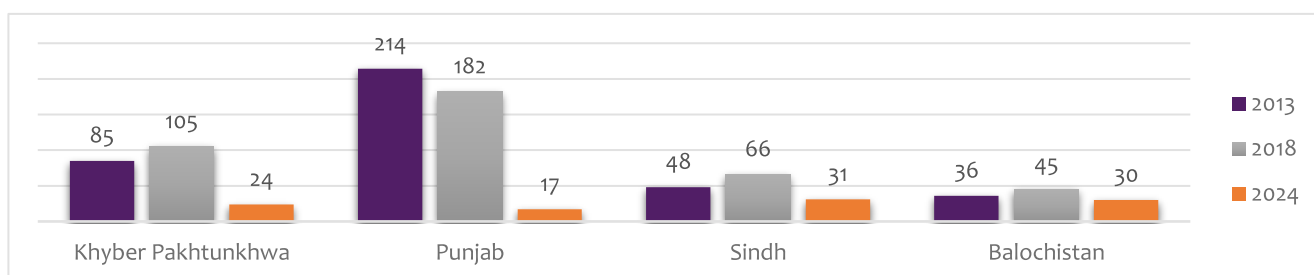
Regions	Highest Gap	
	Constituency	Gap
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	85,560 (18%)
Punjab	NA-67 Hafizabad	68,817 (8%)
Sindh	NA-242 Karachi Kemari-I	74,556 (17%)
Balochistan	NA-266 Killa Abdullah-cum-Chaman	102,778 (29%)

In Sindh and Punjab, NA-242 Kemari and NA-67 Hafizabad had 17 percent and 8 percent fewer female voters, respectively.

1.4.2. Provincial Constituencies

Of the 593 constituencies, the gap was more than 10 percent in 102 provincial constituencies. Among them, 24 were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 31 were in Sindh, 30 were in Balochistan, and 17 were in Punjab. Compared to 2013 and 2018, there was a significant improvement.

Figure 6: Number of Provincial Assembly Constituencies with Over 10% Gender Gap (GE-2013-2024)



In 2013, there were 383 provincial assemblies' constituencies with a gap of more than 10 percent gap. In 2018, the number of such constituencies increased to 398, before registering a sharp decrease by 2024. In this regard, Punjab has demonstrated consistent progress. In 2013, 214 constituencies of the Punjab Assembly had a gender gap of over 10 percent, which decreased to 182 in 2018 and a mere 17 in 2024.

In this regard, progress in Balochistan has been slow. In 2013, there were 36 constituencies with a gender gap of over 10 percent, which increased to 45 constituencies in 2018 and decreased to 30 constituencies in 2024. Similarly, the number of provincial constituencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh with over a ten percent gender deficit increased in 2018. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, such constituencies increased from 85 in 2013 to 105 in 2018, before decreasing to 24 in 2024. In Sindh, there were 48 provincial assembly constituencies with a gender gap of over ten percent in 2013, which increased to 66 in 2018 and decreased to 31 in 2024.

A quick look at provincial assemblies' constituencies with the most significant gender gaps highlights the challenge of addressing gender deficits in electoral rolls. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the PK-110 South Waziristan Lower constituency has 53,963 or 31 percent fewer female voters. In Balochistan, PB-51 Chaman has 58,209, or 30 percent fewer female voters.

Table 5: Provincial Assembly Constituencies with the Highest Gender Gap in 2024

Region	Constituency	Gap
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	PK-110 South Waziristan Lower	53,963 (31%)
Punjab	PP-136 Sheikhpura-I	30,536 (13%)

Sindh	PS-119 Karachi West-IV	38,786 (16%)
Balochistan	PB-51 Chaman	58,209 (30%)

In the urban PS-119 Karachi West IV constituency, there was a gender gap of 38,786. Similarly, in Punjab's PP-136 Sheikhpura-I constituency, there are 30,536 or 13 percent fewer female voters.

1.5. Comparative Trends of Registered Voters (2018-24)

The overall 21.3 percent (26.9 percent female and 16.9 percent male) increase in registered voters suggests a positive trend in political participation across Pakistan. Notably, Islamabad and Balochistan witnessed 43.5 percent and 29.8 percent increases in women voters' registration, respectively. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh, there was an improvement in the registration of female voters.

Table 6: Change in Registered Voters from 2018 to 2024

Region	Percent Change in Registered Voters from 2018 to 2024		
	Male	Female	Total
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	16.9%	31.0%	22.9%
Islamabad	39.4%	43.5%	41.3%
Punjab	16.1%	26.2%	20.6%
Sindh	17.5%	24.4%	20.5%
Balochistan	21.3%	29.8%	24.9%
Overall	16.9%	26.9%	21.3%

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the increase in women's voter registration was significantly higher than that of men at 31 percent compared to 16.9 percent. Similarly, in Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, and Islamabad, more women than men were registered as voters.

2. WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN VOTING

The increased turnout of women in elections ensures that their interests are represented in governance and policymaking processes. Enhancing women's political participation fosters an inclusive and pluralistic society. Women's electoral turnout is crucial for a country's democratic development, social progress, and economic prosperity.

2.1. Constituencies by Overall Turnout

In 2018, 94 out of 849 national and provincial constituencies recorded a turnout of more than 60 percent. However, in 2024, this number decreased to 42 out of 859 constituencies. Conversely, constituencies with a turnout of less than 30 percent increased significantly from five in 2018 to 30 in 2024. This decline was more pronounced in National Assembly constituencies. In 2018, 23 constituencies had over 60 percent turnout, compared to 11 in 2024. The national constituencies with a turnout of less than 30 percent turnout increased from three to ten.

2.1.1. Constituencies by Turnout Category- GE-2018

Across 437 national and provincial constituencies, voter turnout ranged between 51-60 percent, and within 205 constituencies it was 41-50 percent. In 99 constituencies, the turnout fell within the range of 30-40 percent. Notably, in 94 constituencies, this was more than 60 percent. In the remaining five constituencies, turnout was below 30 percent.⁴

Of the 272 National Assembly constituencies, turnouts of more than 60 percent were recorded for 23. Of these, 18 were in Punjab, followed by three in Sindh and one each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. However, in most of the constituencies – 145—it remained between 51-60 percent. Most of these constituencies (116) were in Punjab. Turnouts in the 41-50 and 30-40 percent categories were recorded in 66 and 33 constituencies, respectively. All three constituencies in which the turnout was below 30 percent were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Table 7: GE-2018 Category of Constituencies by Overall Turnout

Assembly	Region	Below 30%	30-40%	41-50%	51-60%	More than 60%	Un-Contested	Postponed	Total
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3	11	31	5	1			51
	ICT				2	1			3
	Punjab			5	116	18		2	141
	Sindh		16	24	18	3			61
	Balochistan		6	6	4				16
	National Total		3	33	66	145	23		2
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1	18	60	15	3		2	99
	Punjab			19	219	57		2	297
	Sindh		31	47	42	8	1	1	130
	Balochistan	1	17	13	16	3		1	51
	Provincial Total	2	66	139	292	71	1	6	577
Grand Total		5	99	205	437	94	1	8	849

Of the 577 provincial assemblies' constituencies, more than 60 percent turnout was recorded for 71 constituencies. Most (57) of them were in Punjab. On the other hand, in two

⁴ Elections were postponed in eight constituencies, while in one constituency, the election proceeded uncontested.

constituencies, one each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, it was less than 30 percent. In most of the constituencies (292) and (139), the turnout was 51-60 and 41-50 percent. In 66 constituencies, turnout was 30-40 percent. Almost half (31) were from Sindh.

2.1.2. Constituencies by Turnout Category- GE-2024

In 298 and 306 constituencies, the turnout was 51-60 and 41-50 percent, respectively. In 179 constituencies, turnout ranged from 30-40 percent, whereas, in 30 constituencies, it was below 30 percent. Notably, 42 constituencies witnessed a turnout of more than 60 percent turnout.⁵

Out of the 266 National Assembly constituencies, 99 constituencies each had turnouts in the 51-60 and 41-50 percent categories. Turnouts ranging between 30-40 percent were recorded in 46 constituencies. In ten constituencies, the turnout was less than 30 percent. Half of them were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, three were in Balochistan, and two were in Sindh.

Turnout exceeding 60 percent turnout was recorded in 11 constituencies. Of these, seven were in Punjab, two were in Sindh, and one each was in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

Table 8: Constituencies by Overall Turnout GE-2024

Assembly	Region	Below 30%	30- 40%	41- 50%	51-60%	More than 60%	Postponed	Total
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	5	21	14	3	1	1	45
	ICT			1	1	1		3
	Punjab		5	45	84	7		141
	Sindh	2	16	34	7	2		61
	Balochistan	3	4	5	4			16
	National Total		10	46	99	99	11	1
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	13	45	46	6	3	2	115
	Punjab		17	97	165	17	1	297
	Sindh	3	48	54	18	7		130
	Balochistan	4	23	10	10	4		51
	Provincial Total		20	133	207	199	31	3
Grand Total		30	179	306	298	42	4	859

Overall, most (207) of the provincial assemblies' constituencies recorded a 41-50 percent turnout. In 199 constituencies, the turnout was 51-60 percent while in 133 constituencies it was 30-40 percent. In 31 constituencies, the turnout was greater than 60 percent. More than half (17) were in Punjab, seven in Sindh, four in Balochistan, and three in Sindh. Of the 20 constituencies with less than 30 percent turnout, most (13) were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.⁶

2.2. Female Turnout by Constituencies

Overall, compared to the 2018 general election, female voter turnout declined in the 2024 general election.

In the 2018 general election, in 335 of the 849 constituencies, women's voter turnout was 51-60 percent. Additionally, 35 constituencies witnessed more than 60 percent of women voter turnouts, while in 77, the turnout was less than 30 percent. In the 2024 general elections, however, there was a noticeable increase in constituencies with a women's turnout of less

⁵ Elections were postponed in one National Assembly and three provincial assemblies' constituencies.

⁶ Elections were postponed in two constituencies, one from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one from Punjab.

than 30 percent, which increased to 132 from 77 in 2018. However, constituencies with more than 60 percent female voter turnout decreased from 35 in 2018 to 18 in 2024.

In 2018, in 11 national assembly constituencies, the female voter turnout was more than 60 percent. In the 2024 general elections, there were only four national constituencies in which female voter turnout was more than 60 percent. On the other hand, the number of constituencies with women voters' turnout of less than 30 percent increased from 28 to 34.

