

Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) Database

Types of Electoral Systems Used on the Territory of Montenegro

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Last updated: 21 April 2022



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Parliamentary Elections (National level)

Table 1

Year of Election	Electoral System	Constituencies	Seats Per Constituency	Threshold	Method of Allocating Seats	Seats in Parliament
1990	PR (closed party lists)	20	1-29	4 %	D'Hondt	125
1992	PR (closed party lists)	1	85	4 %	D'Hondt	85
1996	PR (modified closed party lists)	14	1-17	4 %	D'Hondt	71
1998	PR (modified closed party list)	1 (+1) *	73 (+5) **	3 %	D'Hondt	78
2001	PR (modified closed party list)	1 (+1) *	72 (+5) **	3 %	D'Hondt	77
2002	PR (modified closed party list)	1 (+1) *	71 (+4) **	3 %	D'Hondt	75
2006	PR (modified closed party list)	1 (+1) *	76 (+5) **	3 %	D'Hondt	81
2009	PR (modified closed party list)	1 (+1) *	76 (+5) **	3 %	D'Hondt	81
2012	PR (closed party lists)	1	81	3 % (0.7% for minority parties and 0.35% for Croat minority)	D'Hondt	81
2016	PR (closed party lists)	1	81	3 % (0.7% for minority parties and 0.35% for Croat minority)	D'Hondt	81
2020	PR (closed party lists)	1	81	3 % (0.7% for minority parties and 0.35% for Croat minority)	D'Hondt	81

Source: Vujović (2013, 37), Vukićević and Vujović (2012, 62-63).

Notes: This table is an adapted and updated version of the table presented by Vujović (2012, 37) and the similar one by Vukićević and Vujović (2012, 62-63). Modifications were entered for constituencies and seats per constituency columns to separate what OSCE (2001, 5) termed *Republic-wide “at large constituency”* and the *minority “sub-constituency”* more clearly.

* Although the whole State was one constituency according to the electoral law (at-large system), the law also stipulated the existence of the so-called “minority sub-constituency” (OSCE 2001, 5), i.e. a de facto second constituency in which a certain number of total seats (shown in brackets) was allocated based on the votes collected from polling stations with the majority of Albanian voters.

** Here, the number of seats per constituency is divided into the number for the at-large system (first number) and the number for the “sub-constituency” (number in brackets).

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Local Elections - For the election of Councilors and the President of Municipality/Mayor of Podgorica

Major law reforms concerning the election of councilors

1990 – constituencies in municipalities determined by the decision of local parliaments (Article 3). Four year term (Article 8). Elections are repeated if turnout was less than 50% in a given constituency (Article 78). D'Hondt formula for allocation of seats (Article 80) and 4% threshold (Article 81). Closed party lists (Article 82).

Source: *Law on the Election and Impeachment of Councilors and Members of Parliament*, Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro No. 36/1990)

1992 - 4% threshold, D'Hondt, municipality/Capital as a whole is a single constituency, in each municipality and the Capital the number of councilors is determined based on the formula: $30 + 1$ for every 5 000 voters.

Source: Articles 3, 13, and 97 of the *Law on the Election of Councilors and Member of Parliament*, Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No. 49/1992.

1996 – introduction of multiple constituencies in municipalities (some municipalities remained a single constituency) and “semi-closed” party lists in which half of the candidates are chosen according to pre-submitted party list order and half according to the post-electoral preferences of the party itself. PR system, 4% threshold, D'Hondt formula for allocation of seats. Number of seats in local parliament determined according to the number of registered voters for 1992 elections.

Source: Articles 2, 13b, and 15 of the *Law on Amendments to the Law on Election of Councilors and Members of Parliament*, Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No. 21/1996.

1998 – Number of seats determined according to the formula: $30 + 1$ for each 5 000 voters (Article 3). 4 year term (Article 5). Each municipality is a single constituency (Article 12). 3% threshold (Article 94), D'Hondt formula (Article 95). “Semi-closed” party lists: half of the candidates are chosen according to pre-submitted party list order and half according to the post-electoral preferences of the party itself (Article 96).

Source: *Law on the Election of Councilors and Members of Parliament*, Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No. 4/1998).

2011 – 3% threshold (Article 62). Introduction of closed party lists (Article 65 and Article 66).

Source: *Law on the Amendments to the Law on the Election of Councilors and Members of Parliament*, Official Gazette of Montenegro No. 46/2011.

2014 – introduction of affirmative action for local elections. Lists of candidates for councilors that are submitted by representatives of minorities need to pass reduced threshold of 0.7% to enter seat allocation process and exceptionally for Croat minority 0.35% threshold. The Law stipulates that the reduced threshold applies for lists submitted by representatives of minorities that make up between 1.5 and 15% of total population in municipalities, the Capital and Royal Capital and up to 15% of population at the national level (Article 46).

Introduction of gender equality measures. Article 18 stipulates that at least 30% of the candidates on the list will be from the less represented gender and that they have to appear on the list at least once for every four candidates (between 1st and 4th, 5th and 8th, and so forth).

Source: *Law on the Amendments to the Law on the Election of Councilors and Members of Parliament*, Official Gazette of Montenegro No. 14/2014.

For the election of Presidents of Municipality (2004-2009)

Two round majoritarian, 50%+1 votes required for winning in the first round, second round held 14 days after the first with two best ranked candidates from the first round.

Source: Articles 18-23 of the *Law on the Election of the President of Municipality*, Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro No. 42/2003.

From December 2009: indirect election of the President of Municipality, after local elections. Support of the majority of the MPs in local parliament required.

Source: Article 16 of the *Law on the Local Self-Governance*, Official Gazette of Montenegro No. 88/2009.

Federal Elections – For the federal MPs and the Federal President

31 May 1992, for 138 MPs in the Chamber of Citizens* - mixed electoral system (PR + FPTP), half of the MPs chosen based on PR with 5% threshold and D'Hondt formula, half of the MPs chosen from candidates' list based on "first past the post" system; two constituencies – one in Serbia and one in Montenegro. (Goati 2013, 47-48; Statisticki godisnjak Jugoslavije '92, 36)

20 December 1992, for 138MPs in the Chamber of Citizens* – PR, 5% threshold, D'Hondt, 10 constituencies – 9 in Serbia and 1 in Montenegro. (Izbori '92)

3 November 1996, for 138MPs in the Chamber of Citizens* - PR, 5% threshold, D'Hondt, 36 constituencies – 29 in Serbia and 7 in Montenegro. (Izbori '96)

24 September 2000, for 138MPs in the Chamber of Citizens – PR, 5% threshold, D'Hondt, 27 constituencies - 26 in Serbia and 1 in Montenegro. (Izbori 2000)

24 September 2000, for 40MPs in the Chamber of the Republics – PR, 5% threshold, D'Hondt, 2 constituencies – 1 in Serbia and 1 in Montenegro. (Izbori 2000)

24 September 2000, for the election of the President of FR Yugoslavia – two-round majoritarian, 50%+1 votes required for winning in the first round. (Goati 2013, 164-165; Izbori 2000)

** 40 members of the second house of the Federal Parliament, the Chamber of the Republics, were chosen indirectly and based on the strength of parties in national parliaments. Each member of the federation had 20 members in the Chamber of the Republic (SYY 97, 35).*

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