

Elections in Taiwan (Republic of China)

2016 Presidential and Legislative Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When were the elections held?	1
2. Who did citizens of Taiwan elect into the public office in the 2016 Elections?.....	1
3. What is the electoral system adopted for the Presidential Election?.....	1
4. What is the electoral system adopted for the Legislative Election?.....	1
5. What is the election management body in Taiwan? What are its powers?	2
6. Who is eligible to vote?.....	2
7. Do citizens of Taiwan need to register to vote?	3
8. How many registered voters were there in the elections?	3
9. Who is eligible to be a presidential candidate?	3
10. Which parties are qualified to nominate presidential candidates?.....	4
11. What is the minimum amount of joint signers required for nominating presidential candidates through petition?.....	4
12. Who were the registered presidential candidates?	4
13. Who is eligible to register as a district or indigenous legislator candidate?	5
14. Which political parties are eligible to nominate candidates for the Party List PR Election?	5
15. How many political parties nominated a list of candidates for the Party List PR Election?	6
16. Are there reserved seats for women? What was the gender balance within the candidate list?.....	6
17. What was the registration status for the Legislative Election?.....	6
18. What is the candidate registration fee for each type of election? What are the conditions for returning deposits?	7
19. What time do polling stations open on Election Day?	7
20. How many polling stations were set up on Election Day? How many staffs were there at each polling station?	7
21. What is the standard voting procedure?.....	7
22. Is out-of-country voting or absentee voting permitted?	8
23. Will assistance be provided for people with disabilities?	8

24. What is the procedure for counting votes?	8
25. What is the procedure for tabulating votes ?	8
26. When does recount take place?	9
27. When were the preliminary results announced?	9
28. What was the voter turnout?.....	9
29. When was the official results announced?.....	10
30. What was the result of the Presidential Election?	10
31. What were the results of the Legislative Elections?	10
32. What is the gender balance within the elected list of legislators?	10
33. How much subsidy were given out during the elections?	11
34. How will election disputes be adjudicated?.....	12

1. When were the elections held?

The Presidential and the Legislative Elections were held on January 16, 2016.

2. Who did citizens of Taiwan elect into the public office in the 2016 Elections?

Citizens of Taiwan elected the president, vice president, and 113 legislators.

3. What is the electoral system adopted for the Presidential Election?

The president and vice president are directly elected by the people for a term of 4 years. The Presidential Election adopts the plurality voting system. The president and vice president candidates are nominated on a joint ticket. The presidential and vice presidential candidates will be displayed in groups on the ballot; the group with the most votes will be elected.

4. What is the electoral system adopted for the Legislative Election?

Legislators serve for a term of 4 years. The electoral system is as follows:

- District Legislators Election: Total 73 seats; each municipality, county or city has at least one seat. The seats are allocated according to the population of each municipality, county or city. The election adopts the plurality with single-member-district voting system.
- Indigenous Legislators Election: Total 6 seats, including 3 lowland indigenous legislators and 3 high indigenous legislators. The election adopts the single-nontransferable voting system.
- National-at-large Legislators (Party List PR) Election: Total 34 seats. Seats are proportionally allocated to the parties received more than 5% of the party votes. The election adopts the closed party list system.

5. What is the election management body in Taiwan? What are its powers?

Elections in Taiwan are conducted by the Central Election Commission (CEC), with 22 municipality, county, and city election commissions under its jurisdictions. All elections are conducted on the basis of “Presidential and Vice Presidential Election and Recall Act” and “Civil Servants Election and Recall Act”, and under the principals of universality, fairness, directness, and secrecy. During the election period, the municipality, county, and city election commissions will set up a total of 368 electoral operation centers in townships (cities / districts) to assist in electoral affairs.

The CEC has 11 commissioners, including one Chairman and one Vice Chairman. Each member of CEC is nominated and, with the consent of the Legislative Yuan, appointed by the Premier. Term length of each member shall be 4 years and renewable once.

The CEC is in charge of managing the Presidential and Legislative Elections. The CEC’s duties include: issuance of public notice for the elections, proceeding and planning electoral affairs, scheduling the date of Election Day, examining the candidates’ qualifications and the results of the election. Under the supervision of the CEC, the municipality, county, and city election commissions will handle the following affairs: establishment and management of the polling stations, printing of the election ballots and election bulletin as well as directing and supervising the electoral operation centers to handle the distribution of election bulletin and the polling notice, and selection of staffs at polling stations.

6. Who is eligible to vote?

- Presidential Election:
 - He/She must be a citizen of the Republic of China (ROC) and 20 years of age or older.
 - He/She must reside in Taiwan for no less than 6 consecutive months.
 - The citizen is not subject to the order of the commencement of guardianship.