2.2.1. Female Turnout GE-2018

In most of the national and provincial constituencies—335, 229, and 164 – voter turnout ranged in the 50-60, 41-50, and 30-40 percent categories, respectively. In 35 constituencies, the turnout was more than 60 percent whereas in 77 other constituencies, it was below 30 percent.⁷ Of the 272 National Assembly constituencies, most (113) recorded 51-60 percent female voter turnout. In 66 and 52 constituencies, turnout was 41-50 and 30-40 percent. The turnout was greater than 60 percent in the 11 constituencies. On the other hand, 28 constituencies had a turnout below 30 percent. The majority (24) were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Table 9: GE-2018 Category of Constituencies by Women Turnout

Assembly	Region	Below 30%	30-40%	41-50%	51-60%	More than 60%	Postponed	Un-Contested	Total
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	24	17	9		1			51
	ICT			1	1	1			3
	Punjab		2	33	98	6	2		141
	Sindh	3	25	19	11	3			61
	Balochistan	1	8	4	3				16
	National Total		28	52	66	113	11	2	
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	29	40	24	3	1	2		99
	Punjab		4	95	180	16	2		297
	Sindh	10	53	32	27	6	1	1	130
	Balochistan	10	15	12	12	1	1		51
	Provincial Total	49	112	163	222	24	6	1	577
Grand Total		77	164	229	335	35	8	1	849

In most of the provincial assemblies' constituencies—222, 163, and 112—the turnout fell in the 51-60, 41-50, and 30-40 percent categories, respectively. Turnout was more than 60 percent in 24 constituencies. Of these, 16 were in Punjab. In 49 constituencies, the turnout was less than 30 percent. Of these, 29 were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 10 each in Sindh and Balochistan.⁸

2.2.2. Female Turnout GE-2024

Out of 859 national and provincial constituencies in the 2024 general elections, female voter turnout was 51-60 percent in 180 constituencies, followed by 41-50 and 30-40 percent in 292 and 216 constituencies, respectively. In 18 constituencies, the turnout was greater than 60 percent. By contrast, in 132 constituencies, the female turnout remained less than 30 percent. However, no gender breakdown was documented in 17 constituencies.⁹

Of 266 National Assembly constituencies, 100 witnessed 41-50 percent female voter turnout. In 67 and 52 constituencies, the turnout ranged in the 30-40 and 51-60 percent categories,

⁷ In eight constituencies, elections were postponed.

⁸ In six constituencies, elections were postponed while in one constituency, elections were not held.

⁹ Elections were postponed in four (one national and three provincial) constituencies.

respectively. However, in only four constituencies did the turnout exceed 60 percent. In 34 constituencies, the turnout was below 30 percent. Of these, 22 were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, seven in Sindh, four in Balochistan, and one in Punjab. No gender breakdown was recorded in eight constituencies (five in Punjab and one each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, and Balochistan).

Table 10: GE-2024 Category of Constituencies by Women Turnout

Assembly	Region	Below 30%	30 -40%	41-50%	51-60%	More than 60%	No Gender Breakdown	Postponed	Total
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	22	13	7	1		1	1	45
	ICT				2		1		3
	Punjab	1	22	66	45	2	5		141
	Sindh	7	27	22	3	2			61
	Balochistan	4	5	5	1		1		16
	National Total		34	67	100	52	4	8	1
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	54	41	12	6			2	115
	Punjab	3	48	128	105	5	7	1	297
	Sindh	26	48	39	12	5			130
	Balochistan	15	12	13	5	4	2		51
	Provincial Total	98	149	192	128	14	9	3	593
Grand Total		132	216	292	180	18	17	4	859

Overall, in 192 provincial assemblies' constituencies, female voter turnout ranged between 41-50 percent, followed by 149 constituencies ranging between 30-40 percent, and 51-60 percent in 128 constituencies. In 14 constituencies, the turnout was greater than 60 percent. In 98 constituencies, this was less than 30 percent. Of these, 54 were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 26 in Sindh, 15 in Balochistan, and three in Punjab. In nine constituencies, the ECP did not publish gender breakdowns in constituency results.

2.3. Constituencies-wise Difference in Turnout

In the 2018 general elections, female turnout exceeded male turnout in 58 of 849 constituencies. However, in the 2024 general election, the number of such constituencies decreased to 27. In the National Assembly constituencies, this trend is consistent. In 2018, female voter turnout was greater than male voters in 19 constituencies, but this number dropped to four in 2024. Similarly, in provincial constituencies, the number has reduced from 39 in 2018 to 23 in 2024.

2.3.1. Constituency-Wise Difference in Men and Women Turnout In GE-2018

Despite efforts to encourage women to participate, their turnout exceeded that of men in only 58 constituencies. In 766 constituencies, women voter turnout remained less than that of male voters, while in 16 constituencies, it was equal.

Only 19 of the 272 National Assembly constituencies did women's turnout exceed that of men. Of these, 14 were in Punjab, 2 each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, and one in Balochistan. Of the 249 constituencies with a turnout less than that of male voters, 124 were in Punjab, followed by Sindh (58), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (49), Balochistan (15), and three in Islamabad.¹⁰

Table 11: Categories of Constituencies by the Difference in Turnout: Female Vs. Male Turnouts- GE-2018

Assembly	Region	Exceeding Men	Equal	Less than Men	Postponed	Un-Contested	Total
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	2		49			51
	ICT			3			3
	Punjab	14	1	124	2		141
	Sindh	2	1	58			61

¹⁰ Elections were postponed in two constituencies of Punjab.

	Balochistan	1		15			16
	National Total	19	2	249	2		272
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1	1	95	2		99
	Punjab	24	8	263	2		297
	Sindh	7	2	119	1	1	130
	Balochistan	7	3	40	1		51
	Provincial Total	39	14	517	6	1	577
Grand Total		58	16	766	8	1	849

In the provincial constituencies, female voters' turnout was higher than that of male voters in 39 constituencies, while it remained equal in 14. However, their turnout was less than that of male voters in 517 constituencies.¹¹

2.3.2. Constituency-Wise Difference in Men and Women Turnout in GE-2024

In only 27 constituencies, women voter turnout was more than that of men, down from 58 in the 2018 general elections. In 802 constituencies, the turnout remained less than that of males, while in nine constituencies, it was equal. Of the 266 National Assembly constituencies, female voter turnout was higher in four constituencies, down from 19 in the 2018 general election. In the other three constituencies, it was equal to men's turnout. Overall, in 250 constituencies, female voter turnout was less than male turnout.

Table 12: Categories of Constituencies by the Difference in Turnout: Female Vs. Male Turnouts- GE-2024

Assembly	Region	Exceeding Men	Equal	Less than Men	No Gender Breakdown	Postponed	Total
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1		42	1	1	45
	ICT			2	1		3
	Punjab	1	3	132	5		141
	Sindh	2		59			61
	Balochistan			15	1		16
	National Total	4	3	250	8	1	266
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3		110		2	115
	Punjab	6	4	279	7	1	297
	Sindh	9		121			130
	Balochistan	5	2	42	2		51
	Provincial Total	23	6	552	9	3	593
Grand Total		27	9	802	17	4	859

Of the 593 provincial constituencies, in 23 constituencies women polled more votes than men. In the 2018 general election, there were 39 provincial constituencies.

In six constituencies, the turnout remained equal. In nine constituencies, gender breakdown was not published by the ECP, while elections were postponed in three constituencies, two in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one in Punjab.

2.4. Low Voter Turnout by Constituency and Polling Stations

A preliminary review of FORM-48 was conducted to identify polling stations with extremely low turnouts. The benchmark criteria included the identification of polling stations, where:

- No votes were polled, or
- Less than ten votes were polled at the polling station.

The criteria applied showed that the turnout remained low at 246 polling stations across 51 constituencies. Of these, 168 polling stations in 26 constituencies were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

¹¹ Elections not held in one constituency in Sindh.

Balochistan followed with 39 polling stations in eight constituencies. Punjab had 32 polling stations in 12 constituencies while in Sindh, there were seven such polling stations in five constituencies.

Table 13: Constituencies and PS with Low Turnout by Region

Region	Number of NA Constituencies	Number of Polling Stations
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	26	168
Punjab	12	32
Sindh	5	7
Balochistan	8	39
Total	51	246

A broader review shows that, while this is not a universal phenomenon, low-turnout pockets are hard to ignore.

As mentioned earlier, the 246 polling stations included those where no votes were cast, as well as those where fewer than ten votes were polled.

Of the 246 polling stations, 185 were in the zero-vote polled category. The majority were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (129), followed by Balochistan (30) and Punjab (21). Sindh had only five polling stations.

When assessed by the type of polling station, it is evident that the female (125) and combined (48) polling stations constitute the bulk of the polling stations where zero votes were polled. The table below provides the regional distribution of polling stations where no votes were polled, or less than ten votes were polled.

Table 14: Distribution by Zero Vote Polled and Less than Ten Vote Polled by Region

Region	Zero Vote Polled				Less than Ten Vote Polled			
	Male	Female	Combined	Total	Male	Female	Combined	Total
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3	112	14	129	1	34	4	39
Punjab	4	5	12	21	3	5	3	11
Sindh	1	1	3	5		1	1	2
Balochistan	4	7	19	30		3	6	9
Total	12	125	48	185	4	43	14	61

Of the 246 polling stations, 61 were included in the category in which less than 10 votes were polled. As with the zero-vote polled category, the majority of polling stations with less than ten votes polled were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (39), followed by Punjab (11) and Balochistan (nine). The persistence of this issue was less pronounced in Sindh.

When assessed by the type of polling station, it is evident that the female (43) and combined (14) polling stations constitute the bulk of the polling stations where zero votes were polled.

2.5. Women's Share in Total Votes Polled in 2018 and 2024

In the 2018 general elections, out of the total 54,677,383 votes polled, female voters were 21,741,844. Although more votes (58,963,961) were polled in the 2024 general elections, gender trends persisted. Women voters increased to 24,422,209.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa witnessed a total of 7,798,795 votes in 2018, with 5,293,725 men and 2,505,070 voters. The total number of votes polled increased to 8,184,335 in the general elections in 2024, with 2,919,325 women and 5,293,725 men using their right to vote.

In Punjab, the 2018 elections saw a total of 33,937,762 votes polled—19,846,802 male and 14,090,960 female voters. This trend persists in the general election of 2024. The total polled votes increased to 36,453,645. Of these, 20,890,196 were men, and 15,563,449 were women.

Sindh witnessed 10,554,017 votes in 2018. Compared to 6,326,495 male voters, there were 4,227,522 female voters. In the 2024 general elections, the total polled votes increased to 11,790,010. The share of male voters was 6,876,984 votes compared to 4,913,026 female voters.

In the 2018 elections, Balochistan saw 1,940,982 votes polled (1,215,087 men and 725,895 women). The total number of votes polled has increased to 2,100,202 in the 2024 general elections, with 1,266,303 men and 833,899 women using their right to vote.

Table 15: Votes Polled (breakdown by Gender)

Assembly	Region	2018			2024		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	5,293,725	2,505,070	7,798,795	5,265,010	2,919,325	8,184,335
	ICT	253,430	192,397	445,827	243,259	192,510	435,769
	Punjab	19,846,802	14,090,960	33,937,762	20,890,196	15,563,449	36,453,645
	Sindh	6,326,495	4,227,522	10,554,017	6,876,984	4,913,026	11,790,010
	Balochistan	1,215,087	725,895	1,940,982	1,266,303	833,899	2,100,202
	National Total		32,935,539	21,741,844	54,677,383	34,541,752	24,422,209
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	4,586,168	2,233,225	6,819,393	5,424,226	3,020,142	8,444,368
	Punjab	19,945,948	14,167,790	34,113,738	20,974,027	15,654,590	36,628,617
	Sindh	6,259,803	4,181,060	10,440,863	6,837,963	4,892,994	11,730,957
	Balochistan	1,190,192	717,699	1,907,891	1,344,500	888,271	2,232,771
	Provincial Total		31,982,111	21,299,774	53,281,885	34,580,716	24,455,997

In provincial assemblies, 53,281,885 votes were polled in the 2018 general election. Men accounted for the majority of those (31,982,111 votes). This trend continued in the 2024 general election. Of the 59,036,713 votes polled, men polled 34,580,716 and women polled 24,455,997. As the data indicate, both the absolute number and proportion of votes cast by women increased. Although this progress is vital, it falls short of closing the formidable gender gap in voting.

