

# National Assembly

The National Assembly is the legislative body of the Republic of Korea composed of members who are elected by the people to whom sovereignty belongs and, on their behalf, enact laws which are the foundation of state operation, deliberate and finalize the budget, and make important policy decisions.

The National Assembly has the legislative power to propose and pass constitutional amendments and to enact and revise laws. It deliberates and decides upon budget proposals and settlement of accounts submitted by the government, controls state affairs by auditing the overall administration of the state and inspecting specific issues. Furthermore, it has the right to approve the President's appointment of key public officials, such as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, President of the Constitutional Court, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection, and the right of consent to the conclusion and ratification of major international treaties on behalf of the people. And it also actively engages in parliamentary diplomacy which helps elevate the nation's interests as well as its international profile.

The statutory members of the National Assembly are 300 among which 246 members are elected from single-member constituencies and the remaining 54 gain office through proportional representation system. With a term of four years, the cycle of the current 19th National Assembly runs from May 30, 2012 to May 29, 2016.

The National Assembly has one Speaker and two Deputy Speakers. They are elected at the plenary session through secret voting and each serves a two-year term. As the leader of the legislative body, the Speaker represents the National Assembly, presides over the plenary and oversees the administration of the National Assembly. To maintain impartiality in proceedings, the Speaker is not allowed to affiliate with any political party during his or her term of office. In case the Speaker is unable to carry out his or her duties within their term, a Deputy Speaker reserves the right to act in his or her place.

The National Assembly holds regular and extraordinary sessions. The regular session convenes on the first day of September every year and may not exceed one hundred days. Extraordinary sessions convene on the first day of February, April and June (even-numbered months with the exception of August, October and December) every year and may not exceed thirty days.

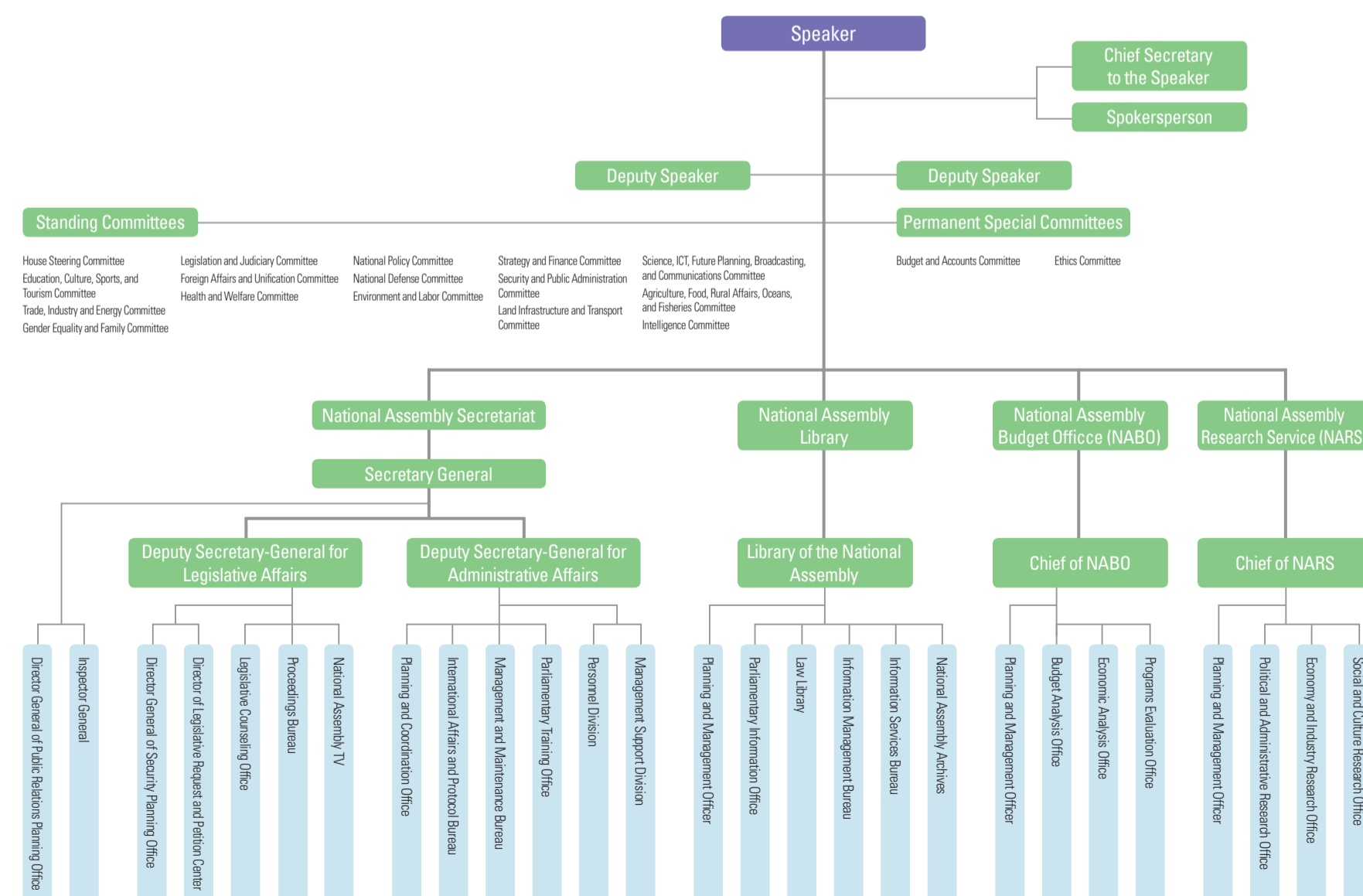
There are sixteen standing committees and two permanent special committees (Budget and Accounts, and Ethics) which examine bills prior to deliberation

