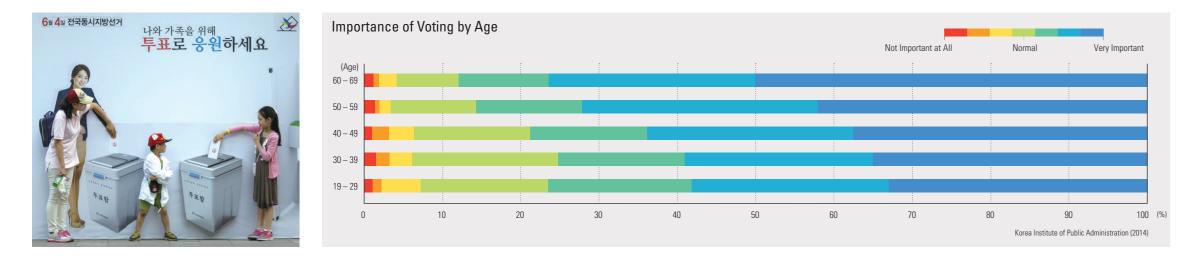
Politics

The achievement of democracy and economic growth in what is dubbed as "the miracle on the Han River" is regarded as the greatest achievement of the Republic of Korea (ROK). The achievement of democracy was based on the ideal of participatory democracy and active changed several times. Electoral districts were voter participation. Since the establishment of the ROK government, several important changes in the form of government and method of election lation. The ROK has now adopted a five-year elected in local elections. Since 1995, the Simul- democracy for Korea.

have taken place. Although a presidential form of government has been dominant, a parliamentary cabinet system was introduced. Indirect election of the president has been replaced by direct election. The election of the National Assembly was redrawn or some districts were merged or further divided in accordance with changes in popu-

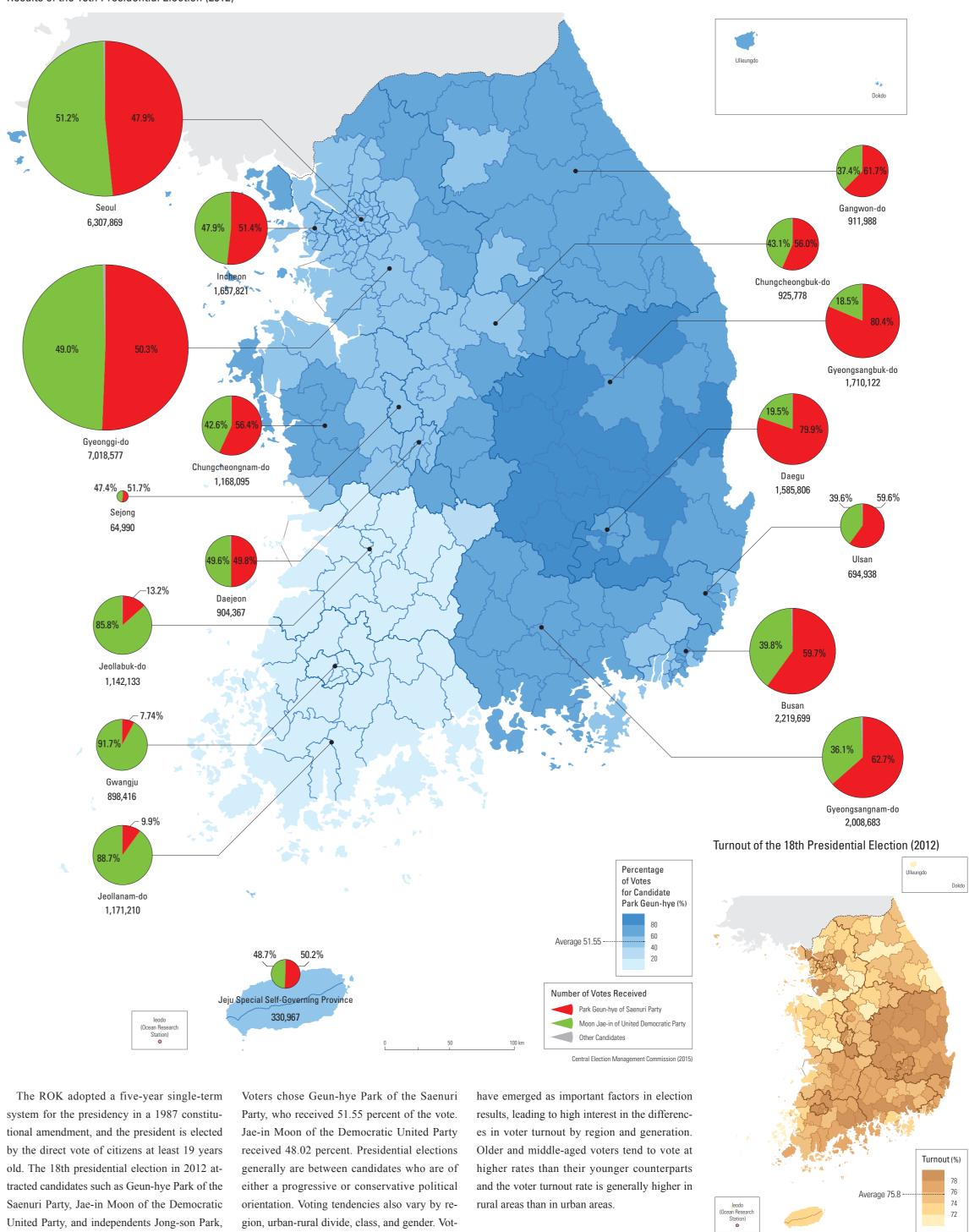
single-term system for the presidency and the unicameral National Assembly. National Assembly members are elected in single-member district first-past-the-post voting. The National Assembly of election, by which a local council is organized members are also elected in proportional repre- in each administrative district, and the culture of sentation with seats allocated by political party. grassroots democracy, in which an administrative In addition, as the local autonomy system was revived in 1991, members of local councils were policy agenda, are building a solid foundation of