According to the regional breakdown, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assembly in 2018 tallied 6,819,393 votes, of which 4,586,168 were cast by men and 2,233,225 by women. In 2024, this number increased to 8,444,368 votes, with men contributing 5,424,226 votes and women 3,020,142 votes.

In Punjab, the 2018 elections witnessed 34,113,738 votes polled, with men contributing 19,945,948 votes and women 14,167,790 votes. In the 2024 general election, the overall number of votes cast was 36,628,617, including 20,974,027 votes from men and 15,654,590 votes from women.

In Sindh, the 2018 elections saw a total of 10,440,863 votes polled, with men and women contributing 6,259,803 and 4,181,060 votes, respectively. In 2024, the number of votes increased to 11,730,957, with men and women casting 6,837,963 and 4,892,994 votes, respectively.

Finally, in Balochistan, the 2018 elections recorded 1,907,891 votes, with men contributing 1,190,192 votes and women 717,699 votes. In 2024, this number increased to 2,232,771 votes, with men and women casting 1,344,500 and 888,271 votes, respectively.

Compared to the 2018 general elections, there has been a slight increase in women's share of the total votes polled. For national constituencies, the share of female voters increased from 39.4 percent in 2018 to 41.4 percent in 2024. The increase is in all national constituencies in the four provinces and Islamabad. The greatest increase occurred in the National Assembly constituencies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Women's share of polled votes has increased from

32.1 percent in 2018 to 35.7 percent in 2024. Balochistan has also witnessed an increase in women's share of polled votes (from 37.4 percent in 2018 to 39.7 percent in 2024).

Table 16: Female Share of the Total Votes Polled

Assembly	Region	2018	2024
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	32.1%	35.7%
	ICT	43.2%	44.2%
	Punjab	41.5%	42.7%
	Sindh	40.1%	41.7%
	Balochistan	37.4%	39.7%
	National Total		39.8%
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	32.7%	35.8%
	Punjab	41.5%	42.7%
	Sindh	40.0%	41.7%
	Balochistan	37.6%	39.8%
	Provincial Total		40.0%

In the provincial assemblies' constituencies, women's share of polled votes increased from 40 percent in 2018 to 41.4 percent in 2024. All four provinces showed varying increases. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa led with an increase of 3.1 percentage points followed by 2.2 percentage points in Balochistan, 1.7 percentage points in Sindh, and 1.2 percentage points in Punjab.

3. WOMEN AS CANDIDATES

In the 2024 general elections, 902 women contested general seats, registering a marked increase from 465 women candidates in 2018. In the National Assembly general seats, the number of female candidates increased from 183 in 2018 to 310 in 2024. Similarly, for provincial assembly candidature, the number increased from 282 in 2018 to 592 in 2024. Of the total contesting candidates for national (5,188) and provincial constituencies (12,800) in GE-2024, the share of female candidates was six percent and five percent, respectively.

3.1. Region-wise Review

Of the 310 female candidates for the National Assembly general seats, more than half (173) were from Punjab, 83 from Sindh, 27 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 14 from Islamabad, and 13 from Balochistan.

Table 17: Total Men and Women Candidates Contesting in 2018 and 2024

Assembly	Region	Male		Female		Total	
		2018	2024	2018	2024	2018	2024
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	703	691	17	27	720	718
	Islamabad	59	103	7	14	66	117
	Punjab	1,451	2,589	101	173	1,552	2,762
	Sindh	766	1,074	50	83	816	1,157
	Balochistan	282	421	8	13	290	434
	National Total		3,261	4,878	183	310	3,444
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1,137	1,765	39	79	1,176	1,844
	Punjab	3,886	6,489	110	319	3,996	6,808
	Sindh	2,116	2,718	102	154	2,218	2,872
	Balochistan	936	1,236	31	40	967	1,276
	Provincial Total		8,075	12,208	282	592	8,357
Grand Total		11,336	17,086	465	902	11,801	17,988

More than half (319 of the 592) of the female candidates contested for general seats in the provincial assembly of Punjab. Among the remaining 154 contested provincial seats in Sindh, 79 were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 40 were in Balochistan.

3.2. Representation in Constituencies

The constituency-wise data show that in 350 constituencies, no woman candidate contested, whereas in 509 constituencies, at least one woman contested the elections in 2024. In the 2018 general elections, 510 constituencies were without a female candidate, and in 339 constituencies, there was at least one female candidate. In 2018, 145 National Assembly constituencies had no female candidates. This number decreased to 97 constituencies in the 2024 general elections. The constituencies with at least one female candidate increased from 127 in 2018 to 169 in 2024. The greatest decrease (35 percent) in the National Assembly constituencies with no female candidates was in Punjab, from 72 in 2018 to 47 in 2024. Similarly, the provinces witnessed a 36 percent increase in the number of constituencies with at least one female candidate (from 69 in 2018 to 94 in 2024).

Table 18: Number of Constituencies by Contesting Women Candidates

Assembly	Region	No female Candidate		At least 1 female candidate	
		2018	2024	2018	2024
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	39	24	12	21
	Islamabad			3	3
	Punjab	72	47	69	94
	Sindh	25	19	36	42
	Balochistan	9	7	7	9
	National Total		145	97	127

Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	68	58	31	57
	Punjab	205	116	92	181
	Sindh	59	53	71	77
	Balochistan	33	26	18	25
	Provincial Total	365	253	212	340
Grand Total		510	350	339	509

In the provinces, there has also been a decrease in the number of constituencies with no female candidates. However, the greatest decrease has been witnessed in Punjab, where the number of constituencies with no female candidates decreased from 205 in 2018 to 116. Conversely, the province witnessed a significant increase in constituencies with at least one female candidate, from 92 in 2018 to 181 in 2024. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, these constituencies increased from 31 to 57.

Table 19: Registered Voters in the Constituencies with No Woman Contesting

Assembly	Region	Male	Female	Total
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	6,282,750	5,168,242	11,450,992
	Punjab	12,878,702	11,184,203	24,062,905
	Sindh	4,295,124	3,600,193	7,895,317
	Balochistan	1,245,126	940,247	2,185,373
	National Total	24,701,702	20,892,885	45,594,587
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	5,814,846	4,761,591	10,576,437
	Punjab	14,999,499	13,012,968	28,012,467
	Sindh	5,885,006	4,963,723	10,848,729
	Balochistan	1,423,795	1,110,716	2,534,511
	Provincial Total	28,123,146	23,848,998	51,972,144
Grand Total		52,824,848	44,741,883	97,566,731

Highlighting the significant disparity in women's participation in elections, the 2024 general elections saw over 97 million voters across 350 constituencies, including 44 million female voters, without a female candidate to support.

3.3. Party Candidates vs. Independents

In the 2024 general elections, there were more national constituencies with female independent candidates, 77 compared to 34 in 2018. However, the number of national constituencies where political parties gave tickets to female candidates decreased from 67 in 2018 to 46 in 2024. However, the constituencies in which both independent candidates and political parties' female candidates contested increased from 26 in 2018 to 46 in 2024.

Table 20: Constituencies by Status of Women Candidates: Parties Backed and Independent

Assembly	Region	Party Only		Both Independent and Party		Independent Only	
		2018	2024	2018	2024	2018	2024
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	7	10	2	2	3	9
	Islamabad	1		1	1	1	2
	Punjab	32	12	15	29	22	53
	Sindh	23	21	8	11	5	10
	Balochistan	4	3		3	3	3
	National Total	67	46	26	46	34	77
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	24	30	2	8	5	19
	Punjab	47	28	9	41	36	112
	Sindh	38	27	12	30	21	20
	Balochistan	9	12	1	6	8	7
	Provincial Total	118	97	24	85	70	158
Grand Total		185	143	50	131	104	235

This trend was also observed in provincial assemblies. The constituencies with independent female candidates increased from 70 in 2018 to 158 in 2024. However, the constituencies contested by the political parties' female candidates were 97 in the 2024 general elections and 118 in 2018. There was a significant increase in constituencies contested by both independent and political parties' female candidates. Compared with the 50 constituencies in 2018, there were 131 such constituencies in 2024.

3.4. Constituencies with Independent Women Candidates

Independent female candidates contested elections in 366 national and provincial constituencies. Among these, 160 constituencies saw the participation of a single independent female candidate, while in 75 constituencies, multiple independent female candidates contested the elections. The number of national constituencies with a single female independent candidate increased from 30 in 2018 to 56 in 2024. Similarly, National Assembly constituencies with more than one female independent candidate reached 21 in 2024 from four in 2018.

Table 21: Constituencies Independent Woman Candidates

Assembly	Region	Only one Independent		Independent More than One	
		2018	2024	2018	2024
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	3	8		1
	Islamabad	1			2
	Punjab	18	37	4	16
	Sindh	5	8		2
	Balochistan	3	3		
	National Total	30	56	4	21
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	5	16		3
	Punjab	35	70	1	42
	Sindh	17	13	4	7
	Balochistan	7	5	1	2
	Provincial Total	64	104	6	54
Grand Total		94	160	10	75

The number of provincial constituencies with one independent female candidate witnessed a sharp increase from 64 in 2018 to 104 in 2024. Most of these constituencies are in Punjab (70), followed by 16 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 13 in Sindh, and five in Balochistan. Similarly, constituencies with more than one independent female candidate increased from six in 2018 to 54 in 2024. Of these 54 constituencies, 42 were in Punjab.

3.5. Compliance with Party Ticket Allotment Law

In the issuance of tickets to female candidates, political parties contesting GE-2024 barely met the minimum requirement stipulated in Section 206 of the Elections Act of 2017. Of the 111, only 30 political parties awarded tickets to five or more than five percent of the female candidates on general seats. While four political parties fielded between 4.5 and 4.9 percent of women candidates on general seats (which is statistically rounded up to five percent), the remaining 77 fielded up to 4.5 percent of women candidates on general seats. The parties fielding less than 4.5 percent of female candidates on general seats are higher because the applicability of this provision is technically effective for political parties with at least 20 candidates on general seats (as the five percent provision requires them to allocate tickets to at least one female candidate).

Table 22: Women Candidates and Political Parties' Compliance

Description	National Assembly	Provincial Assembly				Overall	
		Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan		
Total parties contesting	94	44	70	50	37	111	
Contesting Candidates	Male	1,779	759	1,819	886	514	5,757
	Female	93 (5%)	47 (6%)	59 (3%)	62 (7%)	19 (4%)	280 (5%)
	Total	1,872	806	1,878	948	533	6,037
No. of parties pitched less than 20 Candidates	81	35	60	39	25	76	
No. of parties who had to comply with the 5% women candidates' Legal requirement	13	9	10	11	12	35	
No. of parties not complying with the 5% requirement	8	1	6	5	7	16	
Parties who pitched less than 5% women candidates	PPPP, JI, TLP, JUIP, ANP, PRHP, PAT-Awami and RJUI	JUIP	TLP, JI, PML-N, PPPP, PAT-Awami, and PNP	TLP, MQMP, PRHP, ANP and IPP	PPPP, JUIP, RJUI, PKMAP, JUINP, TLP and ANP	JI, TLP, JUIP, ANP, PRHP, PAT-Awami, RJUI, BNP, PKMAP, PNP, MOTP, PKNAPP, JUINP, JUP-Noorani, SKQM and JUIP-S	

As reflected in the table above, only 35 political parties fielded more than 20 candidates for general seats. Applying the obligation for a minimum of 5 percent of party tickets to women under Section 206 of the Election Act, 16 parties are found to be non-compliant. If the requirements were to be applied to determine the minimum number of party tickets for women in individual assemblies, the number of non-compliant parties would increase further.

