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Electoral systems are of vital interest to an individual² concerned with the operation of democratic systems of government. Election acts as a² defining moment in any democracy and representative democracies. The primary function of election is to confer authorization upon chosen individuals to act as representatives and be accountable for the position of leadership, and account for their action in those offices. The electoral system describes how elections are formally organized and hence acts as a critical component of achieving the² goals. Electoral systems are the mechanism by which selected citizens are translated into seats in representative organizations.

Electoral systems are also described as the voting system and have rules governing and directing how elections and referendum are conducted and the results determined. In most countries, the government is mandated to organize the political electoral systems. The rule in an electoral system governs all aspects encompassing the voting process, election time, individual allowed to vote, the qualified candidates, counting of ballots, the campaign expenditures, and the announcement of the electoral results. The constitution and the electoral laws define the political electoral systems. Electoral systems must be designed to ensure equal representation of the parties, good governmental performance, and sufficient community representation.

An electoral system must ensure accountability of the parties to their supporters and safeguard the government's responsibility to their citizens, leaders to their supporters. Most importantly, any electoral system needs to balance government accountability concerns against those of personal or partisan accountability.⁴ An electoral system usually translates votes into

seats in the elected assemblies, thus influencing the degree of public support for the democratic system. For instance, citizens whose preferences are not adequately reflected in the legislature after an election are likely to diminish their help with the system, which will, in turn, leads to a decline in the election, reduce their respects toward their elected representatives, politicians and see the laws implemented by the government as being less legitimate. In most countries, Kuwait's electoral system marks the only occasion in which political participation is felt as tangible evidence of a democratic society. Therefore in any country, the electoral systems need to be fair and fulfill public expectations.

The first parliamentary election in Kuwait occurred in 1963. Since then, the government has used four different plurality and non-proportionality electoral systems. Under the plurality or block vote electoral system, voter's votes for candidates in multimember electoral districts and candidates are not required to obtain the majority of the votes to win a seat. Although since then, the Kuwait activist has succeeded in reducing the electoral districts. Under the plurality electoral system, each voter was allowed four votes. The larger districts have voted at their disposal, and the voters are at liberty of distributing their votes to tribal representatives, family members, and community representatives. The two main types of the electoral system include the majoritarian system and the proportional representation system.

Majoritarian system

In this form of an electoral system, the ²winning candidates are those individuals who have obtained the most votes in a specific electoral district. Majoritarian systems are diverse depending on ³the number of representatives chosen in the electoral district and on the types of majorities the winners need to accomplish. One type of majoritarian system is the single-member plurality system, usually found in nations with inherited elements of the British parliamentary

systems and is a type of electoral system that individuals in Kuwait do not recognize. An electoral district is represented by one member in the electoral Assembly instead of an absolute majority sufficient to choose the winner of an electoral contest.

During elections, citizens are required to put a mark behind the name of their preferred candidate. Though several candidates are permitted to compete in the election, the candidate who has garnered the most votes wins the election. Therefore during the election, the winner needs to attract the highest votes cast. This form of electoral used is used in other countries, including New Zealand, United States, united kingdom, and Canada. A multimember plurality system is a form of a majoritarian electoral system that requires more than one member per electoral system sent to the Assembly. Voters are then needed to mark off their preferred candidates in the ballots and the seats to be filled. The candidates with the most votes win the election, similar to the multimember plurality systems. Another single majoritarian systems seek to ensure the winning candidates have the support of absolute most of the voter in the electoral district. The single-member majoritarian method comprises an alternative vote and the two-ballot system.

An alternative vote occurs when countries use an alternative vote requiring voters to rank order their preferences on the ballots in this form of an electoral system. Electors write a number beside the first-choice candidate and two beside the second candidate. Once the votes are tallied, amongst all the candidates, no candidate gets the absolute majority.

In contrast, the candidates with the least votes are eliminated, and their vote is redistributed on the second choices marked on. The two-ballot system is another means used to ensure the winning candidates have support from most voters. In this system, the balloting occurs in two phases, the first phase, voters choose amongst various candidates and only vote for one.