taneous Nationwide Local Elections, in which the mayor, provincial governor, and county governor are chosen, are held every four years. This type representative is chosen and local citizens select a

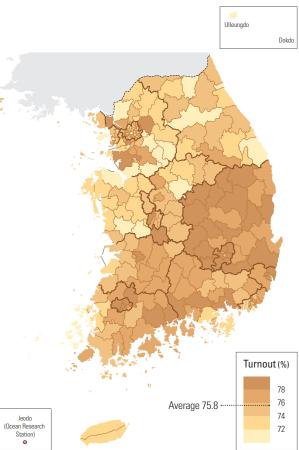


Presidential Election

Results of the 18th Presidential Election (2012)

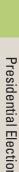


system for the presidency in a 1987 constitutional amendment, and the president is elected by the direct vote of citizens at least 19 years old. The 18th presidential election in 2012 attracted candidates such as Geun-hye Park of the United Party, and independents Jong-son Park, So-yeon Kim, Ji-won Kang, and Sun-ja Kim. ing tendency by generation as well as by region





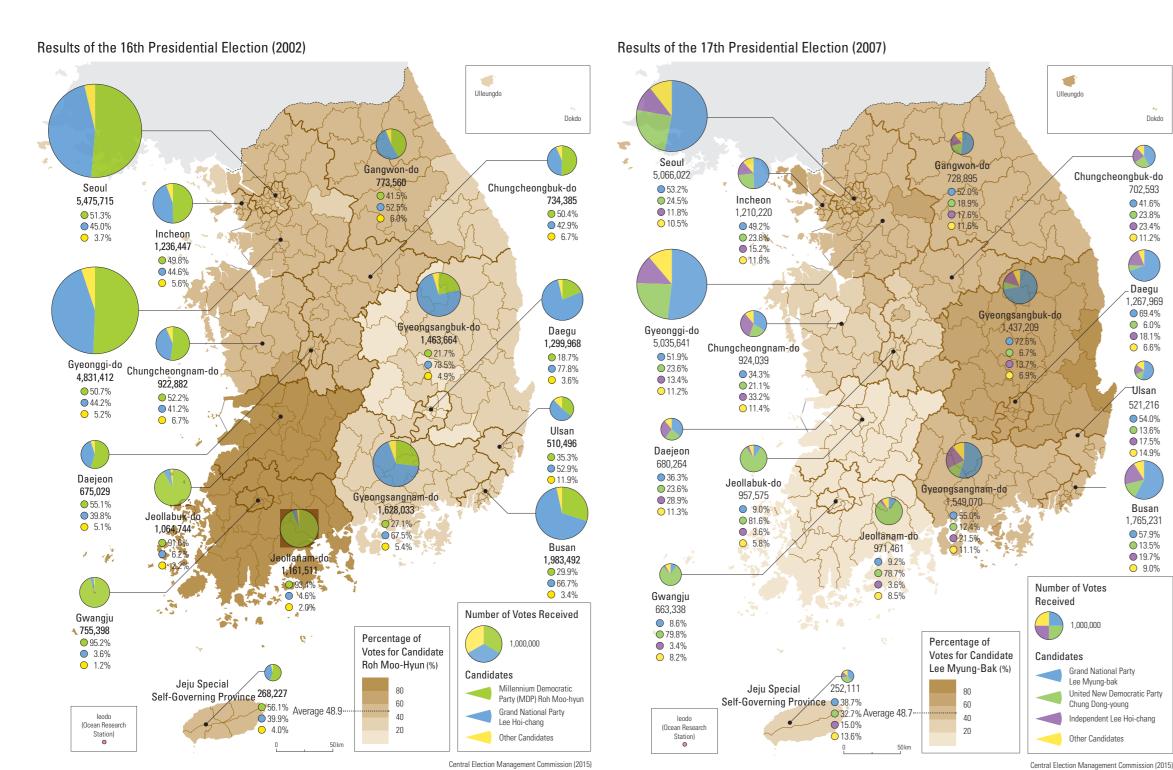




Central Election I mission (2015

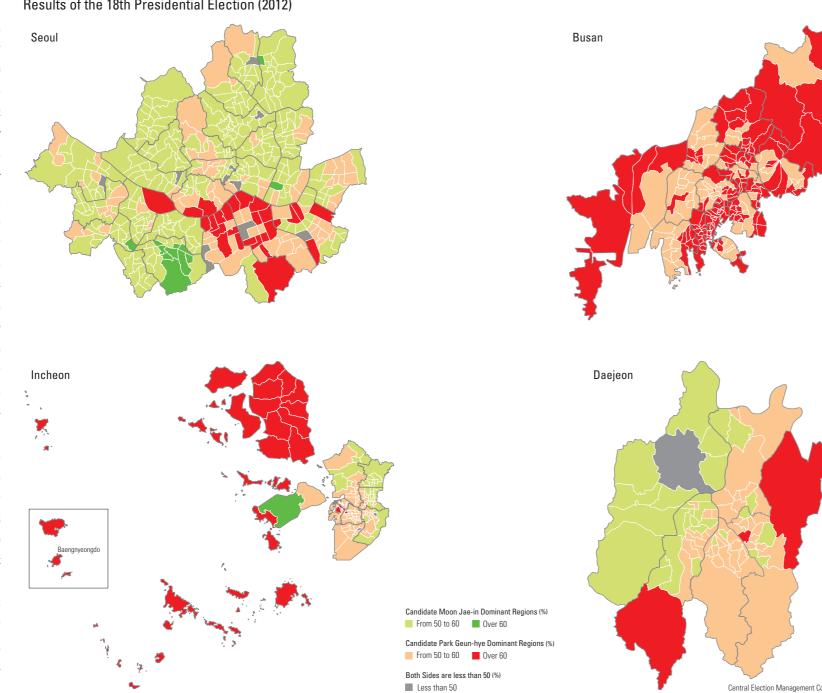