3.5.1. Assembly-wise Women Candidates Fielded by Political Parties

For the National Assembly seats, 94 parties awarded tickets for general seats to 1,872 candidates. These included 93 female candidates, which accounted for 4.9 percent of the total contestants. Of the total political parties, 81 had fewer than 20 candidates, leaving 13 who were obligated to comply with the law of fielding five percent women candidates. Of these 13 parties, eight awarded tickets for general seats to less than five percent of women candidates.

Table 23: Number of Women Candidates and Party Compliance with The Election Law (National Assembly)

Sr. No.	Party Name	Party	Male	Female	Total	Percent Women	Compliance Status
1	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	PPPP	234	12	246	5%	Non-Compliant
2	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	JI	224	9	233	4%	Non-Compliant
3	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	TLP	221	2	223	1%	Non-Compliant
4	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	PML-N	193	14	207	7%	
5	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League	PMML	136	15	151	10%	
6	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan	JUIP	125	1	126	1%	Non-Compliant
7	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan	MQMP	71	7	78	9%	
8	Awami National Party	ANP	60	2	62	3%	Non-Compliant
9	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party	PRHP	41	0	41	0%	Non-Compliant
10	Pakistan Awami Tehreek	PAT-Awami	41	0	41	0%	Non-Compliant
11	Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA)	GDA	23	7	30	23%	
12	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party	IPP	23	4	27	15%	
13	Rabita Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam	RJUI	21	0	21	0%	Non-Compliant

For the Punjab Assembly, 70 parties awarded tickets to 1,878 candidates, including 59 women (3.1 percent of the total). As many as 60 political parties had fewer than 20 candidates. On

the other hand, 10 political parties were bound to field five percent women candidates. However, five of them did not comply with the law.

Table 24: Number of Women Candidates and Party Compliance with The Election Law (Punjab Assembly)

Sr. No.	Party Name	Party	Male	Female	Total	Percent Women	Compliance Status
1	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	TLP	291	1	292	0%	Non-Compliant
2	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	JI	273	6	279	2%	Non-Compliant
3	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	PML-N	276	3	279	1%	Non-Compliant
4	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	PPPP	250	12	262	5%	
5	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League	PMML	216	14	230	6%	
6	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan	JUIP	118	6	124	5%	
7	Pakistan Awami Tehreek	PAT-Awami	79	2	81	2%	Non-Compliant
8	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party	IPP	41	2	43	5%	
9	Pakistan Nazriyati Party	PNP	37	1	38	3%	Non-Compliant
10	Pakistan Muslim League	PML	29	2	31	6%	

For the Sindh Assembly constituencies, 948 candidates were given tickets, including 62 women. The proportion of female candidates was 6.5 percent. Of the 50 political parties, 39 had less than 20 candidates. Of the 11 political parties with more than 20 candidates, five did not comply with the law.

Table 25: Number of Women Candidates and Party Compliance with The Election Law (Sindh Assembly)

Sr. No.	Party Name	Party	Male	Female	Total	Female % of total	Compliance Status
1	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	PPPP	123	7	130	5%	
2	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	TLP	116	4	120	3%	Non-Compliant
3	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	JI	95	7	102	7%	
4	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan	MQMP	85	4	89	4%	Non-Compliant
5	Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA)	GDA	68	9	77	12%	
6	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League	PMML	64	4	68	6%	
7	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party	PRHP	54	1	55	2%	Non-Compliant
8	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	PML-N	44	7	51	14%	
9	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan	JUIP	42	8	50	16%	
10	Awami National Party	ANP	28	0	28	0%	Non-Compliant
11	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party	IPP	27	1	28	4%	Non-Compliant

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 44 political parties fielded 806 candidates. Of these, 47 (5.8 percent) were female. Only nine parties in the province had more than 20 candidates in the election. Only one party awarded party tickets to less than the five percent quota.

Table 26: Number of Women Candidates and Party Compliance with The Election Law (KP Assembly)

Sr. No.	Party Name	Party	Male	Female	Total	Percent Women	Compliance Status
1	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan	JUIP	106	4	110	4%	Non-Compliant
2	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	JI	96	5	101	5%	
3	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	PPPP	86	5	91	5%	
4	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	PML-N	84	6	90	7%	
5	Awami National Party	ANP	85	5	90	6%	
6	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian	PTIP	65	8	73	11%	
7	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	TLP	45	3	48	6%	
8	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League	PMML	32	3	35	9%	
9	Qaumi Watan Party	QWP	19	2	21	10%	

In Balochistan, 37 political parties allocated tickets to 533 candidates. However, only 19 candidates were female (3.5 percent of the total). Of the 37 parties, 25 gave tickets to fewer than 20 candidates. Of the 12 political candidates with more than 20 candidates, seven failed to comply.

Table 27: Number of Women Candidates and Party Compliance with The Election Law (Balochistan Assembly)

Sr. No.	Party Name	Party	Male	Female	Total	Percent Women	Compliance Status
1	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	PPPP	46	2	48	4%	Non-Compliant
2	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan	JUIP	46	0	46	0%	Non-Compliant
3	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	JI	39	2	41	5%	
4	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	PML-N	38	2	40	5%	
5	Balochistan National Party	BNP	38	2	40	5%	
6	National Party	NP	32	3	35	9%	
7	Balochistan Awami Party	BAP	27	2	29	7%	
8	Rabita Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam	RJUI	26	0	26	0%	Non-Compliant
9	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party	PKMAP	23	0	23	0%	Non-Compliant
10	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Nazryati Pakistan	JUINP	23	0	23	0%	Non-Compliant
11	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	TLP	22	0	22	0%	Non-Compliant
12	Awami National Party	ANP	20	0	20	0%	Non-Compliant

3.5.2. Party-Wise Compliance with the Law

Overall, out of 35 political parties obligated to comply with the law of fielding five percent women candidates, 19 complied, while 16 did not. Furthermore, of these 16, six political parties did not give tickets to female candidates.

Table 28: Number of Women Candidates and Party Compliance with The Election Law (Overall)

Sr. No.	Party Name	Party	Male	Female	Total	Percent Women	Compliance Status
1	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	PPPP	739	38	777	5%	
2	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan	JI	727	29	756	4%	Non-Compliant
3	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	TLP	695	10	705	1%	Non-Compliant
4	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	PML-N	635	32	667	5%	
5	Pakistan Markazi Muslim League	PMML	452	36	488	7%	
6	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan	JUIP	437	19	456	4%	Non-Compliant
7	Awami National Party	ANP	194	8	202	4%	Non-Compliant
8	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan	MQMP	180	11	191	6%	
9	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party	PRHP	135	2	137	1%	Non-Compliant
10	Pakistan Awami Tehreek	PAT-Awami	125	2	127	2%	Non-Compliant
11	Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA)	GDA	91	16	107	15%	
12	Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party	IPP	91	7	98	7%	
13	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian	PTIP	81	9	90	10%	
14	Rabita Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam	RJUI	69	0	69	0%	Non-Compliant
15	Pakistan Nazriyati Party	PNP	65	1	66	2%	Non-Compliant
16	Pakistan Muslim League	PML	59	3	62	5%	
17	Balochistan National Party	BNP	54	2	56	4%	Non-Compliant
18	National Party	NP	48	7	55	13%	
19	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party	PKMAP	53	1	54	2%	Non-Compliant
20	Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Pakistan	MOTP	44	0	44	0%	Non-Compliant
21	Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (Noorani)	JUP-Noorani	43	0	43	0%	Non-Compliant
22	Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party Pakistan	PKNAPP	38	1	39	3%	Non-Compliant
23	Balochistan Awami Party	BAP	35	3	38	8%	
24	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Nazryati Pakistan	JUINP	37	0	37	0%	Non-Compliant
25	Barabri Party Pakistan	BPP	28	2	30	7%	
26	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)	PPP-SB	26	2	28	7%	
27	Qaumi Watan Party	QWP	25	3	28	11%	
28	Sulaiman Khel Qabail Movement	SKQM	27	0	27	0%	Non-Compliant

Sr. No.	Party Name	Party	Male	Female	Total	Percent Women	Compliance Status
29	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (S)	JUIP-S	26	0	26	0%	Non-Compliant
30	Balochistan National Party (Awami)	BNP-Awami	22	3	25	12%	
31	Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan	TJP	21	3	24	13%	
32	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan	MWMP	20	4	24	17%	
33	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Nazriati	PTI-Nazriati	20	2	22	9%	
34	Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan	MQMP-Mohajir	20	2	22	9%	
35	Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (Imam Noorani)	JUP-IN	20	1	21	5%	

3.6. Representation of Women on Reserved Seats

Women are appointed to reserved seats in national and provincial assemblies through proportional representation, where each province is treated as a district.¹² These seats are allocated among women candidates nominated by their political parties based on the proportion of general seats won by those parties. This system, outlined in Articles 51 and 106 of the Constitution, ensures women's representation in the Senate, the National Assembly, and provincial assemblies.

Table 29: Composition of Reserved Seats in National and Provincial Assemblies

Assembly	Region	Total reserved Seats
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10
	Islamabad	-
	Punjab	32
	Sindh	14
	Balochistan	4
	National Total	60
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	26
	Punjab	66
	Sindh	29
	Balochistan	11
	Provincial Total	132
Grand Total	192	

¹² FAFEN's Reserved Seats for Women in Assemblies — An Analysis (January 2023)

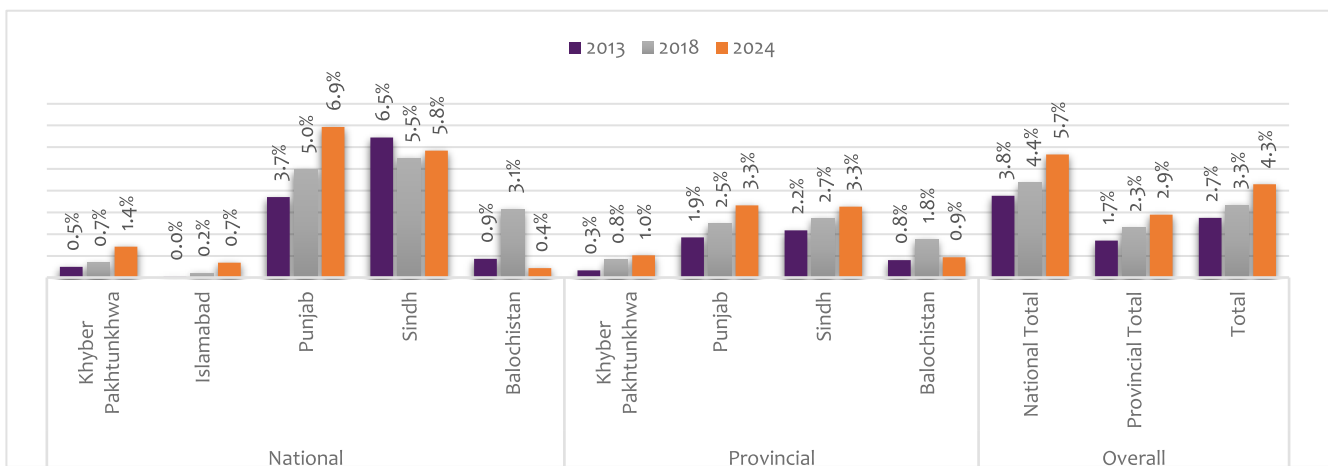
4. ELECTION RESULTS: PERFORMANCE OF WOMEN CANDIDATES

The performance of female candidates in the 2024 election displays a notable surge in their political engagement. More women contested elections for general seats. This signifies not only women's growing interest in engaging politically but also their eagerness to represent their constituencies.