at the plenary session. Additional special committees may also be installed to deliberate on particular items. All members of the Assembly, with the exception of the Speaker, shall become a member of a standing committee according to their respective fields of expertise and interest for a two-year term.

Negotiation groups expedite the proceedings of the National Assembly as organs to facilitate modern party politics. Any party with twenty or more Assembly Members can form a negotiation group. In addition, twenty or more members who do not belong to a negotiation group may join together to set up a separate negotiation group. The composition of committees, formation of inter-parliamentary councils and number of speakers as well as length of speech in meetings are determined by the proportion of members in each negotiation group.

The National Assembly Secretariat, National Assembly Library, National Assembly Budget Office (NABO), National Assembly Research Service (NARS) and support staff for representatives are components of the legislative support organizations

## Organization Map of National Assembly



that professionally and effectively support the authority and function of the National Assembly.

The function of the Secretariat is to support overall parliamentary activities of lawmakers and take care of the administrative work of the National Assembly. From supporting the smooth running of meetings, assisting the deliberation on legislative bills, budget and settlement of accounts as well as the inspection and investigation of state administration to providing support for parliamentary diplomacy, handling civil complaints, and promoting National Assembly Broadcasting Station (NATV) services and the National Assembly as a whole, the Secretariat supports major legislative and parliamentary activities.

The National Assembly Library was established to facilitate legislative activities of lawmakers by collecting, managing and providing necessary information regarding various pending issues and legislation, and is open to the general public even at nighttime and on Sundays with an access to the materials collected.

The National Assembly Budget Office (NABO)