SOCIETY AND CULTURE



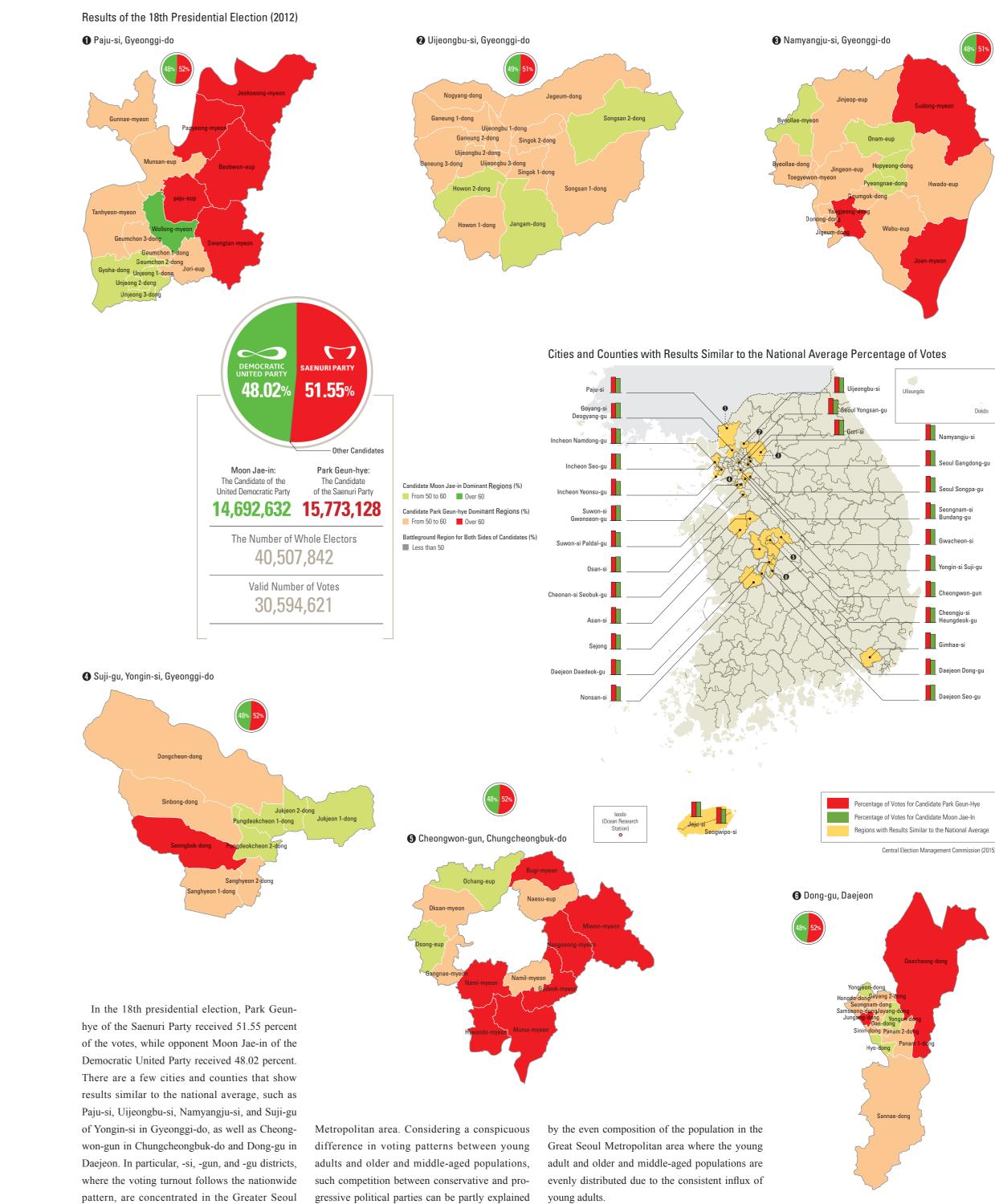
In the 16th presidential election in 2002, Roh Moo-hyun of the Millennium Democratic Party won the presidency with 48.91 percent of the vote. Opponent Lee Hoi-chang of the Grand National Party received 46.58 percent of ballots cast and Kwon Young-kil of the Democratic Labor Party received 3.89 percent. In general, Roh Moohyun received high support from the younger generation, which shows a progressive tendency, while Lee Hoi-chang received more support from elderly and middle-aged voters. A total of 10 candidates competed in the 17th presidential election in 2007, including Lee Myung-bak of the Grand National Party, Chung Dong-young of the United New Democratic Party, and Lee Hoi-chang, who was an independent. Lee Myung-bak won with 48.76 percent of the vote, while Chung Dongyoung received 26.14 percent. Lee Myung-bak recorded a higher number of votes in all regions except the Honam area. The 18th presidential election in 2012 continued the existing regional voting trend. Moon Jae-in in the Honam area and Park Geun-hye in the Yeongnam area were dominant and a fierce two-candidate battle occurred in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area and in the Chungcheong province. Mapping voter turnout at the -dong level for Seoul, Busan, Incheon, and Daejeon reveals that distinct voting patterns for each metropolitan area were discernible by neighborhood, showing a different voting trend than what was observed at regional levels, such as

Results of the 18th Presidential Election (2012)



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provinces.