4.1. Women Candidates' Share of the Vote

Across the elections of 2013, 2018, and 2024, there is an apparent trend of improvement in the percentage of votes obtained by female candidates in the National and Provincial Assembly, highlighting progress towards more inclusive and representative governance.

Figure 7: Vote Share of Women Candidates



4.1.1. National Assembly Vote Share of Women Candidates

In the 2013 elections, female candidates across Pakistan were able to obtain 3.8 percent of the total votes polled for the National Assembly constituencies. Female candidates secured 0.5 percent of the total votes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. No female contested the general seats from Islamabad. In Punjab and Sindh, female candidates fared better, with 3.7 percent and 6.5 percent of the vote share, respectively. In Balochistan, female candidates' vote share was 0.9 percent of the total votes polled for the National Assembly constituencies.

In the 2018 elections, the vote share of the female candidates increased to 4.4 percent. Women candidates in Sindh received 5.5 percent of the total votes polled for the National Assembly general seats, followed by 5 percent in Punjab, and 3.1 percent in Balochistan. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, the proportion of female candidates' votes was less than one percent.

In the 2024 general elections, there was a further increase in the vote share of female candidates, reaching 5.7 percent. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad experienced notable improvements, with their vote shares rising to 1.4 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively. In Punjab, female candidates secured 6.9 percent of the total votes polled, followed by 5.8 percent in Sindh. However, Balochistan witnessed a decrease in support for female candidates, with their vote share dropping to 0.4 percent.

4.1.2. Provincial Assembly Vote Share of Women Candidates

Overall, there has been a constant increase in the vote share of female candidates contesting the general seats of provincial assemblies over the last three general elections. In the 2013

general elections, the vote share of female candidates was 1.7 percent. Women candidates in Sindh secured 2.2 percent of the total votes polled, followed by 1.9 percent in Punjab. The vote share of female candidates was less than one percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (0.3 percent) and Balochistan (0.8 percent).

In the 2018 general election, the vote share of female candidates increased to 2.3 percent. In Sindh, this share increased to 2.7 percent of the total votes polled. In Punjab, the female candidates' share increased to 2.5 percent, followed by 1.8 percent in Balochistan, and 0.8 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In 2024, the vote share of female candidates was 2.9 percent of the total votes polled. The share of women candidates' vote share in Punjab and Sindh's total votes polled for general seats stood at 3.3 percent each. Balochistan witnessed a decrease to 0.9 percent while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa there was a slight improvement to 1 percent.

4.2. Women Candidates in the Top Three Positions

Over the last three elections, there was a visible upward trend in the number of women candidates securing the top three positions in both national and provincial constituencies. However, progress varies across the provinces. Five independent female candidates in 2013, eight in 2018, and ten in 2024 were among the top three candidates across national and provincial constituencies.

Table 30: Number of Women Candidates in Top Three Positions

Assembly	Region	Independent			Party		
		2013	2018	2024	2013	2018	2024
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa					2	1
	Punjab	3	3	6	16	17	20
	Sindh				11	11	11
	Balochistan					1	
	National Total	3	3	6	27	31	32
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				1	4	3
	Punjab	1	4	3	17	17	21
	Sindh	1		1	9	10	11
	Balochistan		1		2	1	1
	Provincial Total	2	5	4	29	32	36
Grand Total		5	8	10	56	63	68

Female candidates backed by political parties were among the top three candidates in 56, 63, and 68 national and provincial constituencies in the 2013, 2018, and 2024 general elections, respectively.

Overall, in 2013, 27 female candidates were in the top three positions in 27 national constituencies. This number increased to 31 in 2018 and 32 in 2024. Most of these candidates were in Punjab and Sindh.

The provincial assemblies' constituencies also witnessed a constant increase in the number of female candidates getting votes to be among the top positions – 29 in 2013, 32 in 2018, and 36 in 2024. As in the case of national constituencies, most female candidates are from Punjab and Sindh.

4.3. Winning Women Candidates on Party Tickets

A total of 43 female candidates won 56 national and provincial assembly seats over the course of three general elections.¹³ In 2013, female candidates won 16 seats in the national and provincial assemblies, followed by 14 in 2018, and 26 in 2024.

This improvement is particularly evident in Punjab, where women secured a substantial number of seats across both assembly levels. Additionally, the emergence of female candidates from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the National Assembly highlights a positive shift in the political dynamics.

Table 31: Constituencies Won by Women Candidates

Assembly	Region	2013	2018	2024
National	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			1
	Punjab	3	3	8
	Sindh	3	4	3
	Balochistan		1	
	National Total	6	8	12
Provincial	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1		1
	Punjab	7	4	11
	Sindh	2	2	2
	Provincial Total	10	6	14
Grand Total		16	14	26

Note: Only one independent woman, Syeda Maimanat Mohsin won GE-2018 from PP-184 Okara-II.

In the National Assembly, women secured six general seats in 2013, which were evenly split between Punjab and Sindh. In 2018, the number of seats won by women increased to eight, with Sindh leading with four seats, followed by three from Punjab, and one from Balochistan. In 2024, women secured 12 seats: eight in Punjab, three in Sindh, and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

No female candidate from Balochistan won a provincial assembly seat in any of the three general elections. In 2013, women secured ten provincial seats. Punjab accounted for seven of the ten female winners. However, in the 2018 elections, the number of seats secured by women had decreased to six. In the 2024 elections, women won 14 seats, with 11 from Punjab, two from Sindh, and one from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

4.3.1. Women Candidates by Party

Women representing the three major political parties – PTI, PML-N, and PPP–fared better than those from the other parties.

Table 32: Winning Women Candidates by Party

Assembly	Full Name of Party	2013	2018	2024
National	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf		2	5
	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	3	1	4
	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	3	3	2
	Balochistan Awami Party		1	
	Grand Democratic Alliance		1	
	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan			1
	National Total		6	8
Provincial	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf		2	11
	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	2	2	2
	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	7	2	1
	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F)	1		

¹³ The number does not include independent candidate, Syeda Maimanat Mohsin who won from PP-184 Okara-II in GE-2018.

	Provincial Total	10	6	14
Grand Total		16	14	26

The female candidates of the PTI won two National Assembly seats in 2018 and five in the 2024 general elections. The party's female candidates also won two provincial seats in 2018 and a significant 11 in 2024.

PML-N's female candidates won three National Assembly seats in the 2013 elections, one in 2018, and four in 2024. The women candidates secured seven seats in the 2013 elections, but only two and one in 2018 and 2024, respectively.

The PPP's female candidates won three National Assembly seats each in the 2013 and 2018 elections, followed by two in 2024. In the provincial assembly, the party's female candidates won two seats in the three most recent general elections.

Two female candidates (one each from the Balochistan Awami Party and the Grand Democratic Alliance) won National Assembly seats in 2018.

4.4. Women Winners in GE-2024

In the 2024 general elections, 18 of the political parties' female candidates made it to national and provincial legislatures for the first time. Of these, 14 were PTI-backed independents.

Table 33: First-Time Women Winners

	Constituency	Contesting candidates	Party
1.	NA-67 Hafizabad	Aniqa Mehdi	Independent – PTI
2.	NA-232 Karachi Korangi-I	Asia Ishaque Siddiqui	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
3.	NA-156 Vehari-I	Ayesha Nazir	Independent – PTI
4.	PP-41 Mandi Bahauddin-II	Baasima Chaudhry	Independent – PTI
5.	PP-246 Bahawalpur-II	Farzana Khalil	Independent – PTI
6.	PP-172 Lahore-XXVIII	Misbah Wajid	Independent – PTI
7.	PP-277 Kot Addu-II	Nadia Khar	Independent – PTI
8.	NA-73 Sialkot-IV	Nosheen Iftikhar	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
9.	PP-260 Rahimyar Khan-VI	Saima Kanwal	Independent – PTI
10.	NA-30 Peshawar-III	Shandana Gulzar Khan	Independent – PTI
11.	PP-225 Lodhran-I	Shazia Hayyat	Independent – PTI
12.	NA-112 Nankana Sahib-II	Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
13.	PP-124 Toba Tek Singh-VI	Sonia	Independent – PTI
14.	PK-1 Chitral Upper	Suraiya Bibi	Independent – PTI
15.	PP-244 Bahawalnagar-VIII	Suraiya Sultana	Independent – PTI
16.	NA-181 Layyah-I	Umber Majeed	Independent – PTI
17.	NA-119 Lahore-III PP-159 Lahore-XV	Maryam Nawaz Sharif	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
18.	PP-40 Mandi Bahauddin-I	Zarnab Sher	Independent – PTI

Annex 1 profiles women who won seats in the 2024 general elections. These elections witnessed significant milestones for women with two notable victories. Maryam Nawaz Sharif's election as the Chief Minister of Punjab and Suraiya Bibi's appointment as the Deputy Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly represent significant advancements for women in Pakistani politics. These key positions not only highlight the recognition of women leaders but also signify a step towards gender equality and inclusivity in governance.

PLUGGING THE GENDER GAP: THE PATH TO A MORE INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Despite some improvements, Pakistan's electoral system has a long way to go before it can become truly inclusive for women. The improvements in women's voter registration, number of candidates, and share in votes highlight the importance of sustained and persistent efforts on the part of all stakeholders. These trends are encouraging and should act as templates for furthering women's participation in future elections. Determined for each of the three aspects of participation in elections, we propose a refinement and re-calibration of the targets for women's participation that is gradual, realistic, and measurable.

Voter registration and gender gaps

Plugging the gender gap in electoral rolls should be pursued as a priority. There is a gender gap exceeding 10 percent in 38 national and 102 provincial assembly constituencies. We propose a dual strategy for the next five years wherein,

- These constituencies are prioritized for special measures aimed at reducing the gender gap to less than 10 percent.
- For the rest of the constituencies, we propose revising the benchmark for special measures to a five percent gender gap instead of ten percent.

Applicable to both categories of constituencies, there is a need to move focus to census blocks within these constituencies with significant gender gaps. This will help achieve a more universal gender parity for more areas within each constituency, conserve resources, and yield a measurable impact.

Women as Voters

Women's participation in elections is a significant concern that requires a dedicated strategy with legal, administrative, and community-based components.

