

THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA

21 MAY 2008

(PRE-ELECTION GENDER ANALYSIS)

Changes to the Election Legislation

On May 21 the next Parliamentary Elections will be held in Georgia. The population in Georgia will express their political will and elect 150 Members of the Parliament. Reducing the number of Members of the Parliament to 150 was supported by more than 2 million voters in the Referendum held on 2 November 2003. Subsequently, the Parliament adopted the amendment reducing the number of mandates from 235 to 150, i.e. by around 35%. On 21 March 2008 the changes were also made to the election system set out in the Election Code. According to the changes 75 Members of the Parliament of Georgia are elected based on the proportional election system, and 75 members are elected based on the majoritarian election system. The election threshold was reduced from 7% to 5%. The changes were also made in respect of majoritarian elections: the majoritarian candidate may be nominated only by the Party and the candidate who will accumulate more votes but no less than 30% of the voters will be considered to be a winner. (According to the changes made the invalidated bulletins will not be added to the number of the voters).

The Number of Voters

According to the data of 12 May 2008 the number of the voters is 3 465 736. Unfortunately, there is no statistics on the gender segregation of the voters.

Registered political Subjects

Around 50 political parties applied to the Central Election Commission to run in the elections to be held on 21 May. Out of them only 23 parties satisfied the requirements defined by the law and they were registered. Several parties established the Election Blocs and eventually 12 elections subjects will participate in the elections out of which 3 are election blocs and 9 are independent parties. These subjects are as follows:

1. Political Union of Citizens "Georgian Policy"
2. Republican Party of Georgia
3. Electoral Bloc "Alliance of the Rights, Topadze-Industrials" (M.G.S, Unity, E.D.P)
4. "Shalva Natelashvili – Labour Party"

5. "United National Movement – for Victorious Georgia”
6. Political Union "Georgian Sportsmen’s Union”
7. “Electoral Bloc "The Joint Opposition (National Council, The New Rights)”
8. "National Party of Radical-Democrats of the whole Georgia
9. “Political Union "Christian-Democratic Alliance” (CDA)
10. "Giorgi Targamadze – Christian-Democrats”
11. Electoral Bloc "Traditionalists – Our Georgia and Women’s Party
12. Political Party "Our Country”

Review of the Institutional Factors and Forecasts

The experts who studied the women’s representation speak about the relationship of the election system and the women’s share in the elected bodies. According to their studies the proportional election system supports to a greater extent to the increase of the women’s representation than the majoritarian system. Though, a less known researcher Maitland found that there is no systematic link between the less developed states and the number of women. He expressed the opinion that a certain threshold of political development should be in place so that the women can effectively use such an institution as is the election system in order to protect their rights. Though in this case we will ignore the political development indicator there is so called systemic link between the election system and the women’s representation in Georgia. Within the framework of the mixed election system the proportional election system will facilitate increase of the women’s representation while the majoritarian election system, which is ‘not loyal’ for women, can minimize the chances of winning for women. A clear example of the above mentioned is the local elections of 2006 when the women obtained 15% of the proportional mandates and 8% of the majoritarian mandates (It is to be noted that the majoritarian elections were conducted by the multi-mandate majoritarian system).

The institutional factors that are included in the legislation as a result of changes will negatively affect the representation of women in the Parliament to be elected on May 21:

- Decrease of the total number of the Parliamentary mandates;
- Decrease of the share of the proportional election mandates (Since the proportional election system is more loyal to the women, the decrease in the number of proportional mandates will eventually negatively affect the number of women);
- The single-mandate majoritarian election districts (As it is known women are not successful in such types of election districts. An example of this is the previous Parliament where only 3 majoritarian women were represented);

- Decrease of the election threshold from 7% to 5% will increase the party fragmentation level in the legislative body that will negatively affect the representation of women. Though if we analyze the lists, the women are represented in different top ten candidates in almost equal numbers and mainly only an insignificant increase is observed.