However, no clear winner emerges from this type of election during the first voting round; second balloting involves only two candidates with the best showing. This electoral system is most used in France for presidential elections.

Proportional representation

Proportional representation is the second leading form category of the electoral system, usually abbreviated as PR. this form of an electoral ³system is mainly designed to allocate seats in proportion to votes with the intent that the government and assemblies will accurately reflect the preferences of the electorate. PR system are frequently used in western democracies. Under this system, the political parties are assigned several seats in parliament, which corresponds to their support which they have obtained in a specific electoral district. Proportional representation exists in two primary forms, which include party list systems and single transferable lists systems.

In the party-list system, the voters in a specific electoral district select from the contestants' accounts put forward in different parties contesting in the election. During the tallying of the votes, every party is entitled to a number of seats that correspond with the popular votes' share. For instance, ¹if a particular party gets 30% of the total vote, then the parties ¹send only three legislatures from a list of 10 candidates to the legislature. In discouraging ¹splinter parties, most jurisdictions use this system to set a vote threshold that parties need to qualify for the seats. This threshold usually differs from one jurisdiction to the other. For instance, ¹in Israel, parties need to receive a minimum of one percent of the popular vote to qualify for the seats in Knesset.

On the other hand, in Germany, parties need to have a minimum of 5 % of the total vote cast in three constituencies before obtaining seats on a proportion basis. A significant criticism of this form of electoral system is that considerable powers are given to the political parties who have the supremacy to determine the candidates appearing in the ballot system and the individual most likely to assume offices. This deprives voters of the degree of choice rendering this ballot less essential. As a way of addressing this issue, most jurisdictions have employed the use of a list system to give voters some degree of choice for the candidates. In countries such as Switzerland, voters are allowed to choose irrespective of the party, although still following the basic systems of the list system. Nonetheless, parties allocate seats depending on the popular vote received. Although in most systems, several formulae such as the significant remainder system and two uppermost average methods are employed to determine seat allocation amongst individuals contesting in the election.

Criteria for evaluating an electoral system

a) Fair representation

Fair representation is regarded and perceived as an essential standard for assessing an electoral system. Therefore an electoral system needs to be transparent and straightforward to be judged fairly by the citizens and as the one that can allow losers to agree with the election results.

According to most researchers, proportional representation is one of the best forms of an electoral process that ensures fair representation. A weaker standard of fairness indicates that the system is unbiased. A biased electoral system is a s one in which two parties exchange votes shares hence exchanging seats. Electoral biasness mainly arises due to gerrymandering and malapportionment.

Perfect proportionalities are defined as the one that ensures zero bias, although the occurrence of zero bias does not require ideal proportionality. Therefore zero bias is seen as a weaker requirement of fairness compared to proportionality. This indicates the need for an electoral system to treat all parties similarly, conditional on the total vote share cast by all parties. Likewise, individuals preferring the majoritarian approach usually have an extra burden of proof. The majoritarian system doesn't have to be grouped in the unbiased system as the parties in parties proved adept at gerrymandering malaapportioning districts. Individuals advocating for a majoritarian system need to integrate an integral part of features, design in addressing and mitigating the threats to create bias through redistricting. In Kuwait, the contesting candidates often focus on mobilization efforts on confines in their respective districts where they have a high possibility of capturing more votes instead of garnering support from diverse groups across the community. In addition, the new electoral system, which entails one vote system in Kuwait, has transformed the way candidates approached election as it has limited the ability of diverse groups, including parties, tribes from forming coalition and mobilizing voters.

Government performance

According to..., good government performance is one of the most standard using in judging an electoral system. The most important feature for assisting government performance is through assessing its stability. A stable government is in a position of producing congruent policies with the center of electoral opinion. However, government policy and stability are affected by factors other than the electoral system. However, it is possible to assess the stability and policy congruence and relate those measures to the electoral system as controlling factors. As a result of

political stability in Kuwait, the country has a well-defined and energetic electoral system which is unique in having a well-conducted discussion about the association of its electoral system. Many Kuwaitis citizens uphold a high degree of respect for the constitution and see it as crucial in maintaining its political stability.

