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Election 2013 — 448 women in the race

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE, May 7: At least 448 women candidates are in the run for the May 11 general election with 147 of them eyeing 105 National Assembly seats and 301 contesting for 203 provincial seats.

The Researchers, a non-government organisation documenting women's political empowerment, especially their electoral participation since 2002 in Pakistan, says that for the National Assembly seats, 90 women are in the run for 66 seats in Punjab, 37 for 24 Sindh seats, 14 for 10 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa seats and three for as many Balochistan seats. Two women are contesting election for a seat in Islamabad, while a woman is contesting election for a tribal area seat for the first time in the history of this area.

NGO's executive director Aazar Ayaz says 21 political parties have given tickets to 60 women candidates, while 87 are independent.

There is a 100 per cent rise in the

number of women candidates as compared to the general election of 2008 when there were 73 women in the race for 64 seats. Seven political parties had given tickets to 41 of them.

In 2002 polls, 58 women candidates had fought for 48 seats and 38 of them enjoyed the support of political parties.

For the provincial assemblies the situation is as follows:

Provinces	Contesting Women	Constituencies
Punjab	169	116
Sindh	94	59
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	27	20
Balochistan	11	8
Total	301	203
31 political parties gave 111 tickets, while 190 are independent candidates		
2008 general elections		
	122	115
6 political parties gave 37 tickets, while 85 were independent candidates		
Total	119	101
20 political parties gave 52 tickets, while 67 were independent candidates		