Certainly, it is quite difficult to give the exact number of the women in the Parliament since this indicator is directly linked to the votes received by the parties and consequently with the number of the mandates, though the gender analysis of the party list and majoritarian candidates shows that the women are represented in small number and thus their representation in the legislative body will be decreased. In the current situation it is difficult to refer only to one concrete reason because the decreased number of women in the Parliamentary lists was conditioned by various factors though the major issue is the high political temperature and the decreased mandates in the Parliament that toughens the competition and the women happen to be weak unfortunately.

The gender analysis of the proportional and majoritarian candidates nominated by the political parties gives such a picture:

- Only the following subjects of the elections have nominated the women in the top five candidates: Electoral Bloc "Traditionalists – Our Georgia and Women's Party (1), Political Party "Our Country" (2), "Giorgi Targamadze – Christian-Democrats" (1);
- All 12 subjects of the elections have included 13 women in the first ten candidates, which accounts for 10.8% of the total number of candidates;
- It is an interesting fact that the number of women in the party lists, but for few exceptions, decreases along with the increase of the sequential number. For instance, if the National Movement has 4 (16%) women candidates in the first 1-25 places, from 25 to 45 there are no women candidates. Presumably the number of women from the proportional list of the National Movement will be maximum 4. The Republican Part, though in total they have a big number of women, will have only one woman in the proportional list as only one woman is included in the first top twenty candidates.

The Christian-Democrats will also be represented only by 1 woman if they overcome the election threshold since only 1 woman is nominated in 1-20 places. The Industrialists will not be represented by any woman in the Parliament as they do not have a female candidate nominated in the first ten candidates (given that this party will get no more than 10 mandates).

As for the United Opposition and the Labour Party, who almost always have one woman in the first five candidates, it will be difficult to make a forecast in respect of the number of women from these parties since it will depend to the greatest extent on the number of mandates obtained.

- The total number of female candidates amounts to 57 making 12% of the total number of the majoritarian candidates nominated. Out of 75 majoritarian election districts in 33 there are no women represented, i.e. in 44% of the precincts;
- The Republicans and the Labour Party nominated more majoritarian candidates while the Electoral Bloc "Alliance of the Rights, Topadze-Industrials" and the Georgian Sportsmen's Union has not nominated any female majoritarian candidate;
- If we take into consideration that the elections are to be held in the single-mandate majoritarian districts the women's chances to win is small. Only distinctive female leaders will be able to win in the majoritarian system. Presumably the maximum number of majoritarian females will account for 5% as a maximum;
- Generally, based on the analysis of the institutional factors and the candidates nominated by the parties it can be inferred that in the coming Parliamentary elections the number of women will decrease though we emphasize that the number of women is directly related to the number of mandates obtained by the subjects of the elections. Therefore, the presented quantitative forecasts contain discrepancy.