- Beyond the current minimum legal benchmark for female turnout in constituencies, there is a need to reinforce the framework at the polling station level. In extreme cases, where the number of registered voters at extremely low-turnout polling stations exceeds the margin of victory, the Election Commission may be authorized to call for a repoll in those polling stations.
- Informed administrative measures to facilitate female turnout in low-turnout areas should supplement the legal requirements of minimum turnout at the polling station level.
- Understanding women's lack of participation is important for addressing this issue. From the manifestos of candidates and political parties to social and cultural dynamics, there is a dire need for a more expansive strategy to augment female turnout in future elections.

Women as Candidates

The significant increase in the number of female candidates notwithstanding, women remain excluded from contesting elections on political party platforms. As with lower female turnout,

the issue requires a long-term strategy that covers the legal and socio-political dynamics that forbid any meaningful increase in the number of female candidates.

- The current legal benchmark for political parties to award tickets to women may apply overall, as well as to apportion female tickets as a percentage of candidates nominated for each assembly.
- Moreover, it is necessary to revise the existing benchmark to enhance and increase the number of female candidates.
- There may be term-limits for women on reserved seats in each assembly wherein the party nominating them is legally obliged to award tickets to these women once their term-limit is reached. This reinforces the spirit of the legal provision of reserved seats for women.
- Lastly, the provincial quotas shall be proportionately distributed among the province's divisions. This will ensure a more equitable distribution of reserved seats and prevent the concentration of allocations among individuals from major urban centers.

Annexure

Annex 1: Women Winners



Maryam Nawaz Sharif (PML-N)

Maryam Nawaz Sharif won the GE-2024 from two constituencies, - PP-159 Lahore-XV and NA-119 Lahore-III. The victory marked the official entry of Sharif's political scion into parliamentary politics. She remained active in politics after her father Nawaz Sharif became Prime Minister for the third time in 2013. In the absence of her father, she kept the PML-N on the political front. She played an active role in the Pakistan Democratic Movement.



Suraiya Bibi (Independent - PTI)

Suraiya Bibi, an MPA from Chitral backed by PTI, has been elected as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly's deputy speaker. She is the second woman deputy speaker of the provincial assembly. She served as the vice president of the party's women's wing in Malakand.



Umber Majeed Khan Niazi (Independent - PTI)

Anbar Majeed Khan Niazi is a first-time member-elect of the National Assembly representing NA-181 Layyah-I. She won the seat as an independent candidate supported by the PTI. Ms. Niazi belongs to a local prominent political family and is the wife of former MNA and MPA, Abdul Majeed Khan Niazi.



Zartaj Gul (Independent - PTI)

Zartaj Gul has been elected from NA-185 D.G. Khan-II. She was elected to the National Assembly as a PTI candidate in the 2018 general elections. She was inducted into the federal cabinet in Oct 2018 as Minister of State for Climate Change.



Syeda Sonia Ali (Independent - PTI)

Syeda Sonia Ali has been elected from PP-124 Toba Tek Singh-VI. She previously won one of the reserved seats for women in the 2018 General Elections from PP-123 Constituency, Sahiwal.



Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal (PML-N)

Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, daughter of Rai Mansab Ali Khan, a former legislator, won the NA-112 (Nankana Sahib-II) seat against the PTI-backed Independent Candidate and ex-Federal Interior Minister, Brig(r) Ijaz Ahmad Shah. She became MNA in 2015 when she won the by-election from NA-137 (Nankana Sahib-III) as a PML-N candidate.



Shazia Jannat Marri (PPPP)

Shazia Marri won from NA-209 Sanghar-I in the 2024 elections. In 2002 she became a member of the Sindh Assembly and joined the provincial cabinet. In 2012, she became a member of the National Assembly on a reserved seat. In the 2018 elections, as candidate of the PPPP, she won the NA-216 (Sanghar-II) seat.



Ashifa Riaz (Independent-PTI)

Ashifa was elected from PP-123 Toba Tek Singh-V in the 2024 elections.

Wife of Riaz Fatyana, she was elected as a member of the Punjab Assembly in the 2002 general elections. She served as Minister for Women Development and Human Rights (with an additional charge of Social Welfare) from November 24, 2003, to November 30, 2006. She has been a member of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab since August 2018 and served as Provincial Minister of Punjab for Women Development.



Aasia Ishaque Siddiqui (MQM-P)

Ms. Aasia Ishaque was elected from NA-232 Karachi Korangi-I in the 2024 general elections. She won the seat from Karachi against PTI-backed independent candidate Adeel Ahmad. In her political career of over 15 years, before representing MQM-P, she has been associated with various political parties, including, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Pakistan League-Q, Pak Sarzameen Party, and All Pakistan Muslim League, and Pak Sar Zameen Party.



Ayesha Nazir (Independent – PTI)

The PTI-backed independent candidate Ayesha Nazir Jutt won NA-156 Vehari-I by defeating PML-N candidate Ch Nazir Ahmad. She is the daughter of former MNA Ch Nazir Jutt and served as the party's vice president in South Punjab.



Aniqah Mehdi (Independent – PTI)

Aniqah won from NA-67 Hafizabad by defeating PML-N candidate and former federal minister Saira Afzal Tarar.

She is a new entrant to the National Assembly, although her family has been in politics for decades.



Baasima Chaudhry (Independent – PTI)

Baasima contested the GE-2024 for PP-41 Mandi Bahauddin-II and won the seat. She remained a member of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab from 2005 to 07 and returned to the Punjab Assembly in general elections 2013 against one of the seats reserved for women. Her father, Ch Riaz Asghar was a Member of the Punjab Assembly during 2002-05. Her grandfather, Chaudhry Faiz Ahmad was a member of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab from 1985-88 and functioned as Parliamentary Secretary for Transport.



Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho – (PPPP)

Sister of President Asif Ali Zardari, Dr Azra won the PS-36 Shaheed Benazirabad-I seat. After serving as an MNA from 2002 to 2018, she became an MPA in 2018 and served as the minister for health and population welfare.



Begum Tehmina Daultana – (PML-N)

Begum Tehmina Daultana won the election from Vehari (NA-158) against PTI-backed independent candidate Tahir Iqbal Chaudhry.

Tehmina had worked with Begum Kulsoom Nawaz, the late wife of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, during the military dictatorship of Pervez Musharraf. She was MNA from 2002 to 2007. She was Minister of State for women's development, social welfare, and special education in the second PMLN government from 1996-1999.



Faryal Talpur – (PPPP)

Faryal won the PS-10 Larkana-I seat by receiving 85,917 votes. She joined politics in 1997 when she contested the elections from NA-160 but lost to a PML-N candidate. She is the sister of President Asif Ali Zardari.

In 2001, she became the Nazim of Nawab Shah and was re-elected as the mayor of Nawab Shah in the 2005 local government elections. She was re-elected as MNA for the second time in the 2013 general election from NA-207 Larkana constituency. Her husband, Mir Munawar Ali Talpur, is also an MNA from NA-227 in Mirpurkhas. She won the PS-10 Larkana-I in 2018 as well.



Farzana Khalil – (Independent – PTI)

Farzana Khalil won PP-246 Bahawalpur-II seat. She has become an MPA for the first time.



Misbah Wajid – (Independent PTI)

Misbah Wajid, an independent candidate supported by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has won the GE-2024 election for Punjab Assembly constituency PP-172 Lahore-XXVIII.



Nadia Khar– (Independent PTI)

Nadia Khar won the GE-2024 from PP-277 Kot Addu-II. A first-timer, Ms. Khar defeated four former MPAs who competed. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supported her. She is the daughter of the late ex-MPA Malik Farooq Khar. Her father and later cousin, Jawad Khar, retained the constituency from 1997 to 2008.



Nafisa Shah – (PPPP)

Nafisa Shah won the NA-202 Khairpur-I seat. She has been returning to the National Assembly since 2008. She started her career as a journalist with Newline in 1986. She became mayor in 2001. Nafisa Shah is the daughter of Qaim Ali Shah who has served as a federal minister, senator, and chief minister of Sindh.



Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar (PML-N)

Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar won the NA-73 Sialkot-IV seat on the PML-N ticket. She is the daughter of former MNA and PML-N leader Syed Iftikhar-ul-Hassan and the wife of former MNA Syed Murtaza Amin. After the death of her father in 2020, Nosheen won the NA-75 Daska seat in a by-election in 2021.



Saima Kanwal (Independent - PTI)

Saima Kanwal, an independent candidate supported by the PTI, won the Punjab Assembly election from PP-260, Rahim Yar Khan-VI. This is the first time she has become a member of a legislature.



Shandana Gulzar Khan (Independent PTI)

Shandana Gulzar Khan, the PTI-backed independent candidate has won the GE-2024 from NA-30 Peshawar. She defeated JUI-F candidate Nasir Khan. Shandana first became MNA in 2018 on a reserved seat. Her father Gulzar Khan was a PTI MNA in 2013.



Shazia Hayat (Independent - PTI)

Shazia Hayat won the PP-225 Lodhran-I seat by securing 69,799 votes. Her husband (late) Nawab Hayatullah Khan Tareen was an MNA and politically associated with the PPP.



Suraiya Sultana (Independent PTI)

Suraiya Sultana, a PTI-backed independent candidate, won from PP-244 Bahawalnagar-VIII.



Zarnab Sher (Independent PTI)

Zarnab Sher, a PTI-backed independent candidate, won from PP-40 Mandi Bahauddin-I. She is the wife of former PPP MPA Tariq Mehmood Sahi.