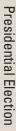


Dokdo 702,593 041.6% 23.8% 23.4% 011.2% _ Daegu

Busan 1,765,231 ● 57.9% 013.5% 019.7% 9.0%

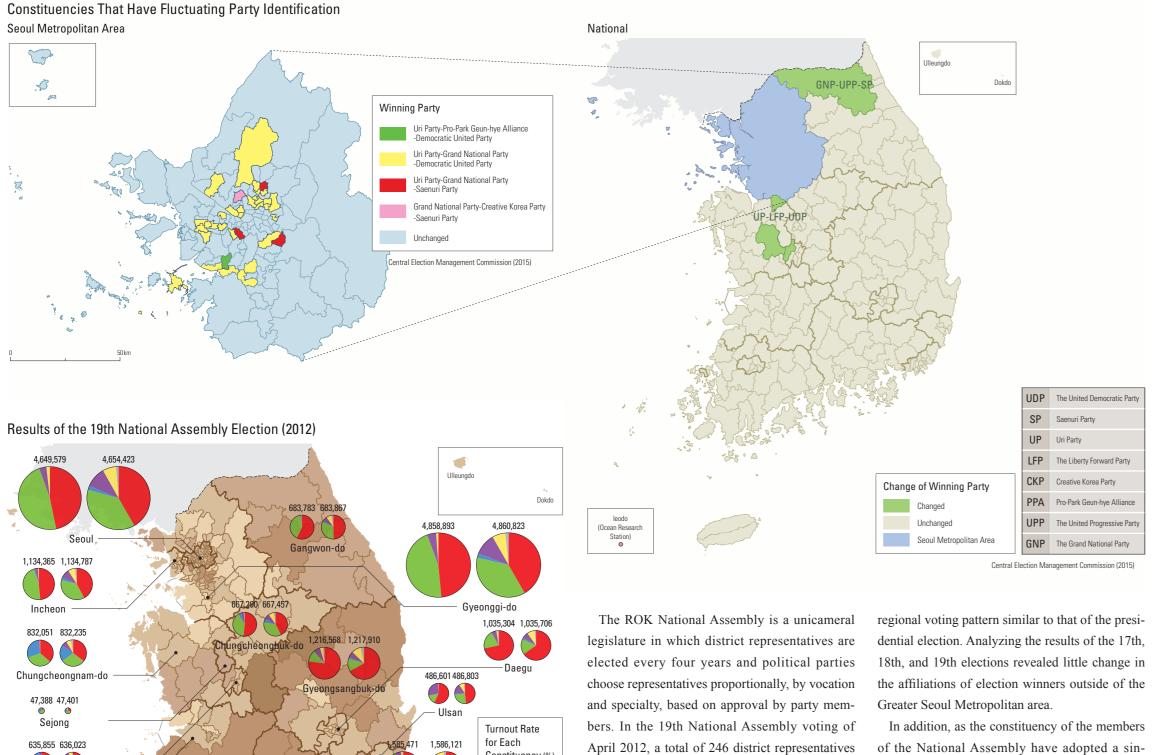






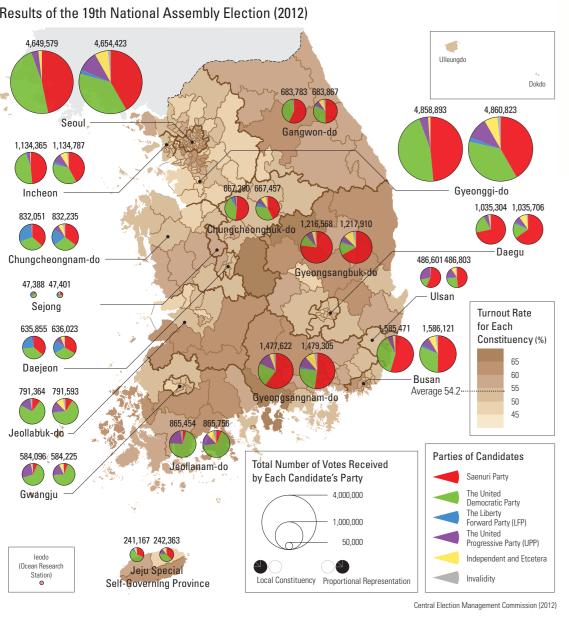
SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Election of Members of the National Assembly (National Assembly Election)