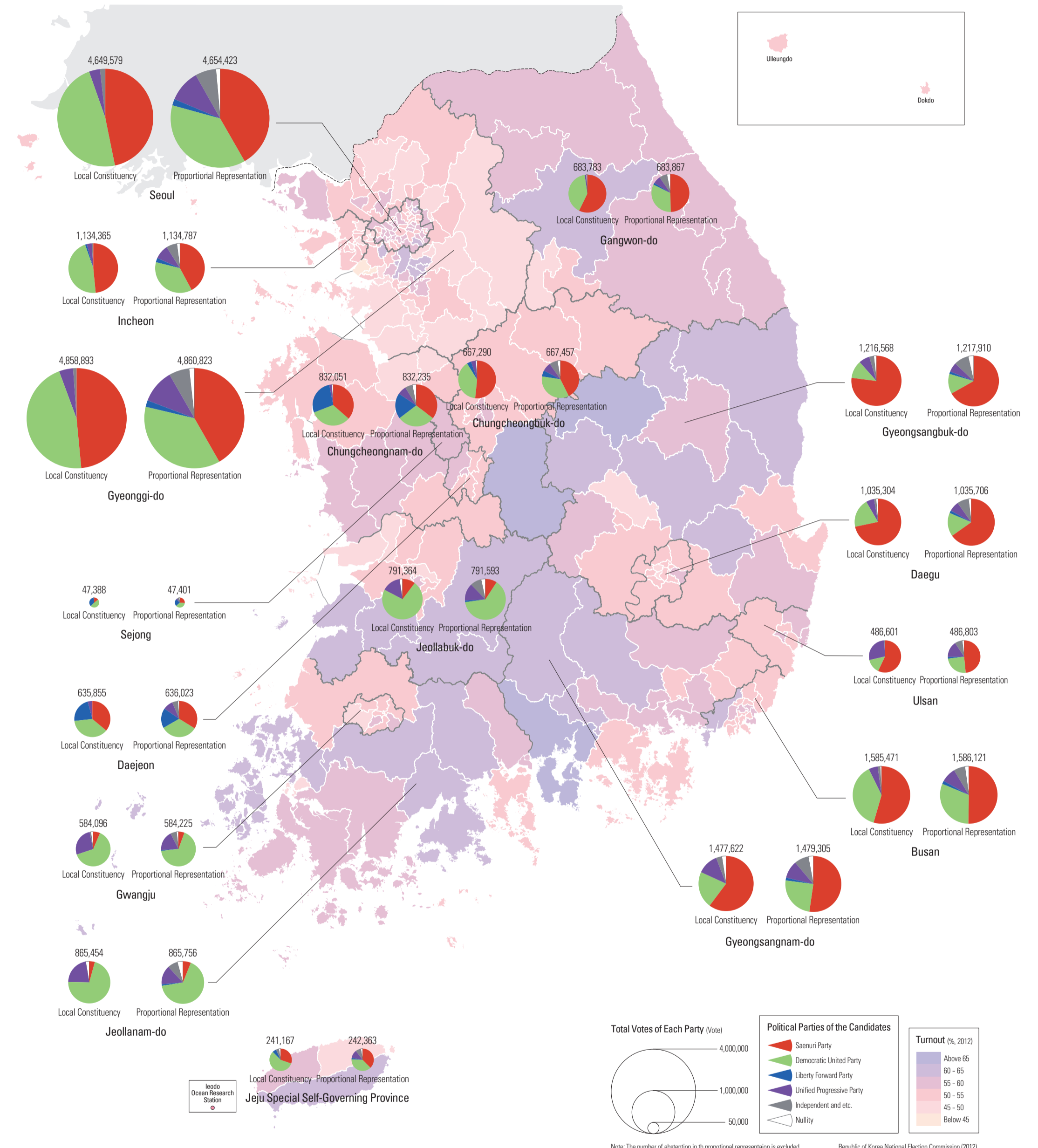
is a legislative support body specializing in financial matters established to promote parliamentary financial activities including assistance in deliberating on the budget and settlement of accounts based on professional and impartial research and analyses.

The National Assembly Research Service (NARS) is an independent legislative and policy research institute established within the National Assembly to strengthen its capacity in legislation and policy development. It conducts studies, research and analyses on legislative and policy issues in an impartial and professional manner. NARS also collects, manages and distributes related materials, and undertakes studies and analyses on legislative trends and cases at home and abroad in the respective fields to hand them over to Assembly Members and Committees.

Each member of the Assembly is entitled to have seven advisors to facilitate their parliamentary activities. The scope of work ranges from support for legislative activities in terms of policy formulation to political affairs concerning communication with voters.

## National Assembly Election

### Turnout of the 19th Election



The proportional system elects 54 members based on the proportion of votes per political party. The term of National Assembly members is four years.