Annex 2: Low Turnout Polling Stations

#.	Constituency	Name of Polling Station	Registered Voters	Vote Polled
1	NA-1 Chitral Upper-cum-Chitral Lower	GHS Ayun (Combined)	1,240	0
2	NA-2 Swat-I	GHS Matiltan (Combined)-I	1,824	0
3	NA-2 Swat-I	GGMS Miandam (Female)-I	1,565	0
4	NA-2 Swat-I	GPS Kasoona Miandam PS-2 (Female)	1,022	0
5	NA-2 Swat-I	GPS Gashkor (Female)-I	1,311	6
6	NA-3 Swat-II	GPS Melagah (Female)-I	983	0
7	NA-3 Swat-II	GMS Dagay (Female)-I	1,195	0
8	NA-4 Swat-III	GPS Shakardara (Female)-II	1,792	2
9	NA-4 Swat-III	GPS Kharkai Sakhra (Female)-I	2,907	3
10	NA-4 Swat-III	GMS Darnai Azad Banda (Female)-I	1,233	7
11	NA-4 Swat-III	GMS Boda Baba Balasoor (Female)-I	1,661	0
12	NA-5 Upper Dir	GPS Shokand (Combined)	1,386	0
13	NA-6 Lower Dir-I	GHS Shahi (Female)-I	1,756	0
14	NA-6 Lower Dir-I	GGPS Nagotal (Female)-I	669	0
15	NA-9 Malakand	GGPS Matkhanai (Female)-I	1,278	1
16	NA-9 Malakand	GGHS Matkhanai (Female)-I	1,146	2
17	NA-10 Buner	GHS Girarai (Female)-I	797	0
18	NA-10 Buner	GGMS Nanseer (Female)-I	1,301	0
19	NA-10 Buner	GMS Bhai Kalay (Female)-I	1,119	0
20	NA-10 Buner	Berjaya University School of Youth Ghazi Khanai (Female)-I	1,092	3
21	NA-10 Buner	GGPS Ghazi Khanai (Female)-I	1,615	0
22	NA-10 Buner	Govt Girls Primary School Elam (Female)-I	491	0
23	NA-10 Buner	GGPS Topdara (Female)-I	1,212	2
24	NA-10 Buner	Govt Girls High School Hisar (Female)-I	1,343	8
25	NA-10 Buner	GGPS Dherai (Female)-I	2,014	0
26	NA-10 Buner	GHS Amnawar (Female)-I	1,551	0
27	NA-10 Buner	GGPS Amnawar (Female)-I	949	0
28	NA-10 Buner	GHS Matwani (Female)-I	1,668	1
29	NA-10 Buner	GHS Gul Bandai (Female)-I	1,348	0
30	NA-10 Buner	GHS Alami Banda (Female)-I	1,493	0
31	NA-10 Buner	GGPS Wahidabad (Female)-I	1,430	0
32	NA-10 Buner	GPS Kowga No. 2 (Female)-I	854	0
33	NA-10 Buner	GMS Wach Khwar (Female)-I	1,772	0
34	NA-10 Buner	GPS No. 1 Agarai (Female)-I	944	0
35	NA-10 Buner	JICA Model School Agarai (Female)-I	1,944	0
36	NA-11 Shangla	GGPS Alpuri (Female)-I	1,061	3
37	NA-11 Shangla	GHS Bassi (Female)-I	677	0
38	NA-11 Shangla	GGPS Achar (Female)-I	1,098	0
39	NA-11 Shangla	GMS Managai (Female)-I	825	0
40	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Ajmir (Female)-I	676	0
41	NA-11 Shangla	GGPS Seria Kana (Female)-I	1,096	0
42	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Bazar Kot (Female)-I	1,094	0
43	NA-11 Shangla	GGHS Malak Khel (Female)-I	1,028	0
44	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Malak Khel (Female)-I	1,905	0
45	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Chichlo (Female)-I	1,014	0
46	NA-11 Shangla	GGPS Donai Sree Khawre (Female)-I	936	0
47	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Shatoot (Female)-I	1,049	0
48	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Kandaw Kana (Female)-I	1,191	0
49	NA-11 Shangla	GHSS Shapur (Female)-I	1,524	0
50	NA-11 Shangla	GGPS Naway Kalay (Alpuri) (Female)-I	1,438	0
51	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Machkandai (Female)-I	1,807	0
52	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Kerai (Female)-I	817	0
53	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Gandorai (Female)-I	1,154	0
54	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Kabalgram (Female)-I	2,020	0
55	NA-11 Shangla	BHU Kamach (Female)-I	1,447	0
56	NA-11 Shangla	GGCMS Cheedam (Female)-I	1,058	0
57	NA-11 Shangla	GPS GuliBut (Female)-I	1,322	0
58	NA-11 Shangla	GGPS Karora (Female)-I	2,032	5
59	NA-11 Shangla	GPS Pargana Katkor (Female)-I	197	7
60	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Peshora (Female)	1,402	0
61	NA-13 Battagram	GPS Chanjal Old Building (Female)	1,248	0
62	NA-13 Battagram	Government Primary School Hutal Batkul (Female)	1,701	0
63	NA-13 Battagram	Basic Health Unit Kanai (Female)-II	1,276	0
64	NA-13 Battagram	GHS Kanai (Female)-II	981	0

#.	Constituency	Name of Polling Station	Registered Voters	Vote Polled
65	NA-13 Battagram	GPS Kundd (Female)	930	0
66	NA-13 Battagram	Basic Health Unit Rashang (Female)	1,555	0
67	NA-13 Battagram	GMS Gangwal (Female)	1,013	0
68	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Gantar (Female)	1,118	0
69	NA-13 Battagram	GHS Nehr (Female)	1,367	0
70	NA-13 Battagram	GPS Bojri (Female)-II	1,007	0
71	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Pashto (Female)	1,794	0
72	NA-13 Battagram	GMS Tandol Bala (Female)-I	1,441	0
73	NA-13 Battagram	GGHS Ajmera (Female)-II	1,113	0
74	NA-13 Battagram	GPS Ajmera (Female)	803	6
75	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Chapargram (Female)	1,225	0
76	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Tamai (Female)	1,191	0
77	NA-13 Battagram	GGHS Battamori Shamali (Female)	1,147	0
78	NA-13 Battagram	GPS Shingri (Female)	980	1
79	NA-13 Battagram	GGHS Shamlai (Female)	1,166	0
80	NA-13 Battagram	Basic Health Unit Shamlai at Bansair (Female)-II	861	0
81	NA-13 Battagram	GPS Hill (Female)	1,242	0
82	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Hill (Female)	1,041	0
83	NA-13 Battagram	GPS Phagora (Female)	1,058	0
84	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Phagora (Female)	1,826	0
85	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Kharary (Female)	1,015	1
86	NA-13 Battagram	GPS Bilandkot (Female)	1,199	0
87	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Pirhari (Female)	678	0
88	NA-13 Battagram	GGMS Bar Pao Gijbori (Female)-II	1,049	0
89	NA-13 Battagram	GGPS Bar Pao Gijbori (Female)-II	1,185	0
90	NA-18 Haripur	GGMS Gali Amazai (Female)-I	736	3
91	NA-19 Swabi-I	GGHS Shiekh Dheri Anbar (F) (Female)-1	1,866	1
92	NA-20 Swabi-II	GPS No.1 Qamar Dhand Naranji, (F) (Female)-I	973	6
93	NA-20 Swabi-II	GPS Bahadar Khel Naranji (F) (Female)-I	1,947	3
94	NA-20 Swabi-II	GGMS Naranji (F) (Female)-I	1,908	0
95	NA-20 Swabi-II	GGHS Adina (F) (Female)-I	1,546	0
96	NA-20 Swabi-II	GGHS Adina (F) (Female)-II	1,282	0
97	NA-20 Swabi-II	GHSS (New Building) Adina (F) (Female)-I	1,338	0
98	NA-20 Swabi-II	GHSS (New Building) Adina (F) (Female)-II	1,368	0
99	NA-20 Swabi-II	GHSS (New Building) Adina (F) (Female)-III	1,238	0
100	NA-20 Swabi-II	GGCMS Hamza Dher Chak Nodeh (F) (Female)-I	1,669	9
101	NA-20 Swabi-II	GPS Ahad Khan Chak Nodeh (F) (Female)-I	1,700	8
102	NA-21 Mardan-I	GGPS Lakpani (Female)-I	1,369	0
103	NA-24 Charsadda-I	GGPS No. 2 Battagram (Female)-I	1,456	0
104	NA-26 Mohmand	GPS Bar Chinari (Female)-I	626	0
105	NA-26 Mohmand	GMS Bahai Dag PS No. 4 (Female)-II	2,139	8
106	NA-27 Khyber	GPS Niaz Muhammad (Female) BQK Tirah (Female)-I	1,006	0
107	NA-27 Khyber	Sher Dara Public School Zakha Khel Tirah (Female)-I	895	0
108	NA-27 Khyber	GPS China BZK (Female)-II	3,109	5
109	NA-27 Khyber	GPS Raees Killi BZK (Female)-II	2,735	6
110	NA-27 Khyber	GPS Kharai Mela Arman Khel Killi (Female)-II	3,840	0
111	NA-27 Khyber	GPS Nabat Killi Sra Shaga BZK (Female)-I	2,186	9
112	NA-30 Peshawar-III	Govt. Shaheed Shayan Nasir Middle School Sangu Landi Bala (Female)	1,947	2
113	NA-30 Peshawar-III	GGPS Haji Banda (Female)	1,177	0
114	NA-35 Kohat	GPS Darsha Khel (Combined)-I	1,002	0
115	NA-35 Kohat	GMS Gurgura (Combined)-I	1,806	0
116	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GGPS Sharqi Karbogha Sharif (Mula Talib) (Female)-I	1,504	0
117	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GGPS Daroorhi Kahi (Female)-I	1,326	0
118	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GGMS Sarozai (Female)-I	2,451	0
119	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GPS Sharqi Doaba (Female)-I	1,385	0
120	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GPS No. 2 Mianji Khel (Female)-I	1,321	0
121	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GPS Tora Ghundi (Female)-I	1,584	0
122	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GHSS Karbogha Sharif (Female)-I	1,833	2
123	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GPS Shamal Din (Female)-I	2,798	4
124	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GHS No. 2 Hangu (Male)-I	1,533	0
125	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GHS, Chapri Waziran (Female)-I	1,464	0
126	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GPS Doaba (Female)-I	1,229	0
127	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	GPS No. 1 Karbogha Sharif (Female)-I	1,324	0
128	NA-36 Hangu-cum-Orakzai	UC Office Naryab (Female)-I	2,403	0
129	NA-37 Kurram	GPS Wali Ali Sher Zai (Combined)-I	633	3
130	NA-39 Bannu	GGPS Ihsan Sapina Tango No. 2 (Female) PS-II	906	1