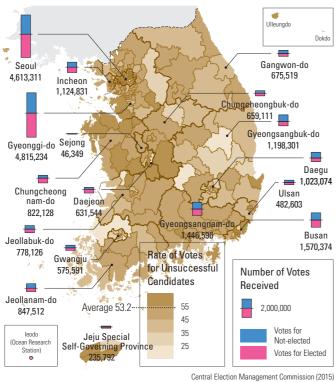


In addition, as the constituency of the members of the National Assembly have adopted a single-member constituency, by which a candidate who receives a majority of votes is elected, many votes are wasted in areas where the difference in approval ratings for competing political parties is narrow. The number of women elected to the National Assembly is increasingly proportionate, but the proportion of women elected to local positions is still low.





Votes for Unsuccessful Candidates in the 19th National Assembly Election (2012)



were elected, including 127 seats for the Saenuri

Party, 106 for the Democratic United Party, seven

for the Unified Progressive Party, three for the

Liberty Forward Party, and three independents.

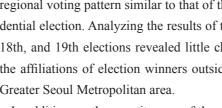
Representatives chosen proportionately included

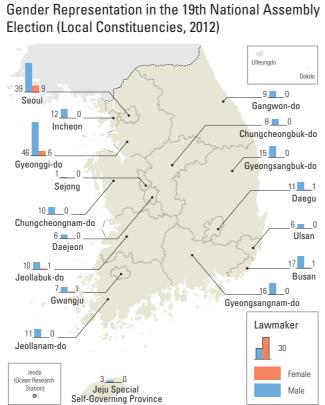
25 seats for the Saenuri Party, 21 for the Demo-

cratic United Party, six for the Unified Progres-

sive Party, and two for the Liberty Forward Party.

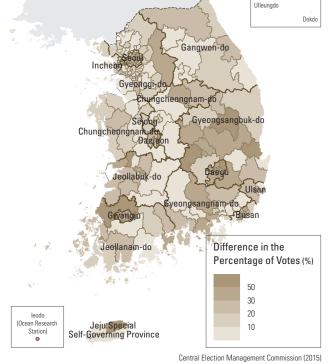
The National Assembly elections reflected a





19th National Assembly Election (2012)

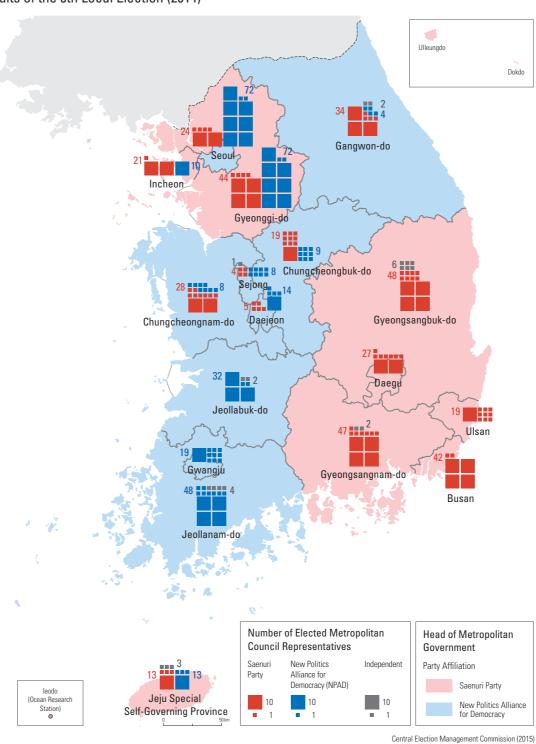
Difference Between the First and Second Place in the





Local Politics and Administration

Results of the 6th Local Election (2014)



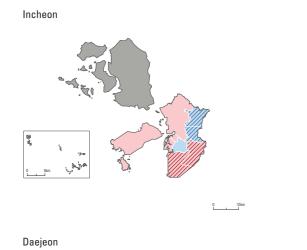
Jeollahuk-r Parties Jeju Special leodo (Ocean Research Station) © Self-Governing Province

