



FAFEN UPDATE ON ELECTION TRIBUNALS

MORE THAN HALF OF ELECTION PETITIONS STILL AWAIT DECISIONS BY TRIBUNALS

Between April 21 and July 31, 2025, election tribunals decided 35 election petitions related to the General Elections 2024 (GE-2024). With these decisions, the total number of resolved petitions has reached 171, accounting for 46 percent of the overall caseload pending before 23 tribunals across the four provinces.

Through its systematic tracking, FAFEN has identified 374 election petitions—124 challenging the electoral outcomes in the National Assembly (NA) constituencies and 250 in the Provincial Assemblies' (PA) constituencies. So far, approximately two-thirds (62 percent) of the petitions related to NA constituencies, and half (50 percent) of those pertaining to PA constituencies, remain undecided.

During the reporting period, 28 of the 35 decided petitions were from Punjab, three each from Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one from Balochistan. In Punjab, the four Lahore-based tribunals decided 15 petitions, the Bahawalpur tribunal decided nine, while the Rawalpindi and Multan tribunals decided two each. In Sindh, the two Karachi tribunals decided three petitions. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Bannu tribunal decided three cases. In Balochistan, a Quetta tribunal decided one petition.

While Punjab tribunals have gained pace in deciding the petitions, adjudication process in the remaining three provinces has slowed noticeably since April 2025. As many as 12 out of the 23 election tribunals have not concluded any petitions since April 21, 2025.

ELECTIONS TRIBUNALS: APPOINTMENTS AND LITIGATION

- 14 FEB 2024** ECP writes letters to Provincial High Courts seeking nomination of judges for appointment of election tribunals
- ECP notifies four election tribunals for Sindh and three for Balochistan, as nominated by respective High Courts **16 FEB 2024**
- 17 FEB 2024** ECP notifies five election tribunals for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one for ICT, as nominated by respective High Courts
- ECP notifies two election tribunals for Punjab, as nominated by Lahore High Court (LHC) **20 FEB 2024**
- 4 APR 2024** LHC nominates six more judges for appointment as election tribunals in Punjab
- ECP notifies two out of six judges nominated by LHC as election tribunals **26 APR 2024**
- 27 MAY 2024** President promulgates the Elections (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 allowing ECP to appoint retired judges as election tribunals
- LHC stays the notification of appointment of two tribunals instead of six as nominated by the LHC and rules that Chief Justice's opinion has pre-eminence over ECP in such appointment **29 MAY 2024**
- 4 JUN 2024** Defendants in petitions against election outcome in three Islamabad constituencies petition the ECP to transfer the petitions to another tribunal
- LHC issues order notifying appointment of six election tribunals, as nominated by its Chief Justice **12 JUN 2024**
- 14 JUN 2024** ECP appeals to Supreme Court against LHC decision and appointment of six election tribunals
- SC directs meaningful consultation between Chief Justice LHC and ECP **4 JUL 2024**
- 8 JUL 2024** Parliament enacts the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2024 giving permanence to the ordinance that allowed appointment of retired judges as election tribunals
- SC upholds ECP appeal and nullifies LHC's order on appointment of six tribunals in Punjab **30 SEP 2024**
- 3 OCT 2024** ECP reconstitutes Punjab's eight election tribunals including two retired judges for Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur Tribunals
- ECP approves transfer of election petitions pertaining to Islamabad constituencies to the Rawalpindi Tribunal comprising a retired judge **3 DEC 2024**
- 27 DEC 2024** Islamabad High Court (IHC) stays ECP's order to transfer Islamabad-related election petitions to Rawalpindi Tribunal. The matter remains sub judice till date.
- ECP replaces election tribunals hearing petitions pertaining to Sukkur and Shaheed Benazirabad constituencies **19 MAR 2025**
- 21 APR 2025** ECP replaces election tribunals hearing petitions pertaining to Bannu, D.I.Khan and Swat constituencies

Overall, Balochistan’s three tribunals have collectively decided 44 out of 52 petitions (85 percent) filed for NA and PA constituencies. Punjab’s eight tribunals have resolved 94 out of 192 petitions (49 percent). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s six tribunals have decided 12 out of 43 petitions (28 percent), while Sindh’s five tribunals have disposed of 21 out of 84 petitions (25 percent).