- Those eligible who live in a foreign country may apply to come back to vote.
- Legislative Election:
 - He/She must be a citizen of the ROC and 20 years of age or older.
 - He/She must reside in the corresponding electoral district for no less than 4 consecutive months.
 - The citizen is not subject to the order of the commencement of guardianship.

7. Do citizens of Taiwan need to register to vote?

All eligible voters are registered by the household registration offices; hence, voters do not need to register to vote. The only exception being the overseas voters that are returning for the Presidential Election; they must submit an application to vote. For all other public official elections, the household registration offices will complete the assignment of all eligible voters to their corresponding electoral districts based on their residency 20 days before the Election Day.

8. How many registered voters were there in the elections?

- Presidential Election: 18,782,991 people were eligible to vote.
- Legislative Elections:
 - Eligible voters for the Party List PR Legislators Election: 18,786,940 people.
 - Eligible voters for District Legislators Election: 18,305,112 people.
 - Eligible voters for Lowland Indigenous Legislators Election: 187,076 people.
 - Eligible voters for Highland Indigenous Legislators Election: 200,029 people.

9. Who is eligible to be a presidential candidate?

- Presidential candidates are nominated by political parties on a joint ticket or by citizen petition.
- People who meet the following requirements can be nominated for the presidential election:

- He/She must be a citizen of the ROC and 40 years of age or older.
- He/She must reside in the ROC for no less than 6 consecutive months, with domicile for more than 15 years.
- Restrictions on candidacy (people who have any of the following circumstances may not register as a candidate for the presidential election):
 - Anyone who restores the ROC nationality or acquires the ROC nationality by naturalization or the people in the People's Republic of China or the residents in Hong Kong and Macao who are permitted to enter Taiwan may not be registered as the candidate for president or vice president.
 - A person that has been convicted of a specific offense by a court of law, declared bankruptcy, deprived of civil rights and has not been restored, and/or has become subject to the order of the commencement of guardianship or assistantship has not been cancelled yet.
 - A military man in active service, a person handling election affairs, and/or is of foreign nationality.

10. Which parties are qualified to nominate presidential candidates?

In order for a political party to nominate presidential candidates, the party must have received an aggregate at least 5% of the total valid votes in the most recent Presidential or Legislative election.

11. What is the minimum amount of joint signers required for nominating presidential candidates through petition?

The number of joint signers must reach at least 1.5% of the total number of electors (approximately 269,709 people) in the most recent Legislative election.

12. Who were the registered presidential candidates?

For the Presidential Election, the CEC accepted candidate registrations from Nov. 23 to 27, 2015. Three political parties nominated candidates namely: Mr. James Soong and Ms.

Hsin-Ying Hsu for the People First Party, Mr. Liluan Chu and Ms. Ju-Hsuan Wang for the Kuomintang, and Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai and Mr. Chien-Jen Chen for the Democratic Progressive Party.

13. Who is eligible to register as a district or indigenous legislator candidate?

- People who meet the requirements listed below may register as a candidate:
 - He/She must be a citizen of the ROC and 23 years of age or older.
 - He/She must reside in the corresponding electoral district of the election for no less than 4 consecutive months.
 - Indigenous legislator candidates must be indigenous people.
- Restrictions on candidacy (people who have any of the following circumstances may not register as a candidate for the legislator elections):
 - A person that has been convicted of a specific offense by a court of law, declared bankruptcy, deprived of civil rights and has not been restored, and/or has become subject to the order of the commencement of guardianship or assistantship has not been cancelled yet.
 - A military man in active service, a person handling election affairs.

14. Which political parties are eligible to nominate candidates for the Party List PR Election?

The parties established according to the laws, may nominate candidates if meeting one of the requirements below:

- In the most recent Presidential Election, the candidate of the party had received over 2% of the total number of valid votes.
- In the three most recent Party List PR Elections, the candidate of the party had received over 2% of the total number of valid votes.
- The party currently has 5 or more legislators in service. When applying for the candidates, the party must prepare a list of candidates and legal declaration written by the legislators.
- Nominate over 10 candidates in the District and Indigenous

Legislators Election, and the candidates are all approved by the CEC.

15. How many political parties nominated a list of candidates for the Party List PR Election?

In the 2016 Party List PR Election, a total of 18 parties have nominated candidates including: Democratic Progressive Party, Kuomintang, People First Party, New Power Party, New Party, Green Social Democratic Party, Taiwan Solidarity Union, Faith and Hope League, Minkuotang, Military Civil Faculty Alliance Party, Non-Partisan Solidarity Union, Trees Party, Chinese Unionist Party, National Health Service Alliance, Free Taiwan Party, Peace Pigeon Union Party, Taiwan Independence Party, Constitutional Conventions of Taiwan etc..