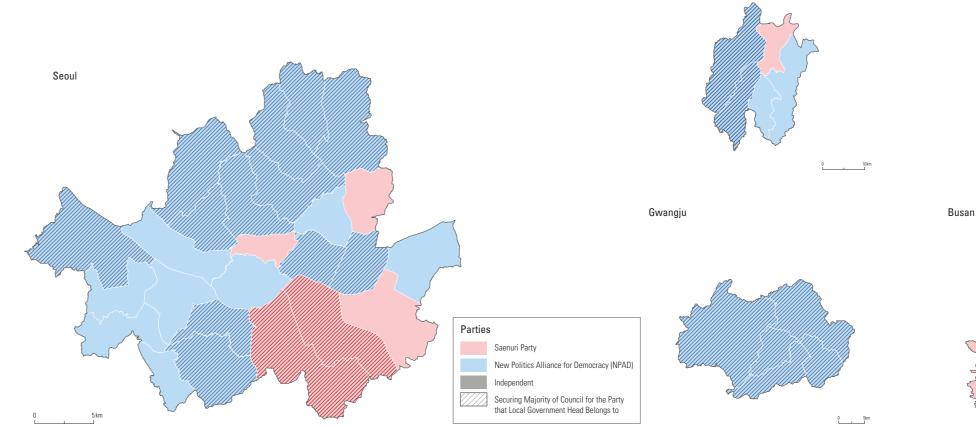
In local elections (every four years), local council members and heads of local governments are chosen. Although the election for local council members of -si, -gun, and -gu does not require a party nomination, most candidates clarify their party affiliation and run for election.

in 2014, nine candidates from the New Politics

United Democratic Party and eight from the Saenuri Party were elected as mayors and governors of metropolitan cities and provinces.

In terms of the heads of local governments and the structure of local councils, the tendency showed that the party affiliation of the head and In the 6th Simultaneous Local Election for local the majority party of the local council were the council members and heads of local governments same in those areas with a strong regional voting turnout.





Distribution of Parties of Local Governmental Heads and Local Councils (2014)

