
Dual distribution

CONSTITUTIONS, ELECTORAL LAWS AND OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS
RELATING TO THE FRANCHISE OF WOMEN AND THEIR PARTICIPATION
TO PUBLIC OFFICE AND FUNCTIONS

(Memorandum submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance
with resolution 120(VI) of the Economic and Social Council)

Since the publication of document A/619 of 23 August 1948, the
following new information has been received by the Secretariat:

Bulgaria - The final text of the relevant provisions of the Constitution
reads:

Article 3. All citizens of the People's Republic who are above 18 years
of age, irrespective of sex, national origin, race, religion, education,
profession, social status or material situation, with the exception of those
under judicial disability or deprived of their civil and political rights,
are eligible to vote and to be elected.

All persons serving in the ranks of the Bulgarian People's Army can vote
and can be elected on the same basis as all other Bulgarian citizens.

Article 72. Women have equal rights with men in all spheres of the
state, private, economic, public, cultural and political life.

El Salvador - The Constitution now in force is that of 13 August 1886 as
amended on 29 November 1945. The pertinent articles are:

Article 51. All Salvadorians of 18 years of age and those who are
married and have obtained some literary degree, even though they have not
reached that age, are citizens.

Article 60. To be elected deputy, it is necessary to be more than 25
years of age, a Salvadorian citizen of recognized honesty and education without
having lost citizenship in the five years previous to the election and to
be a native of the Department that elects him.

Article 122. All Salvadorian citizens shall exercise the rights of
suffrage. The exercise of these rights shall be regulated by the law.*

Germany - The following information has been received by the Secretariat up to
the present time. Efforts are being continued to obtain the original texts of
the Constitutions of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Pomerania and Saxony-Anhalt.
No constitutions were promulgated in the German States in the British Zone and
in the city of Berlin.

* The word "salvadoreno" may be interpreted to mean only men.

UNITED STATES ZONE

Bavaria - Constitution of 1 December 1946:

Article 7. Every (Bavarian) national who is 21 years old is a citizen without distinction of birth, race, sex, creed and occupation.

Article 14. The deputies are elected... by all qualified voting citizens in a general, equal, direct and secret election... Every qualified citizen who is 25 years old is eligible for election.

Hesse - Constitution of 1 December 1946:

Article 1. All men are equal before the law without distinction of sex, race, birth and religious or political convictions.

Article 73. All German citizens over 21 years of age who are domiciled in Hesse, and have not been deprived of their rights to vote are entitled to vote. The franchise is general, equal, secret and direct.

Article 75. Persons possessing the franchise who are 25 years of age are eligible for election.

Württemberg-Baden - Constitution of 21 November 1946:

Article 2. All persons, irrespective of sex and origin, are free and equal before the law.

Article 49. All citizens of the State who have completed their twenty-first year on the day of the vote and who have resided within the territory of the State for at least one year, are entitled to vote... All elections and referenda to be performed by the people on the basis of this Constitution are general, equal, direct and secret.

Article 52. Any person who is entitled to vote and who has attained his twenty-fifth year of age is eligible for election.

State of Bremen - Article 76. All men and women of more than 21 years of age who possess German nationality and have resided in the territory of the State of Bremen for at least three months before election day, are entitled to vote.

Article 78. All men and women entitled to vote, who have completed their twenty-fifth year and have resided in the territory of the State of Bremen for at least a year may be elected to the legislature.

FRENCH ZONE

Baden - Articles 2. All inhabitants of Baden, whatever their origin, race, religion or political beliefs, are equal before the law. Men and women shall have the same political rights and duties. No privileges attach to birth, race or sex.

Article 58. All elections and referenda to be carried out by the people on the basis of the Constitution shall be universal, equal, secret and direct.

Rhineland-Palatinate - Article 17. Men and women shall have the same political rights and obligations.

/Article 19.

Article 19. All citizens without distinction of race, religion, political affiliation or sex, shall be eligible for public office as far as the law permits and commensurate with their qualifications and experience.

Württemberg-Hohenzollern - Article 6. Differences of birth, sex, race, religion and social status do not, as a rule, justify differences of rights and duties.

Article 22. All citizens are entitled to vote who, on the date of the vote or election, have completed their twenty-first year and fulfil the qualifications defined in the electoral law for the Diet.

SOVIET ZONE

Saxony - Article 22. Women have equal rights with men in all spheres of state, economic and social life. Any legal provision which conflict with equal rights of women shall be abrogated.

Article 28. All citizens who have completed their eighteenth year by the day of the election and who are domiciled in the State of Saxony, are entitled to the franchise. All voters who have completed their twenty-first year by the day of the election are eligible for election.

Thuringia - Article 3.

(5) Deputies shall be elected by universal, equal, secret and direct suffrage based on the principles of proportional representation.

(6) All men and women of German nationality who have completed their twentieth year by the day of the election, who are domiciled in the State of Thuringia, are entitled to the franchise.

Italy - Constitution of 27 December 1947:

Article 48. All citizens, male or female, who have attained their majority are electors.

The suffrage is personal, equal, free and secret. Its exercise is a civic duty.

The right to vote may be restricted only on the grounds of loss of civil rights or by reason of an irrevocable penal sentence or in cases of moral turpitude specified by the law.

Article 51. All citizens of either sex may hold public offices or elective positions on a footing of equality in accordance with the requirements laid down by law.

Mexico - The Constitution now in force is the one of 5 February 1917, with several amendments, the last of which is dated 12 February 1947.

Article 51 (as amended on 29 April 1933). The Chamber of Deputies shall be composed of representatives of the nation elected biennially by the citizens of Mexico.

Article 54. The election of deputies shall be direct and carried out in the manner prescribed by the electoral law.

Law on the Election of Deputies and Senators of the Federal Congress and the President of the Republic - 31 December 1945:

Article 40. Mexican males of eighteen years of age if married, and twenty-one years of age if unmarried, in the possession of their political rights and inscribed on the electoral register and lists, are electors.

Mongolian People's Republic - Constitution of 30 June 1940 as amended on 28 September 1944:

Article 71. All citizens of the Mongolian People's Republic, who have reached the age of 18, have the right to participate in the elections and to be elected, irrespective of their sex, nationality, religion, education, nomadic or settled mode of life, and property status, with the exception of the insane and persons convicted by the court, whose sentence includes deprivation of electoral rights.

Article 73. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Nicaragua - The Constitution now in force is that of 22 January 1948.

Article 28. ...All Nicaraguans over 21 years of age and those over 18 years of age who know how to read and write and who are married are citizens.

Article 29. Citizens have the right to be elected or appointed to public office.

Article 30. Citizens have the duty... to vote in the popular elections*
Roumania - The Constitution now in force is that of 13 April 1948. The pertinent articles are:

Article 16. All citizens of the People's Republic of Roumania, irrespective of sex, nationality, race, religion or educational qualifications are equal before the law.

Article 18. All citizens, irrespective of sex, nationality, race, religion, educational qualifications, profession, including servicemen, magistrates and civil servants, have the right of electing and of being elected to all the organs of the State.

All citizens who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote, and all citizens who have reached the age of 23 have the right to be elected.

Syria - The Electoral Law promulgated 21 May 1947 adds the following provision to the general ones contained in the Constitution of 14 May 1930.

Article 9. Every male Syrian who has reached the age of 20 on or before January 1 of the year of the election shall be an elector...

* The word "nicaraguenses" may be interpreted to mean only men.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - In addition to the articles quoted in document A/619, the following article should be considered.

Article 122. Women in the USSR are granted equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.