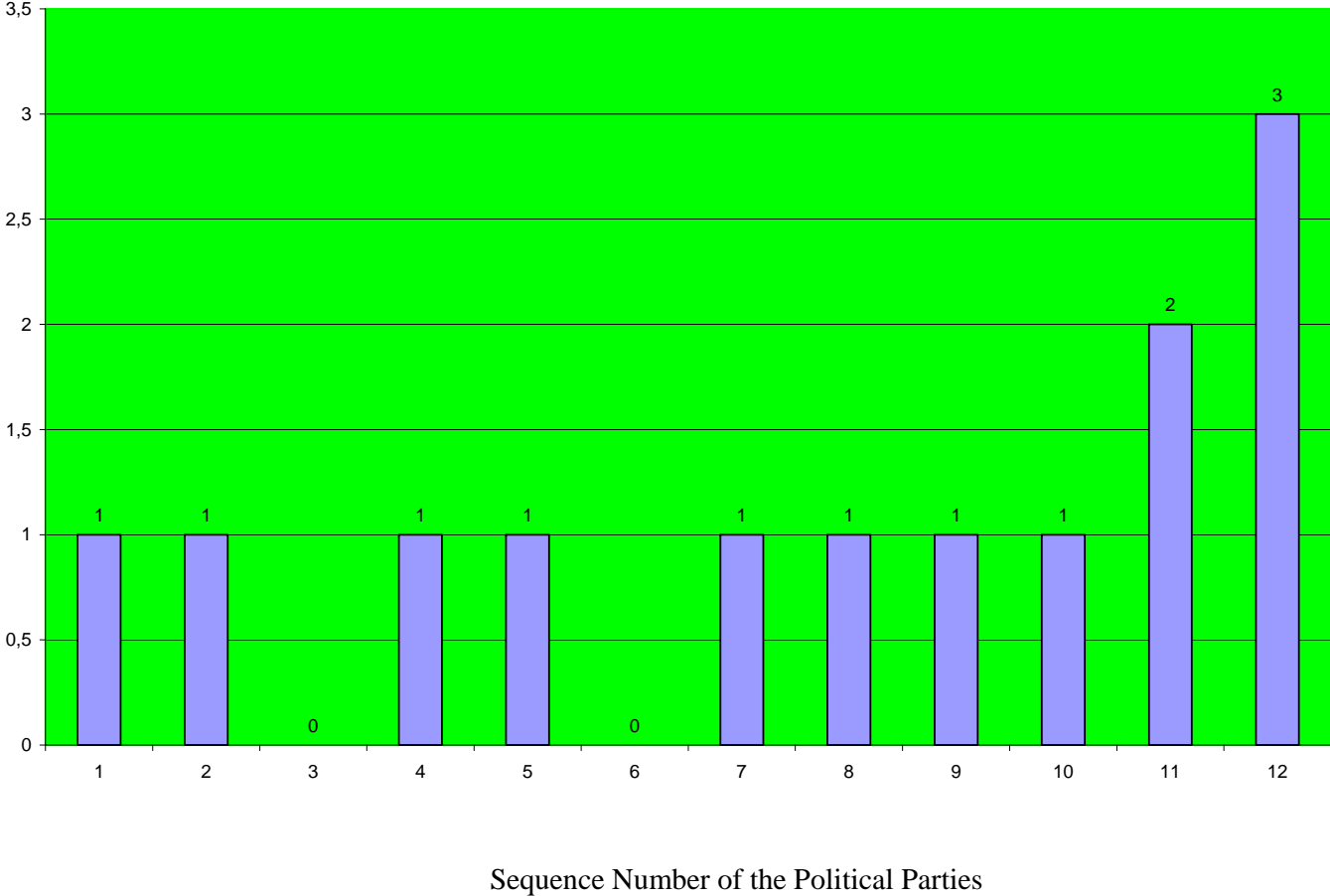
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THE WOMEN CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY THE PARTIES UNDER THE PROPORTIONAL AND MAJORITARIAN ELECTION SYSTEMS

List of the Political Parties

The Sequence Number in the List										
	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50
1. Political Union of Citizens "Georgian Policy"	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2
2. Republican Party of Georgia	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	0	2	3
3. Electoral Bloc "Alliance of the Rights, Topadze-Industrials" (M.G.S, Unity, E.D.P)	0	0	1	3	1	1	2	2	0	0
4."Shalva Natelashvili – Labour Party"	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
5."United National Movement – for Victorious Georgia"	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
6. Political Union "Georgian Sportsmen's Union"	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	1	2	0
7. Electoral Bloc "The Joint Opposition (National Council, The New Rights)"	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	2
8."National Party of Radical-Democrats of the whole Georgia	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	2
9. Political Union "Christian-Democratic Alliance" (CDA)	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2
10. "Giorgi Targamadze – Christian-Democrats"	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	1
11. Electoral Bloc "Traditionalists – Our Georgia and Women's Party	1	1	1	1	2	0	3	1	0	2
12. Political Party "Our Country"	2	1	1	1	3	2	0	0	3	3