16. Are there reserved seats for women? What was the gender balance within the candidate list?

According to the Constitution, half of each party's elected members in the Party List PR Election should be female. A total of 34 seats are required for this election.

In the 2016 Party List PR Election, there were 92 female out of the total 179 candidates, which accounts for 51.40%.

17. What was the registration status for the Legislative Election?

For the Legislative Election, the CEC accepted candidate registrations from Nov. 23 to 27, 2015. For the Party List PR Election, 18 political parties nominated a total of 179 candidates. For the District Legislators Election, 356 candidates were registered and 2 of them failed to qualify. For the Indigenous Legislators Election, 13 candidates were registered to run for the Lowland Indigenous Legislator positions while 10 were registered to run for the Highland Indigenous Legislator positions.

18. What is the candidate registration fee for each type of election? What are the conditions for returning deposits?

- Candidate registration deposit:

- Presidential Election: 15,000,000 NT\$(New Taiwan Dollar).
- Legislative Election: 200,000NT\$.
- Conditions for Deposit Return:
 - Presidential Election: If the number of votes received has exceeded 5% of the total electors (approximately 939,150 people), the deposit may be returned.
 - Legislative Election:
 - ◆ Party List PR Election: The elected legislators may have their deposits returned.
 - ◆ District and Indigenous Legislators Election: If the number of votes received exceeds 10% of the quotient of the total electorate divided by the number of seats available, the deposits may be returned.

19. What time do polling stations open on Election Day?

Voting starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m., but voters arrived the polling station before may continue to proceed.

20. How many polling stations were set up on Election Day? How many staffs were there at each polling station?

For this election, a total of 15,582 polling stations were set up nationwide and 206,406 staff were employed.

There will be one chief administrator, one chief scrutineer, 3 to 14 administrators, 2 to 4 scrutineers, and one guard. In the 2016 Presidential and Legislative Election, each polling station had an average of 8 administrators and 3 scrutineers.

21. What is the standard voting procedure?

The elector is required to vote at the polling station in person on Election Day.

The elector will have his/her ID card checked by a staff upon arrival at the polling station. Once entering the polling station, the elector should sign/stamp/fingerprint the voter's list. The elector will then receive the ballots and be able to mark whom he/she wishes to vote using the marking tools prepared by the election commission. The ballot will be placed into the ballot box when the voting action is completed and the elector will proceed to leave the

polling station.

22. Is out-of-country voting or absentee voting permitted?

Neither is permitted. Absentee voting system is yet to be established.

23. Will assistance be provided for people with disabilities?

To ensure the right of voters with disabilities, the CEC has a checklist with 28 criteria to assess whether a polling station meets the accessibility requirements.

The election commissions also provide recording of audio electoral bulletins, arrange sign language interpretation in all government funded broadcast presentations, settle wheelchair accessible polling booths, and prepare ballot slip covers with Braille printing in all polling stations. If a voter cannot vote due to disability, but can express his/her will, then a family member may accompany him/her upon request and provide the assistance needed. The family member may also vote on his/her behalf. In the absence of family members, a polling administrator and a scrutineer may provide assistance or vote on the voter's behalf upon request.

24. What is the procedure for counting votes?

After the poll closes, all polling stations are rearranged for vote counting. To get a vote count, station staff are required to take each ballot out of the ballot box one by one consecutively. The ballot will be read out loudly and displayed to the attending public witnesses. Finally, the vote will be recorded and the ballots will be organized. Seats for the witnesses must be set up and the counting process is open to photography and filming.

25. What is the procedure for tabulating votes ?

After the counting at the stations is completed, the chief administrator and the chief scrutineer will compile a written report of the results and post the report on the bulletin board outside the station and then designate a courier to deliver the station results to the townships (cities / districts) electoral operation centers, so the results can be entered into a centralized computing system.

After the townships (cities / districts) electoral operation centers receive the vote results from the polling stations, the data will be entered into a centralized computing system for compilation and for result updates. The Counting and Information Center for Election provides the real-time election results to the public. One could check up-to-date polling counts through the CEC's website on Election Day, regardless of one's current location. The final results are usually available within the same day of the election.

26. When does recount take place?

For the Presidential and District Legislators Election, if the difference between the candidates with the highest and second highest number of votes is within 0.3% of the valid votes, the candidate with the second highest votes may apply for recount to the court with jurisdiction within 7 days after the election.

For the Indigenous Legislators Election, if the difference between the candidates with the third and fourth highest number of votes is within 0.3% of the valid ballots, the candidate with the fourth highest votes may apply for recount to the court with jurisdiction within 7 days after the election.