Out of 124 petitions challenging NA constituency results, 47 (38 percent) have been decided thus far. These include 30 from Punjab, nine from Balochistan, five from Sindh, and three from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Regarding PA constituencies, 124 out of 250 petitions (50 percent) have been decided, including 64 from Punjab, 35 from Balochistan, 16 from Sindh, and nine from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

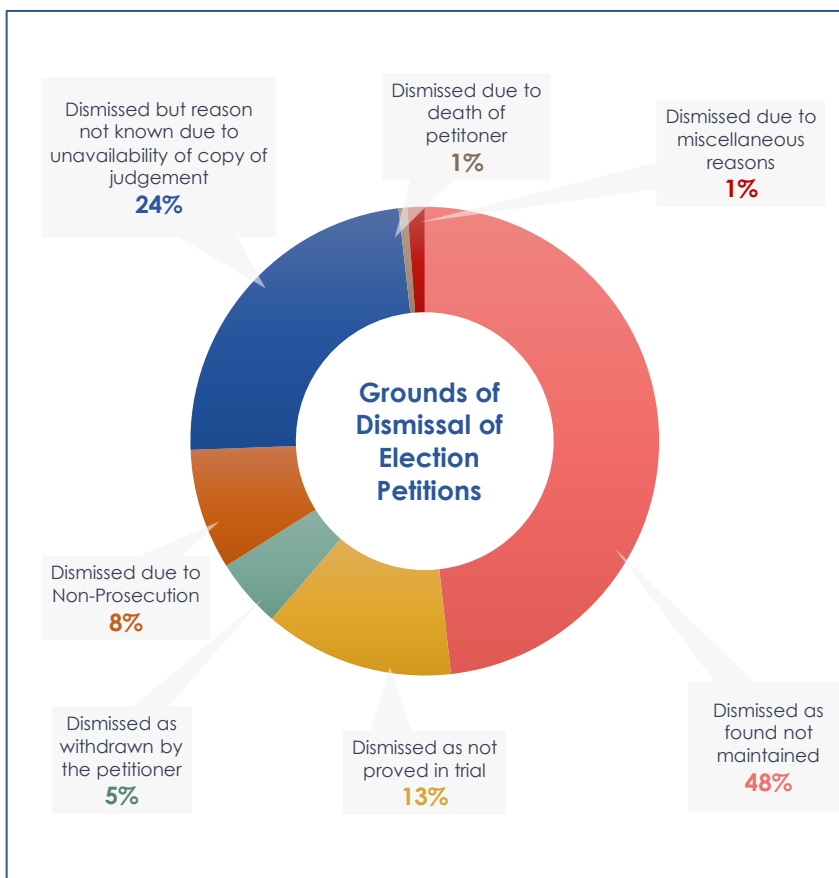
Following table presents a regional distribution of the election petitions decided till date, disaggregated by NA and PAs:

Region	Number of NA constituencies decided so far	Number of PA constituencies decided so far
Punjab	30	64
Sindh	5	16
KP	3	9
Balochistan	9	35
ICT	0	NA
Total	47	124

Out of the 171 petitions decided so far, 168 have been dismissed, while only three have been accepted. Among the 168 dismissals, 81 petitions (48 percent)—including 24 related to NA constituencies and 57 to PA constituencies—were dismissed on grounds of non-maintainability. Another 22 petitions (13 percent)—three from NA and 19 from PA constituencies—were dismissed after petitioners failed to prove their case during trial proceedings.

Additionally, eight petitions (five percent)—three from NA and five from PA constituencies—were withdrawn by the petitioners. Fourteen petitions (eight percent)—five from NA and nine from PA constituencies—were dismissed due to non-prosecution.

Moreover, three petitions (one percent) were dismissed for miscellaneous reasons, such as the death or resignation of the returned candidate, or non-compliance with court orders.



FAFEN has yet to obtain copies of tribunal decisions for 40 dismissed petitions—11 related to NA constituencies and 29 to PA constituencies—so the reasons for dismissal in these cases remain unknown.

The three accepted petitions were related to constituencies of the Balochistan Assembly including PB-44 Quetta-VII, PB-45 Quetta-VIII and PB-36 Kalat. The tribunals ordered re-polling at 16 polling stations of PB-44, 15 polling stations of PB-45, and seven polling stations of PB-36. Re-polling in PB-45 was held on January 5, 2025, returning the previous winner of PPPP to the seat. Re-polling in the other two constituencies did not take place. The order for repoll was earlier stayed by the Balochistan High Court and later was reversed in an appeal before the Supreme Court, while the Election Commission has postponed re-polling in PB-36 twice due to the prevailing law and order situation.

Following table presents a tribunal-wise number of petitions filed and disposed of, which FAFEN has been able to track so far:

Tribunal	Total Petitions Filed			Total Petitions Disposed of		
	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total
Karachi-I	16	12	28	2	3	5
Karachi-II	8	22	30	2	9	11
Sukkur	0	8	8	0	1	1
Hyderabad	4	7	11	1	2	3
Larkana	3	4	7	0	1	1
Quetta-I	1	25	26	1	23	24
Quetta-II	0	17	17	0	12	12
Quetta-III	9	0	9	8	0	8
Lahore-I	11	24	35	9	16	25
Lahore-II	11	14	25	0	2	2
Lahore-III	4	15	19	4	14	18
Lahore-IV	5	11	16	1	7	8
Lahore-V	11	13	24	2	4	6
Multan	7	17	24	1	2	3
Bahawalpur	11	15	26	9	12	21
Rawalpindi	11	12	23	4	7	11
Islamabad	3	0	3	0	0	0
Peshawar-I	1	6	7	0	0	0
Peshawar-II	1	5	6	0	0	0
Mingora	3	8	11	2	2	4
Abbotabad	1	4	5	0	3	3
D.I. Khan	1	4	5	0	2	2
Bannu	2	7	9	1	2	3
Total	124	250	374	47	124	171