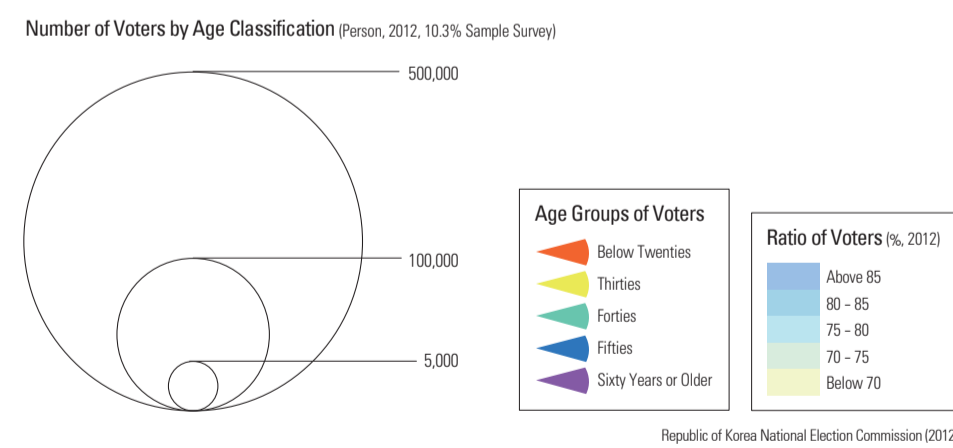
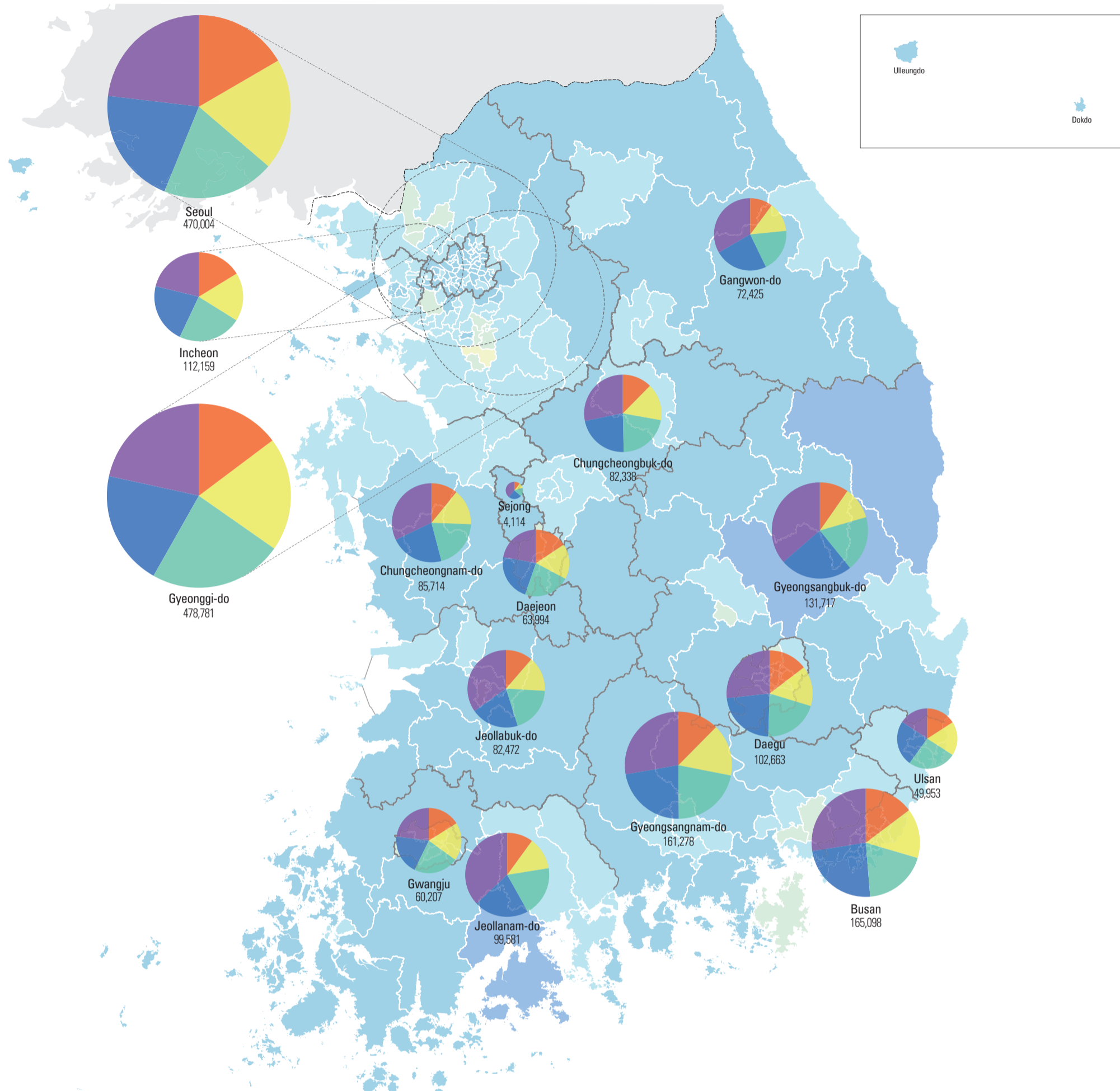
The 19th National Assembly election on April 11, 2012 is a good illustration of the above-described process. The total voter turnout for this election was 54.2%. In particular, the constituency of Yecheon-gun (in Mungyeong-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do), the constituency of Namhae-gun and Hadong-gun (in