Women among the Top Ten Candidates on the Political party Lists

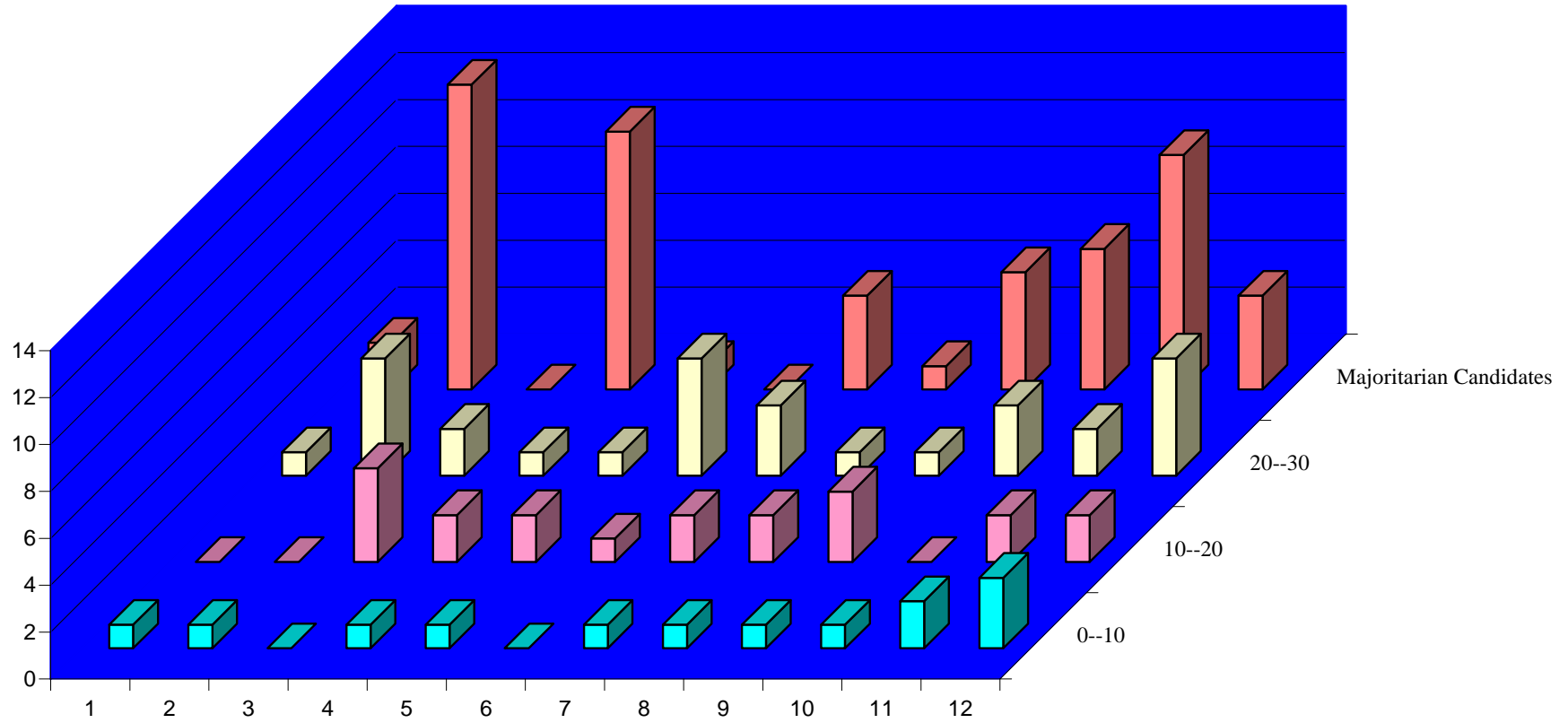
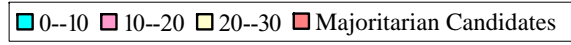


