

Press Release

448 Women Candidates Enter the Election Arena for General Seats

The Researchers

Observing the current electoral process and run up to Election 2013 from a gender lens initial estimates brings out that 147 women will contest for the 105 National Assembly constituencies whereas at provincial level 301 women for 203 constituencies will contest on general seats, Mr. Aazar Ayaz, Executive Director The Researchers (TR), informs.

The Researchers is a research based national NGO that has been documenting women political empowerment especially their electoral participation since 2002 in Pakistan through election observation of women contested constituencies. TR with its regional partners undertook similar initiative in Nepal & Bangladesh in the year 2008. For 2013 it joins hand with Pakistan Governance Forum (PGF) and Women and Politics in Asia Forum (WPAF) to bring out an analytical gender observation report focusing women in 2013. The report will contain primary data, historic co-relation and performance of women contestants in Election 2013.

TR has gender desegregated the final list of candidates as made available by the ECP. The list in its present form is neither gender neither desegregated nor supported by availability of nomination papers for all. As per the data analysis for the **National Assembly** the situation is as follows:

Provinces/Areas	Contesting Women	Constituencies
Punjab	90	66
Sindh	37	24
Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	14	10
Balochistan	3	3
Islamabad	2	1
FATA (As first ever-female candidate)	1	1
Total	147	105
21 Political Parties giving 60 Tickets while 87 are Independent Candidates		
2008 General Elections	73	64
7 Political Parties gave 41 Tickets while 32 were Independent Candidates		
2002 General Elections	58	48
12 Political Parties gave 38 Tickets while 20 were Independent Candidates		

For the **Provincial Assemblies** the situation is as follows:

Provinces	Contesting Women	Constituencies
Punjab	169	116
Sindh	94	59
Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	27	20
Balochistan	11	8
Total	301	203
31 Political Parties giving 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		

In 2008, 195 Women contested elections as against 448 for 2013 an increase of 129.8% over 2008 and 153.2% on 2002. Similarly in 2008, 25 (NA-15, PA-10) women were elected on general seats and out of them 18 (NA-11, PA-7) are re-contesting in 2013, when the same is compared with 2002 General Elections 14 (NA-9, PA-5) are contesting again on General seats. Interestingly, in National Assembly 5 women are contesting from more than one constituency, for Provincial Assembly seats 6 women are contesting from more than one constituency while 16 women are contesting from both National and Provincial constituencies.

In coming days TR will bifurcate the data as per political parties and disseminate.