Sacheon-si, Gyeongsangnam-do), and the constituency of Boeun-gun, Okcheon-gun, and Yeongdong-gun (in Chungcheongbuk-do) recorded the highest turnouts accounting for 68.4%, 65.9% and 65.8%, respectively. The voter turnout rates were higher in rural areas than urban areas such as Seoul and other metropolitan cities. Results from the election districts showed that the Saenuri Party received about 9.3 million votes (43.3%), followed by the Democratic Unionist Party

with about 8.2 million votes (37.9%), and the Unified Progressive Party with about 1.3 million votes (6.0%). Geographically, the Saenuri Party showed dominance in Gyeongsangnam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Busan, Daegu, Ulsan, and the capital area except for the City of Seoul, Chungcheongnam-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, and Gangwon-do. The Democratic Unionist Party dominated in of Seoul, Daejeon, Jeollanam-do and Jeollabuk-do. In the case of the proportional system, voting for

political parties showed that the Saenuri Party received about 9.1 million (22.7%), followed by the Democratic Unionist Party with about 7.8 million votes (19.3%), and the Unified Progressive Party with about 2.2 million votes (5.5%). Like the results of the election districts, the Saenuri Party showed dominance in the capital area, Gyeongsangnam-do and Gyeongsangbuk-do. And the Democratic Unionist Party dominated in Gwangju, Jeollanam-do and Jeollabuk-do.

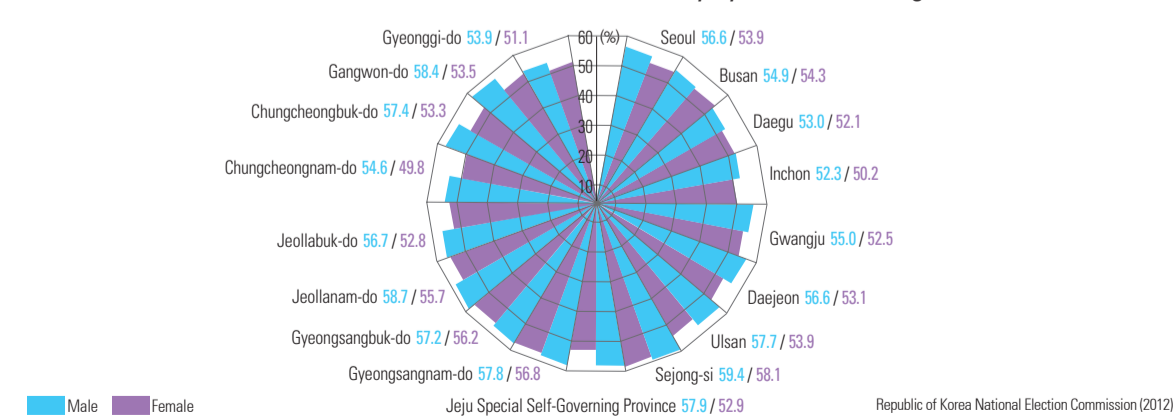
Turnout of the 19th Election by Age



The analysis used the data collected from 1,410 constituencies and 4,132,112 voters selected by a systematic random sampling among 13,470 constituencies and 40,181,623 voters. Results show that the highest voter turnout was among the 60 or older age group. Geographically, the region of the highest voter turnout based on age groups is Seoul with the largest percentage of the youth vote. In Ulsan the voting was dominated by people in their forties and fifties, and in the Sejong Special Autonomous City