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THE WOMEN CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY THE PARTIES UNDER THE MAJORITARIAN SYSTEM

The Election Subjects	Number of Majoritarian Candidates
1. Political Union of Citizens "Georgian Policy"	2
2. Republican Party of Georgia	13
3. Electoral Bloc "Alliance of the Rights, Topadze-Industrials" (M.G.S, Unity, E.D.P)	0
4. "Shalva Natelashvili – Labour Party"	11
5. Political Union of Citizens "Georgian Policy"	1
6. Political Union "Georgian Sportsmen's Union"	0
7. Electoral Bloc "The Joint Opposition (National Council, The New Rights)"	4
8. National Party of Radical-Democrats of the whole Georgia	1
9. Political Union "Christian-Democratic Alliance" (CDA)	5
10. "Giorgi Targamadze – Christian-Democrats"	6
11. Electoral Bloc "Traditionalists – Our Georgia and Women's Party"	10
12. Political Party of Georgia "Our Country"	4
Total:	57

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Number of Women Candidates by the Subjects of the Elections



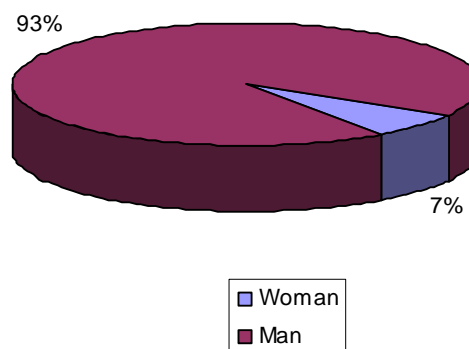
PARTICIPATION OF THE WOMEN’S PARTY IN THE ELECTIONS

The Women’s Party was established in March 2008. The Party exists only for several months and the leader of the party is Guguli Maghradze, Member of Parliament of Georgia. The Women’s party does not participate independently in the elections and they are united in the Electoral Bloc "Traditionalists – Our Georgia and Women’s Party that represents the alliance of several political parties. Naturally, this bloc has female candidates nominated in every five candidates on average along with the majoritarian candidates, though their number is not big and lags behind the Republican Party, while the political party “Our Country” has nominated more women in the first twenty candidates in the proportional list.

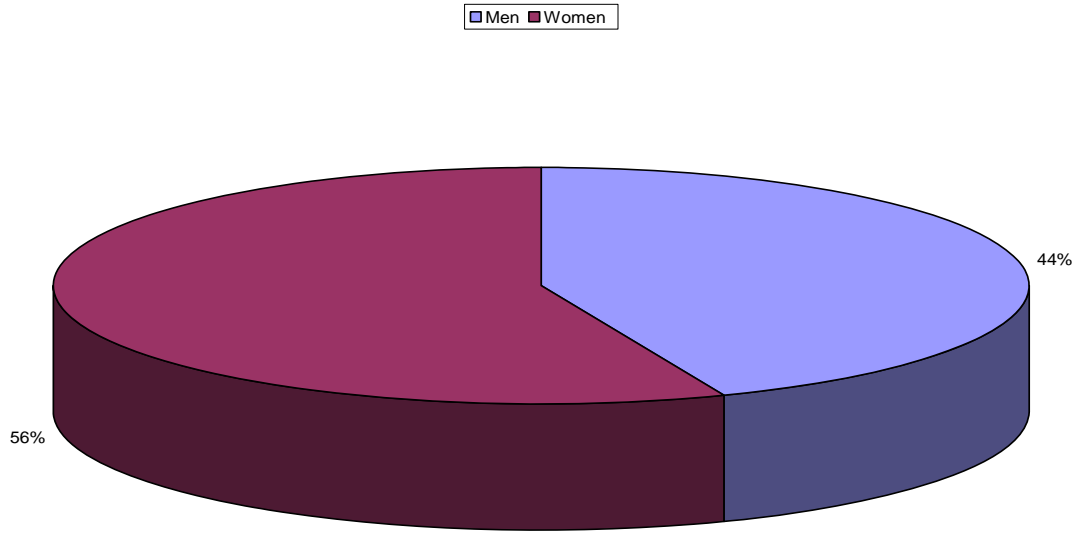
The Gender Composition of the Election Administration