#.	Constituency	Name of Polling Station	Registered Voters	Vote Polled
131	NA-39 Bannu	GPS Ghajan Ismail Khani (Female)	1,174	4
132	NA-39 Bannu	GHS Sero Baba Khel (Female) PS-II	1,063	0
133	NA-39 Bannu	GGPS Shah Jahan Khudri Muhammad Khel (Female)	1,619	0
134	NA-39 Bannu	GGHSS Koti Sadat (Female) PS-I	1,581	0
135	NA-39 Bannu	GGHSS Koti Sadat (Female) PS-II	962	0
136	NA-39 Bannu	GGHS Boza Khel (Female)	1,803	0
137	NA-39 Bannu	GMS Zakir Khel Ibrahim Gul (Female)	1,152	0
138	NA-41 Lakki Marwat	GPS Wanda Mir Wali (Combined)-I	1,866	0
139	NA-41 Lakki Marwat	GMS Wanda Michen Khel (Female)-I	742	0
140	NA-41 Lakki Marwat	GMS Pahar Khel Thal (Female)-I	1,590	0
141	NA-41 Lakki Marwat	GGPS Pahar Khel Thal No. 2 (Female)-I	761	0
142	NA-41 Lakki Marwat	GPS Madati Nikah (Female)-I	817	0
143	NA-41 Lakki Marwat	BHU Shagai Mero Mela (Female)-I	1,271	0
144	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GPS Izzha Patonai (Combined)-I	120	8
145	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GHS Shinkai (Middle Section) (Combined)-I	304	7
146	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GHS Karama (Female)	1,393	2
147	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GHS Angoor Adda (Primary Section) (C) (Combined)-I	5,057	0
148	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GHS Angoor Adda (High Portion) (C) (Combined)-I	2,850	0
149	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GGPS Gingarai Baghar(C) (Combined)-I	348	0
150	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GPS Zam Cheena (C) (Combined)-I	946	0
151	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GPS Sara Khawara(C) (Combined)-I	892	0
152	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-South Waziristan Lower	GPS Nizi Narai (C) (Combined)-I	391	0
153	NA-42 South Waziristan Upper-cum-South Waziristan Lower	GGPS Khaneai (C) (Combined)-I	277	0
154	NA-43 Tank-cum-Dera Ismail Khan	GGPS Kot Azam (Female)-I	707	1
155	NA-43 Tank-cum-Dera Ismail Khan	GGPS Kot Nawaz (Female)-I	1,633	4
156	NA-43 Tank-cum-Dera Ismail Khan	GPS Gara Aslam (Combined)-I	1,268	1
157	NA-43 Tank-cum-Dera Ismail Khan	GHS Rorri (Female)-I	719	0
158	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GMS Kot Tagga (M) (Male)-I	920	0
159	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GMS Kot Tagga (F) (Female)-I	734	0
160	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GDC Paroa (M) (Male)-II	1,075	0
161	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GPS Rora (F) (Female)-II	770	0
162	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GHS Kirri Shamoza (F) PS.1 (Female)-I	734	0
163	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GHS Kirri Shamoza (C) PS.4 (Combined)-I (old GMS Jhok Mohana Combined)	1,323	0
164	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GHS Kirri Shamoza (M) PS.2 (Male)-I	1,056	3
165	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GHS Kirri Shamoza (F) PS.2 (Female)-I	914	0
166	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GGHS Kirri Shamoza (F) PS.2 (Female)-IV	927	0
167	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GGHS Kirri Shamoza (F) PS.2 (Female)-III	1,318	0
168	NA-45 Dera Ismail Khan-II	GGHS Khoi Bahara (F) (Female)-II	1,202	0
169	NA-59 Talagang cum Chakwal	Govt. Associate College for Woman Dhurnal (Female)-II	1,689	0
170	NA-59 Talagang cum Chakwal	GHS No.2 Dhurnal (Female)-I	1,853	3
171	NA-59 Talagang cum Chakwal	Govt. Associate College for Woman Dhurnal (Female)-II	1,412	7
172	NA-64 Gujrat-III	Circle Registrar Cooperative Society Mufti Ahmed Yar Khan Road, Chowk Pakistan Gujrat, Mohallah Muslim Abad. (Male)-I	2,441	0
173	NA-74 Sialkot-V	GBPS Kanbanwala (Combined)-I	1,629	0
174	NA-74 Sialkot-V	Govt. Model Primary School Kot Mirath (Combined)-I	1,725	0
175	NA-93 Chiniot-I	GGPS Darul Barakatt (Male)-I	804	8
176	NA-93 Chiniot-I	Govt. T.I. High School Chenab Nagar (Combined)-I	1,099	0
177	NA-93 Chiniot-I	GMES Darul Nasar (Muslim Colony) (Male)-II	799	6
178	NA-93 Chiniot-I	Govt. Nusrat High School Chenab Nagar (Female)-II	884	0
179	NA-93 Chiniot-I	Govt. T.I. Degree College Chenab Nagar (Combined)-II	1,397	0
180	NA-93 Chiniot-I	Govt. Nusrat High School Chenab Nagar (Female)-III	1,480	8
181	NA-93 Chiniot-I	Govt. T.I. Degree College Chenab Nagar (Combined)-I	1,436	0
182	NA-93 Chiniot-I	Govt. Model Primary School Darul Sardar Chenab Nagar (Male)-II	859	3
183	NA-93 Chiniot-I	Govt. T.I. Degree College Chenab Nagar (Combined)-VI	1,397	1
184	NA-93 Chiniot-I	Govt. T.I. Degree College Chenab Nagar (Combined)-IV	1,504	4
185	NA-102 Faisalabad-VIII	MC Girls High School, Dastghir Pura (Waris Pura) (Male)-I	1,813	0

#.	Constituency	Name of Polling Station	Registered Voters	Vote Polled
186	NA-102 Faisalabad-VIII	Marry Land School System, Assa Singh Park (Female)-I	844	0
187	NA-132 Kasur-II	GBHS Clark Abad (Combined)-II	1,610	0
188	NA-132 Kasur-II	GBPS Kot Salamat Pura (Combined)-I	1,055	0
189	NA-135 Okara-I	GBHS 4/GD (Female)-I	1,732	0
190	NA-144 Khanewal-I	GBHS Mohri Pur (Female)-I	1,687	6
191	NA-144 Khanewal-I	GGHS Mohri Pur (Female)-I	949	4
192	NA-163 Bahawalnagar-IV	GHS Boys 196/HB (Primary Block) (Male)-I	1,645	0
193	NA-180 Kot Addu-II	GHS Doost Ali Wala (Combined)-I	1,460	0
194	NA-180 Kot Addu-II	GGPS Jaal Wala (Combined)-I	1,640	0
195	NA-183 Taunsa	GMS Fazla Katch (Combined)-I	2,059	0
196	NA-183 Taunsa	GHS Katchi Wanga (Combined)-I	1,779	0
197	NA-183 Taunsa	GBHS Haran Bor (Combined)-I	Not Found	0
198	NA-189 Rajanpur-III	GBHSS Umar Kot (Male)-III	1,797	0
199	NA-189 Rajanpur-III	GPS Sher Jan No. 1 (Female)-I	1,601	0
200	NA-189 Rajanpur-III	Border Military Police Post Bara (Combined)-I	53	1
201	NA-191 Jacobabad-cum-Kashmore	GBPS Muhammad Karim Brohi Near Grid Station Thul (Combined)-I	375	0
202	NA-191 Jacobabad-cum-Kashmore	GBPS Manthar Jafferri (Female)-I	1,483	0
203	NA-192 Kashmore-cum-Shikarpur	GPS Pandhi Jagirani (Combined)-II	232	4
204	NA-210 Sanghar-II	UC Office Mothi Khoso Near Jumman Shah (Male)	1,333	0
205	NA-221 Tando Muhammad Khan	Sekhar Public School Saeed Khan Lund (Female)-I	1,349	5
206	NA-248 Karachi Central-II	Dastgir GGSS Block 9 F.B. Area	927	0
207	NA-248 Karachi Central-II	Govt. Elementary College Block 2 F.B. Area	2,125	0
208	NA-251 Sherani-cum-Zhob-cum-Killa Saifullah	GBMS Manki Viala (Combined)-I	483	0
209	NA-251 Sherani-cum-Zhob-cum-Killa Saifullah	GBPS Barat Khail (Female)-I	834	0
210	NA-251 Sherani-cum-Zhob-cum-Killa Saifullah	GBPS Gonj Cheena Killi Shaikhan (Female)-I	869	1
211	NA-251 Sherani-cum-Zhob-cum-Killa Saifullah	GHS Gowal Ismail Zai Portion-II (Female)-I	758	1
212	NA-252 Musa Khail--Barkhan--Loralai--Dukki	53 Boys M/S Tangi Sar (Combined)-I	866	0
213	NA-252 Musa Khail--Barkhan--Loralai--Dukki	GBHS Dargai Sargarh (Combined)-I	1,476	0
214	NA-252 Musa Khail--Barkhan--Loralai--Dukki	GPS Muhammad Azam Gharibabad (Combined)-I	1,088	1
215	NA-253 Ziarat-Harnai-Sib-Kohlu-Dera Bugti	Levies Thana Babar Kachh (Female)-I	608	0
216	NA-253 Ziarat-Harnai-Sib-Kohlu-Dera Bugti	GGHS (Primary School) Bahtiarabad (Female)-I	44	4
217	NA-253 Ziarat-Harnai-Sib-Kohlu-Dera Bugti	Civil Dispencery Baghao (Female)-I	858	0
218	NA-257 Hub-cum-Lasbela-cum-Awaran	GBPS Aziz Muhammad Goth (Combined)-II	Not Readable	0
219	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBMS Hothabad (Combined)	1,784	0
220	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Bahot Bazar (Combined)-I	1,159	0
221	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Bonal (Combined)-I	670	0
222	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBMS Garbank (Combined)-I	639	0
223	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBMS Nawano (Combined)-I	444	3
224	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Bal Hoshab (Combined)-II	862	0
225	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Baderang (Combined)-II	759	2
226	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Marastan (Combined)-II	348	0
227	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Jath (Combined)-II	757	0
228	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Choteen (Combined)-II	309	0
229	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBHS Heronk (Male)-II	1,371	0
230	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GGHS Heronk (Female)-II	1,183	0
231	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Kallag Sami (Combined)-II	668	0
232	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBMS Sari Kallag (Combined)-II	529	2
233	NA-258 Panjgur-cum-Kech	GBPS Kallag Jakki (Combined)-II	195	0
234	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GBPS Mullahi Nigore Karam Shah Bazar (Combined)-IV	339	0
235	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GBMS Bisholi Primary Section (Combined)-III	252	1
236	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GBMS Beshooli (Combined)-III	1,134	0
237	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GBMS Gawak (Combined)-III	1,448	0
238	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GBHS Ghomazi (High Section for Male)	1,036	0
239	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GBHS Ghomazi (Primary Section for Male)	1,219	0
240	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GGHS Ghomazi (For Female)-I	1,886	0
241	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GBPS Srinkin (Combined)	1,152	0

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242	NA-259 Kech-cum-Gwadar	GBPS Kallag Ghulam Mohammad Bazar (Combined)	386	7
243	NA-260 Chagai-Nushki-Kharan-cum-Washuk	GMS Muhammad Murad Gat (Combined)-I	592	0
244	NA-265 Pishin	GPS Sultan (Female)-I	725	0
245	NA-265 Pishin	GBPS Malak Muhammad Raza urf Malik Kata (Male)-I	898	0
246	NA-265 Pishin	Basic Health Unit (BHU) Nali (Female)-I	598	0

Disclaimer

While we have made significant effort to avoid any factual error, we gratefully accept and duly acknowledge any mistake and omission that the readers point out in our reports. Please contact Mr. Yasser Javed, our Senior Manager Data Management Unit at yasser.javed@tdea.pk

ABOUT FAFEN

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) is the first-ever network of civil society organizations in Pakistan dedicated to strengthening democracy through observation and oversight of electoral, parliamentary, and governance processes. With as many as 20 regional networks of over 500 tehsil-level civil society organizations, FAFEN is one of the most credible voices in the country for responsive, transparent, accountable, and efficient electoral, legislative, and local governance.

FAFEN's objectives are to a) educate citizens, communities, and their groups about civil liberties and political rights for effective democratic accountabilities through oversight of elections, elected assemblies, governments, and political parties; b) nurture, support, and strengthen pro-democracy civil society through investments in building capacities, developing institutions; and improving linkages; and c) strengthen voices for evidence-based and inclusive reforms to yield citizen-centered governance, free elections, effective representation, and greater enjoyment of fundamental rights, freedom, and liberties.

FAFEN has developed the capacity of over 100,000 citizens on elections and democracy, enabling them to observe General Elections in 2008, 2013, and 2018, local government elections in 2015 and 2021-2022, Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly Election in 2009, 2015, and 2020 as well as the by-elections to National and Provincial Assembly. The observations by these trained and legally accredited observers are carefully analyzed to provide continuous feedback to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Parliament, and political parties for improvements in the administrative, regulatory, and legal frameworks governing elections. FAFEN's contributions to electoral reforms have been acknowledged by the ECP, political parties, parliamentary committees, and national and international media. FAFEN was the only civil society voice to have been invited by the Supreme Court Judicial Commission, formed in 2015, to investigate the irregularities in General Election 2013 as a witness.



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK - FAFEN