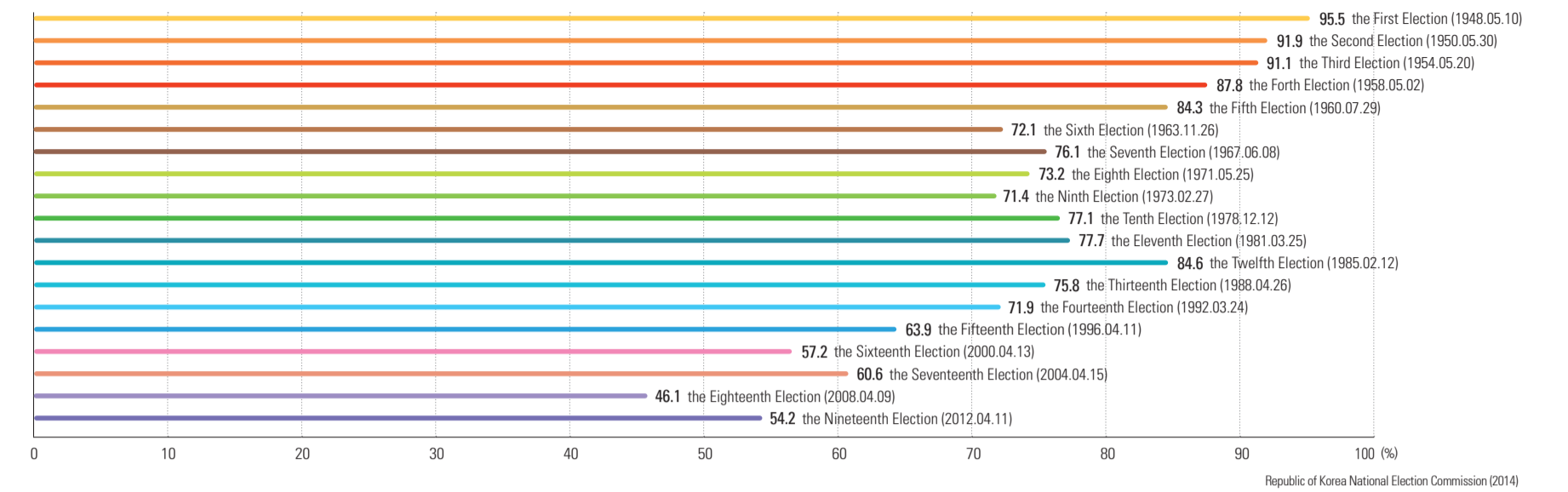
the preponderance of voters were people sixty years or older. When voter turnout was analyzed by sex and regional classification, the turnout of men is somewhat higher than that of women. In the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province the gap between male and female voters was 5.0%, followed by Gangwon-do (4.9%). On the contrary, the turnout difference between men and women was minimal in Busan (0.6%) and Daegu (0.9%). The highest turnout of men was at the polls in the Sejong Special Autonomous City (59.4%) and Jeollanam-do(58.7%).

Turnout of the 19th Election Member of the National Assembly by Gender and Region



The graph of the Turnout for All Elections shows changes in the voter turnout for elections of the members of the National Assembly. The voter turnout for the first National Assembly election reached 95.5% in 1948: since then voter turnouts have followed a downward trend until the 12th election of the members of the National Assembly when voter turnout increased somewhat. The lowest voter turnout for the National Assembly has been 46.1% at the 18th election, but the 19th election for the members of the National Assembly marked the 54.2% voter turnout, an increase of 8.1% from the previous election.

Turnout of Previous Elections



National Election by Overseas Residents

The law of the franchise to overseas residents provides expatriate voting rights to Koreans who are living abroad during the elections of the president or members of the National Assembly. Citizens who want to vote should be 19 years of age or older on

the election day and should declare foreign absentee status by registering to vote.

The law on the franchise to overseas residents has been implemented for the first time in the 19th election of the members of the National Assembly. It provides the basic right to vote described in the Constitution, promotes democracy, extends rights

to overseas citizens, and satisfies global demands in this globalization era.