27. When were the preliminary results announced?

The counting and tabulating were completed at 10:50 pm on January 16, 2016, and the preliminary results were announced by Chairman Dr. I-Chou Liu from CEC.

28. What was the voter turnout?

- Presidential Election: 66.27%.
- Legislative Elections:
 - Party List PR Election: 66.25%.
 - District Legislators Election: 66.58%.
 - Lowland Indigenous Legislators Election: 51.72%.
 - Highland Indigenous Legislators Election: 57.66%.

29. When was the official results announced?

The official results were announced by the CEC on January 22, 2016.

30. What was the result of the Presidential Election?

The votes received by each group of presidential candidates:

- Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai and Mr. Chien-Jen Chen from the Democratic Progressive Party: 6,894,744 votes.
- Mr. Liluan Chu and Ms. Ju-Hsuan Wang from the Kuomintang: 3,813,365 votes.
- Mr. James Soong and Ms. Hsin-Ying Hsu from the People First Party: 1,576,861 votes.

President Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai and Vice President Mr. Chien-Jen Chen from the Democratic Progressive Party were elected.

31. What were the results of the Legislative Elections?

The results of the Legislative Elections were as followed:

- Party List PR Election: the Democratic Progressive Party, the Kuomintang, the People First Party and the New Power Party were assigned seats in the parliament as they received more than 5% of the valid votes. More specifically, the Democratic Progressive Party, the Kuomintang, the People First Party and the New Power Party received 18, 11, 3, and 2 seats respectively.
- District Legislators Election: the Democratic Progressive party received 49 seats, the Kuomintang received 20 seats, the New Power Party received 3 seats, and 1 seat was given to a non-partisan.
- Indigenous Legislators Election: the Democratic Progressive party received 1 seat, the Kuomintang received 4 seats, and Non-Partisan Solidarity Union received 1 seat.

Furthermore, the Democratic Progressive Party received a total of 68 seats, which marks the first time the party has received more than half of the seats in Legislative Yuan.

32. What is the gender balance within the elected list of legislators?

In this Legislative Election, out of the 113 legislators that were elected, 43 of them were female (38.05%). This is the highest percentage of female legislators in the parliament among Asian countries and is among the best worldwide as well.

33. How much subsidy were given out during the elections?

- Presidential Election:
 - The group of candidates who exceed one third of the votes received by the winning candidate group will be subsidized at a rate of 30 NT\$ per vote for their campaign expenses. The subsidy will be received by the political party nominating the candidates.
 - For the 2016 Presidential Election, the political parties were subsidized as followed:
 - ◆ The Democratic Progressive Party and its nominees Ms. Ing-Wen Tsai and Mr. Chien-Jen Chen: 206,842,320 NT\$. The subsidy was received by the Democratic Progressive Party.
 - ◆ The Kuomintang and its nominees Mr. Liluan Chu and Ms. Ju-Hsuan Wang: 114,400,950 NT\$. The subsidy was received by the Kuomintang.
- Legislative Election:
 - District and Indigenous Legislator Elections:
 - ◆ For the District Legislators Election, 30 NT\$ will be subsidized to the candidates who exceed one third of the votes sufficient to win a seat in their electoral district. For the Indigenous Legislators Election, 30 NT\$ will be subsidized to the candidates who exceed one half of the votes sufficient to win a seat.
 - ◆ In the 2016 Legislative Elections, 155 candidates were subsidized for a total of 335,595,900 NT\$.
 - Party List PR Election:
 - ◆ The political parties that received more than 3.5% of the total valid votes will be subsidized 50 NT\$ per vote for 4 years.
 - ◆ For the 2016 Party List PR Election, 5 parties were subsidized by the following amount:
 - Democratic Progressive Party: 268,547,650 NT\$.
 - Kuomintang: 164,047,450 NT\$.
 - People First Party: 39,741,900 NT\$.
 - New Power Party: 37,215,750 NT\$.
 - New Party: 25,503,700NT\$.

34. How will election disputes be adjudicated?

- Institutions for adjudicating electoral affairs:
 - Administrative Sanction: Election commissions.
 - Criminal Penalty: Judiciary.
 - Election Lawsuits: Judiciary.
- Adjudication of electoral disputes:
 - Administrative Sanction: Will be deliberated by the monitoring team and the commission.
 - Criminal Penalty: After prosecution by the attorney, the court will adjudicate the case.
 - Election Lawsuits: The lawsuit categories include invalid election or recall, invalidity of elected officials, invalid adoption or veto of a proposal of recall. The Electoral Court will adjudicate these cases.