Composition of the Central Election Commission

The Central Election Commission consist of the Chairman and 12 members out of which 5 are elected by the Parliament at the nomination of the President, and 7 members are appointed by the political parties. There is only 1 female member appointed by the Conservative Party in the Central Elections Commission that accounts for only 13% of the total number.

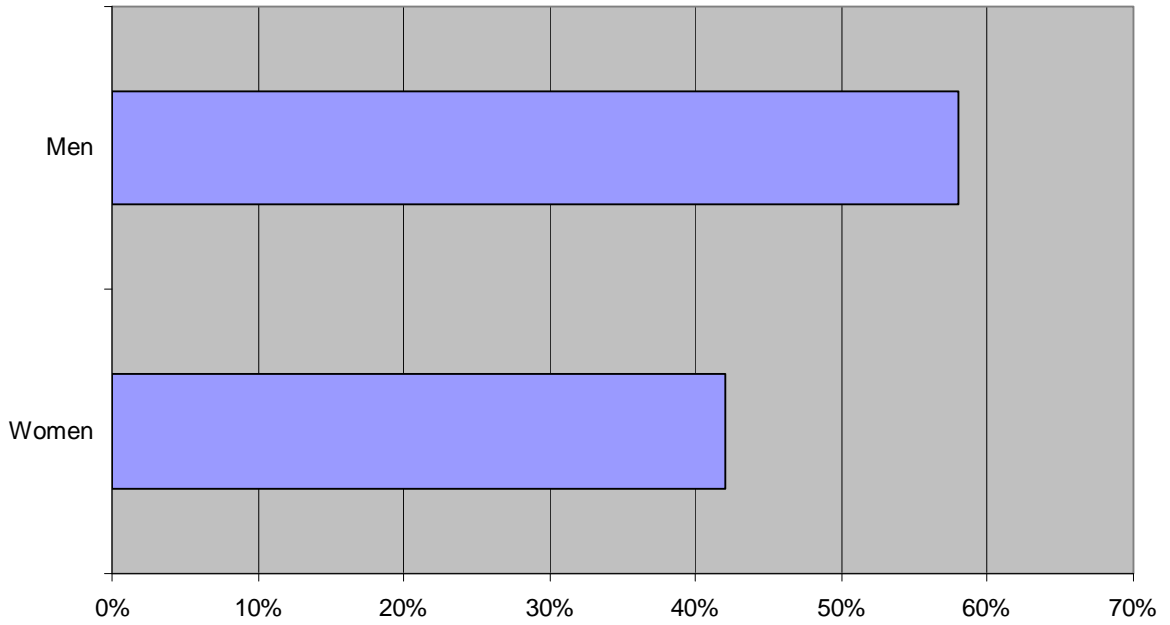


Gender Composition of the Staff of Central Election Commission