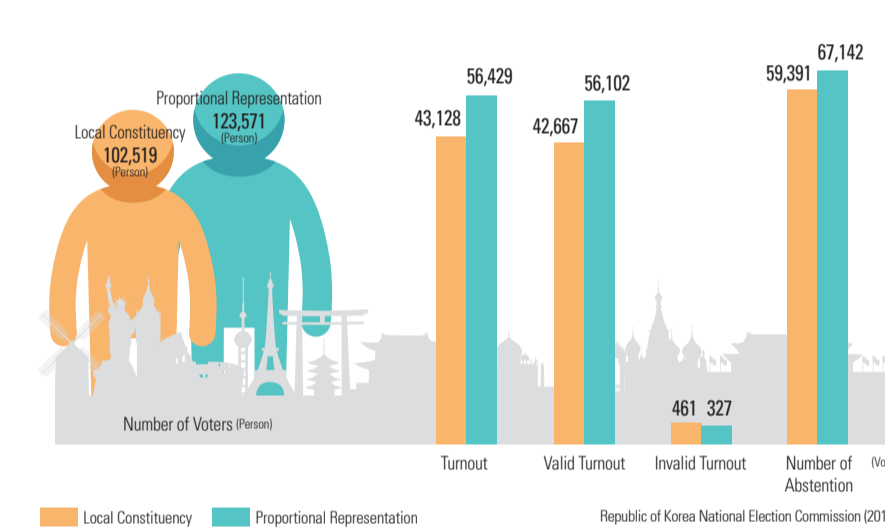
The law of the franchise to overseas residents for the 19th election was administered in 158 official residences and alternative facilities over the world. The total turnout of the franchise to overseas residents was 42.1% in the district system and 45.7%

in the proportional representation system. Results showed that the Saenuri Party received 40.4%, followed by the Democratic Unionist Party with 35.2%, the Unified Progressive Party with 14.5%, the Liberty Forward Party with 1.6%, and all others with 8.3%.

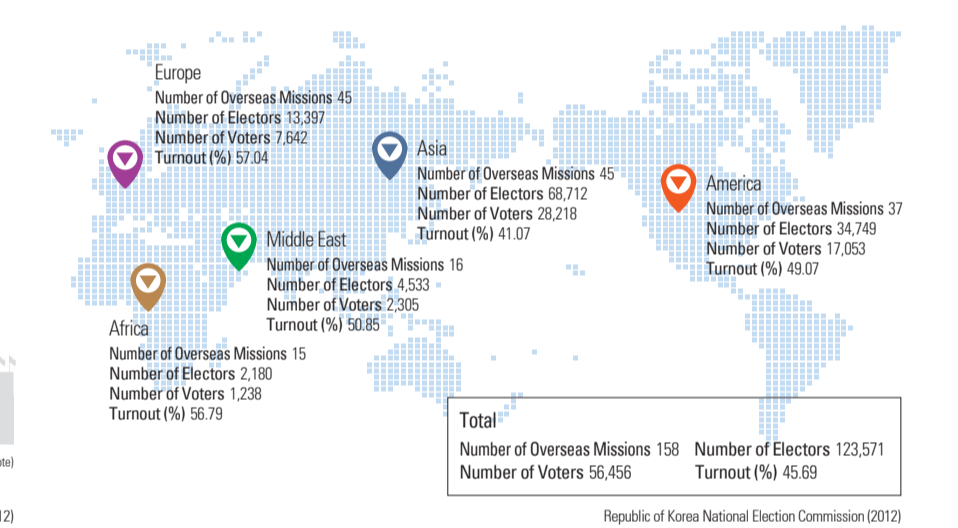
Range of Law on the Franchise to Overseas Residents

Voters	Elections to Participate
Korean national/Resident abroad	- Presidential election - Election of proportional representative members of the national assembly due to the end of their term of service
Person declaring domestic permanent address	- Presidential election - Election of proportional representative members of the national assembly due to the end of their term of service
Absentees	- Presidential election - Election of members of the national assembly due to the end of their term of service (Local constituencies and proportional representatives)

Turnout of the 19th Election by Overseas Residents



Turnout of the 19th Election According to Continent



19th Election by Overseas Residents