Local representation.

Most individuals often value local representation. The idea or the notion of local representation illustrates that parties and their platform usually tend to be more abstract and anonymous. Citizens likely feel as having a connection with their representatives and induce citizens to get involved in self-government. The desire to enhance such a relationship has been an essential motivation for the current reform movement in Kuwait. For instance, the country has allowed and given women the right to vote.

Further, the electoral system of Kuwait is not favorable to females being chosen to congress since it is grounded on single submissions. Typically women contenders fare well in proportional list-based electoral systems, where they can gain seats where they are not on top of the celebration gradient. Though, the decrease in electoral districts from 25 to five in Kuwait has become an ideal opportunity for women to be chosen: Although the possibility for women winning elections in small regions are minimal as those districts are likely to have numerous candidates face with well-established local backing than in larger communities with higher disparities in the voting designs. Besides, the large sections simplify campaigns by using political groups, making it easier for female candidates to become recognized.

Kuwait Electoral System

Article 80 of the constitution illustrates that 50 members are elected those a universal suffrage and secret ballot in the National Assembly directly. The election system is organized by the elected legislature, parliament and not set by the constitution. Kuwait is divided into four districts, and each of them comprises ten elected deputies. Each voter is allowed to vote. Kuwait lacks a distinct, independent election administration body such as the Election Commission. The Department of Elections comprises the Ministry of Interior which acts as a permanent body with a binding obligation for organizing all facets of election processes, including offering election equipment and containing ballots printing.

Only Kuwaiti citizens aged 21 and above are allowed the right to vote, excluding individuals adopted in the 20 years earlier than the elections. Other prohibitions from the voting right include the police, armed forces, and individuals convicted with the forfeit of crime or offense. In line with other international countries, putting the voting age at 21 years is relatively very high. The government also lacks objective details for this voting age since Kuwaitis are allowed to marry, drive cars, and are illegally accountable for their action once they turn 18 years. Worth noting is that registered voters are given the right to participate in elections once they reach 30 years of age which is also very high on an international comparison. Naturalized individuals are also not given the right to stand for election throughout that period. Civil servants, including judges, ministers, and public prosecutors, must resign from them to be allowed to run for electoral posts.

Comparison between European election system and Kuwait

Most of the European electoral system is governed by the election act implemented in September 1976 that regulates the election of representatives of the Assembly by firm universal

suffrage, basically providing for the application of state voting systems concerning voting right to vote and for individuals to stand as a candidate, the rules on unsuitability and the subsidy of election promotions. Under the European electoral system, an individual cannot vote more than once for an elective post. Individuals are not allowed to stand as candidates in the same election for more than one member state. A Community voter practices their right to vote once they have expressed the desire to engage in the voting exercise. The Agreement of Lisbon specifies that polls must be held in secret and a free ballot.

In European nations, the electoral system is administered by state law and thus differs from country to nation. For instance, the minor balloting age is 18 in almost all Member States. Equally the voting right for European citizens staying abroad such as the United Kingdom, their voting right is limited to civil servants, associates of the armed forces, and citizens living outside the country for less than 15 years before, providing they have given in to a Foreign Elector's Assertion form; Denmark, Austria, Portugal, and Netherlands award the right to vote off and only if the residents living in one more Member State; such as France, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Sweden, and Spain offer their residents the voting right irrespective of the country of residence. Also, Germany required residing in the other country to be less than ten years; although, in Ireland, the voting right is narrowed to EU inhabitants domiciled on state territory.

My opinion.

The voting age of 21 or older fails to relate with other provisions; Attention should be given to grant adopted Kuwaitis the right to exercise their constitutional right of voting once they have acquired naturalization. Citizens serving in the army and police officers should also be given the right to vote. Shared responsibilities ought to be evaluated for the electoral commission, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, and the Judiciary, leading to unfair application

and interpretation of the law in different areas. The processes for calculating polls should be re-examined: All vital facets of the poll count and accumulation should be laid in the election law. The transparency of the vote calculation and the combination should be improved and structured to license all contenders or their agents to be present.

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