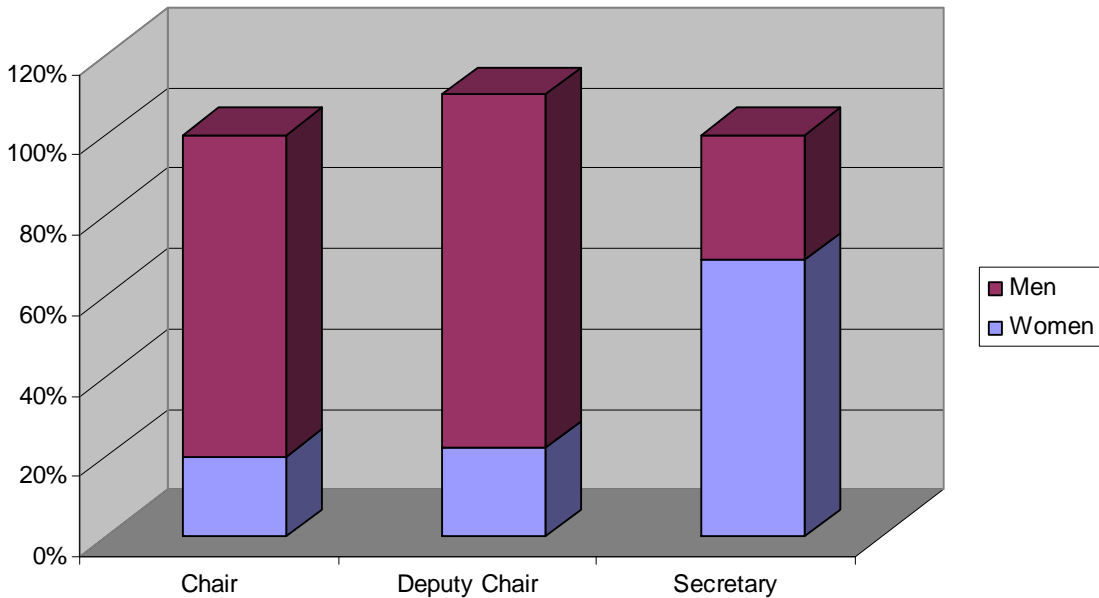
56% are women in the staff of the Central Elections Commission

Gender Composition of District Election Commissions



The number of women in the District Election Commission is relatively high and accounts for 42%.

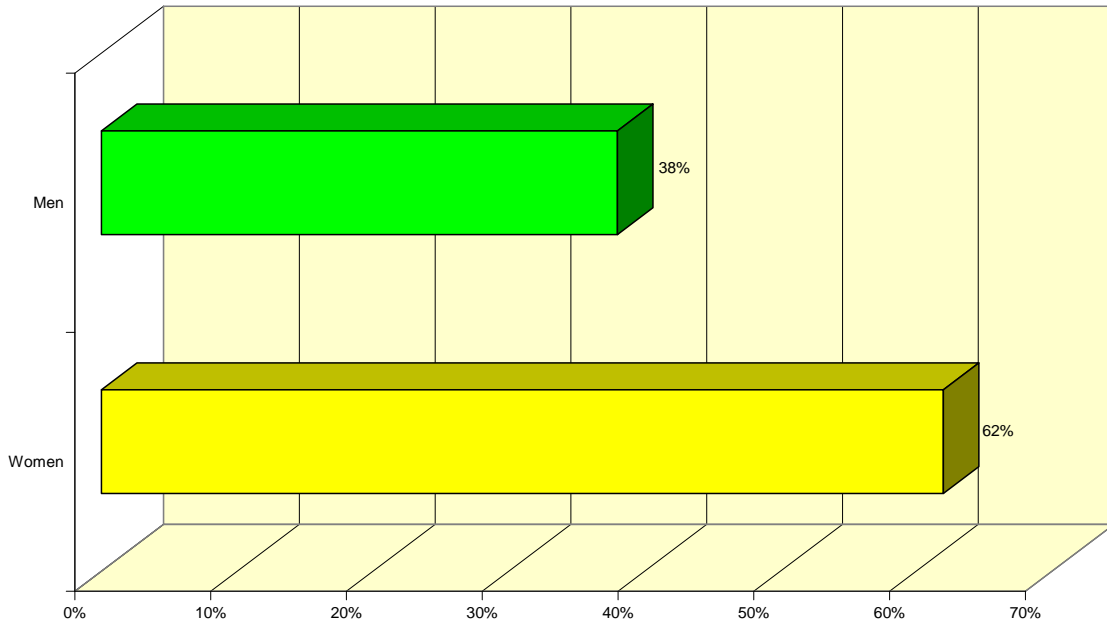
Composition of District Election Commissions



Though it is interesting that only 20% of the Chairpersons of the District Election Commissions are women, 22% are Deputy Chairpersons and 69% of the Secretaries.