PETITIONS' DISPOSAL RATE, DISAGGREGATED BY PETITIONERS' POLITICAL AFFILIATION

The independent candidates supported by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) make the largest group of petitioners with 55 percent of total petitions filed by them, followed by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) candidates (13 percent), Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) candidates (eight percent), unaffiliated independent candidates (seven percent) and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan (JUI-P) candidates (seven percent). As many as 16 other parties' candidates cumulatively account for the remaining 12 percent of the total petitions.

Around 65 percent petitions of independent candidates, 54 percent of PPPP, 54 percent of PML-N, 40 percent of JUI-F, and 38 percent of PTI-Backed independent candidates have been disposed of till date. The following table presents a breakdown of petitions filed and disposed of for the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies, disaggregated by the petitioners' political affiliation.

Petitioner's Party	No. of Petitions Filed		No. of Petitions Disposed Off		Rate of Disposal		Overall Rate of Disposal
	NA	PA	NA	PA	NA	PA	
PTI-Backed Independent	86	120	26	52	30%	43%	38%
Pakistan Muslim League (N)	15	33	6	20	40%	61%	54%
Independent	6	20	4	13	67%	65%	65%
Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians	5	23	4	11	80%	48%	54%
Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan	4	21	1	9	25%	43%	40%
Others¹	8	33	6	19	75%	58%	61%

PETITIONS DISPOSAL RATE, DISAGGREGATED BY DEFENDANT'S POLITICAL AFFILIATION

The returned candidates belonging to PML-N make the largest group of defendants with 39 percent of the petitions challenging their victory, followed by PTI-backed candidates (16 percent), Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQMP) candidates and PPPP candidates (13 percent each), unaffiliated independents (six percent) and JUI-P (five percent). As many as 11 other defendant parties' candidates² cumulatively account for the remaining eight percent petitions.

The following table presents a breakdown of petitions filed and disposed of for the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies, disaggregated by the responders' political affiliation.

Respondent's Party	No. of Petitions Filed		No. of Petitions Disposed Off		Rate of Disposal		Overall Rate of Disposal
	NA	PA	NA	PA	NA	PA	
Pakistan Muslim League (N)	54	91	21	47	39%	52%	47%

¹ These other parties include, Awami National Party (AN), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Balochistan National Party (BNP), Balochistan National Party (Awami) (BAP-A), Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Haq Do Tehreek Balochistan, Hazara Democratic Party, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party-IPP), Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JI), Jamhoori Wattan Party (JWP), Khadmeen-e-Sindh, National Democratic Movement (NDM), National Party (NP), Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party Pakistan (PNAPP), and Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

² These other parties include Awami National Party (ANP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Balochistan National Party (BNP), Balochistan National Party (Awami) (BNP-A), Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP), National Party (NP), Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-Ul-Haq Shaheed) (PML-Z), and Pakistan Threek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian (PTIP).

Respondent's Party	No. of Petitions Filed		No. of Petitions Disposed Off		Rate of Disposal		Overall Rate of Disposal
	NA	PA	NA	PA	NA	PA	
PTI-Backed Independent	16	44	8	24	50%	55%	53%
Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan	19	30	4	12	21%	40%	33%
Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	18	30	5	12	28%	40%	35%
Independent	5	19	4	11	80%	58%	63%
Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan	5	13	2	8	40%	62%	56%
Others	7	23	3	10	43%	43%	43%

APPEALS BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT AGAINST DECISIONS OF ELECTION TRIBUNALS

So far, 84 decisions of election tribunals have been contested before the Supreme Court. Among these, three appeals were initiated by the returned candidates against whom election petitions had been accepted. Of these appeals, one filed by the PPPP's returned candidate in PB-44 Quetta-VII was allowed by the Supreme Court, setting aside the election tribunal's ruling that had accepted the petition of the National Party candidate. Another appeal, lodged by the PPPP's returned candidate in PB-45 Quetta-VIII, was dismissed by the apex court, thereby upholding the decision of the election tribunal. The third appeal, filed by the BAP's returned candidate in PB-36 Kalat, remains pending adjudication.

Additionally, 81 appeals have been filed against the rejection of election petitions by the respective election tribunals. Of these, Supreme Court has so far dismissed twelve appeals upholding the tribunals' decisions. These dismissed appeals were filed by candidates belonging to PPPP (four), PTI-backed independents (three), NP (two), and BNP-A, JUI-P, and unaffiliated independent (one each).

The remaining 71 appeals—21 pertaining to the National Assembly and 50 to the Provincial Assemblies—are currently under adjudication. These include 26 petitions challenging results in constituencies of Balochistan, 37 in Punjab, and eight in Sindh.