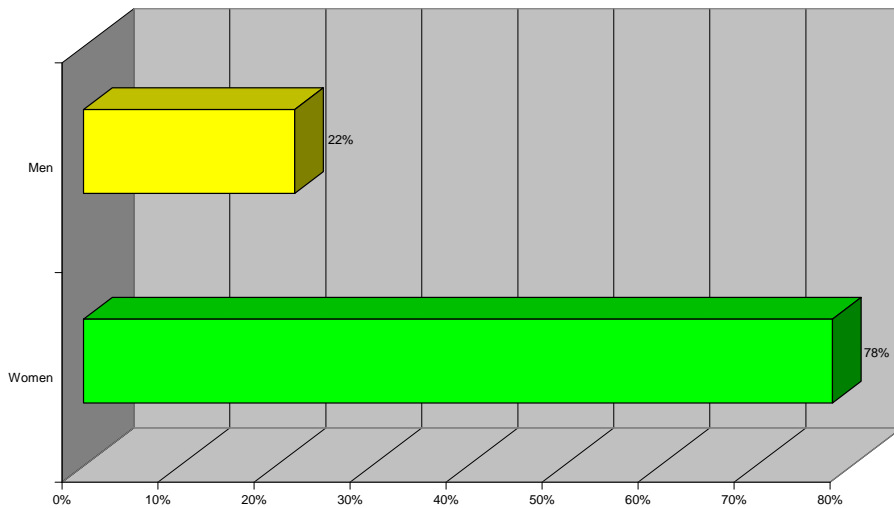
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Gender Composition of Precincts Commissions



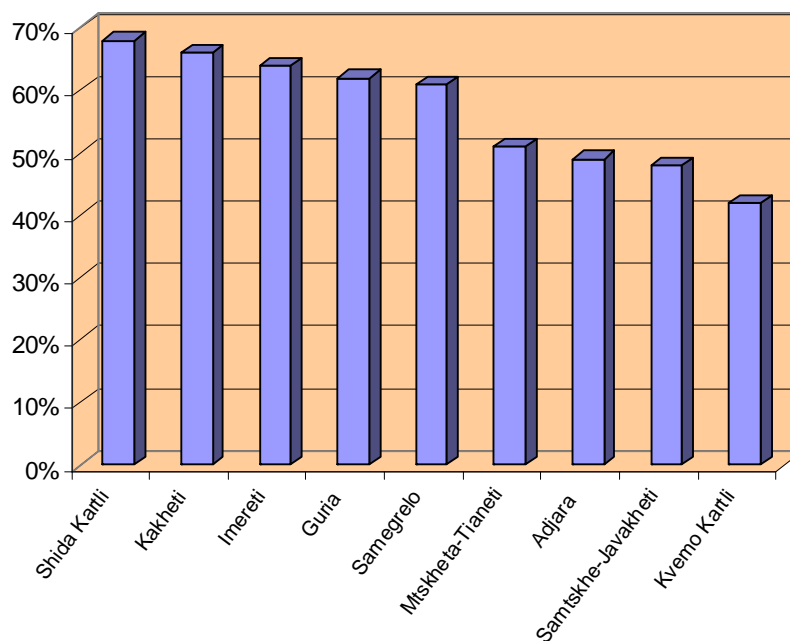
In the Precinct Election Commission 62% are women and the gender balance is violated for the benefit of the females.

Gender Composition of Precincts Commissions (Tbilisi)



In the Precinct Election Commissions in Tbilisi the percentage of women is 78%.

Gender Compositions of Precinct Commissions



If we review the gender composition of the elections administration we can infer that there is typical 'gender pyramid' where the females account only for 42% in the Elections District Commissions and in the Precinct Election Commissions they account for 62% while in the Central Election Commission there is only one female member.