11 1

anagement Commission (2015

SOCIETY AND CULTURE





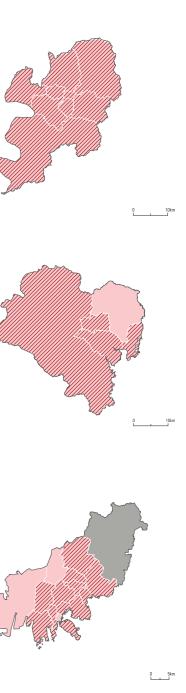
Ulsar

Saenuri Party

New Politics Alliance for Democracy (NPAD) Independent

Securing Majority of Council for the Party that Local Government Head Belongs to

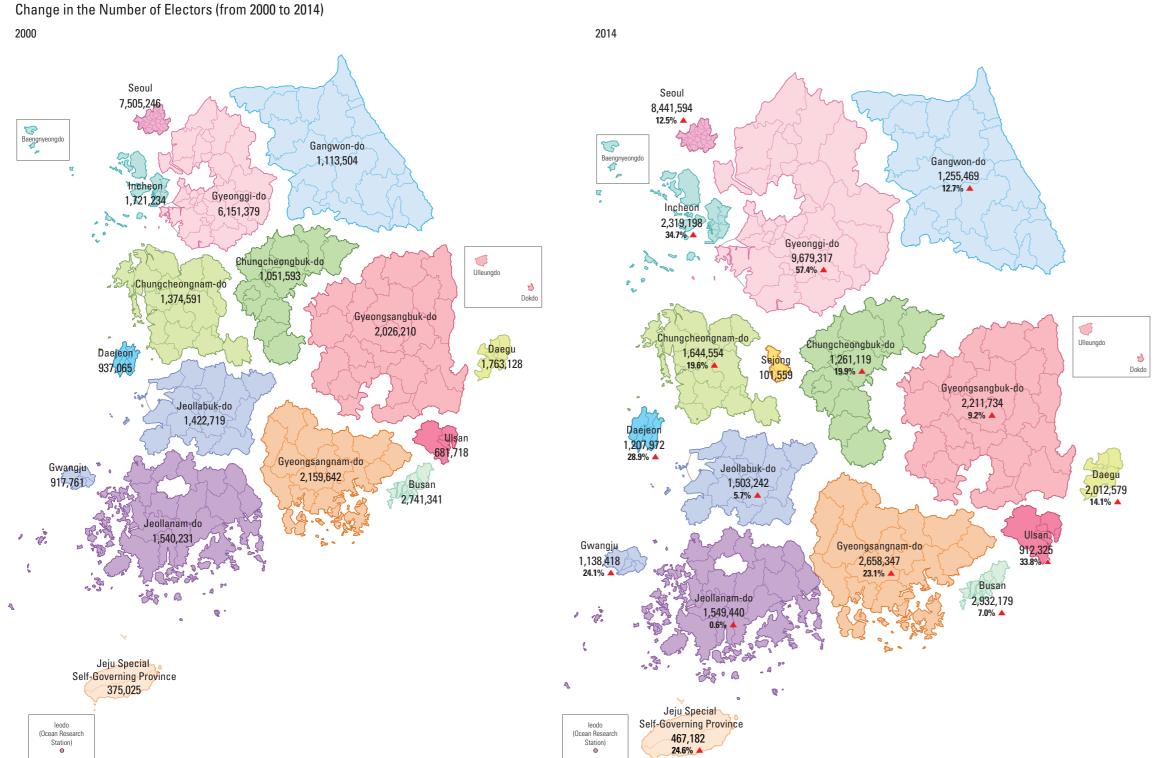
Central Election Management Commission (2015)



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Number of Voters: Changes According to City and Province



Central Election Management Commission (2015)

Consistent with increases in population and average life expectancy, the number of voters is steadily rising. In addition, the voting age was lowered from 21 to 20 in the 1960s, and to age 19 in 2005, making for a large increase in the number of voters. Compared to the 16th presidential election in 2000, the total number of voters in the 6th Simultaneous Local Election in 2014 increased by about 23 percent to more than 41 million. However, the change in the number of voters varies by region. Regionally, Gyeonggi-do experienced as much as a 57.4 percent increase in voters during the same period. In addition, the number of voters in Incheon, Ulsan, Daejeon, Jeju, Gwangju, and Gyeongsangnam-do grew by more than 20 percent. On the other hand, the number of voters in Jeollanam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Busan grew only by a single-digit.

The growth of Korean democracy is grounded in the fundamental rights of citizens' suffrage. However, since the 1990s, overall voter turnout has declined, and entering the 2000s, voter turnout was far below 50 percent for the National Assembly Election and the Simultaneous Local Elections. Voter turnout has gradually increased in recent years through the efforts of the governvoting.

an important political issue in recent years. There has been a constant population decrease in some

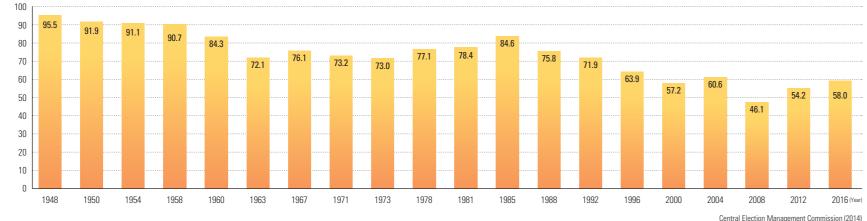
Turnout Rates for the Presidential Elections





Turnout Rates for the Simultaneous Local Elections

Turnout Rates for National Assembly Elections



Assembly constituency occurs in each election. In addition, constituency debates have become In particular, according to the verdict of the Con-

ing in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan area and in stituency is warranted; the constituencies in rural re-aligned to form a new constituency. In the ment and civil society to stress the importance of other cities. Thus, a realignment of the National areas with small populations are to be realigned process of these realignments of constituencies, and merged. Seen in the representative population a concern surfaced that the representation of decrease cases of Jeollanam-do and Gyeongsang- regions can be undermined and the area of a constitutional Court, setting an upper limit for the buk-do, two to three -gun (counties) have merged proportion of voters between the largest popula- to form a new constituency, and some regions of constituencies, while population has been increas- tion constituency and the lowest population con- urban and rural counties have been divided and

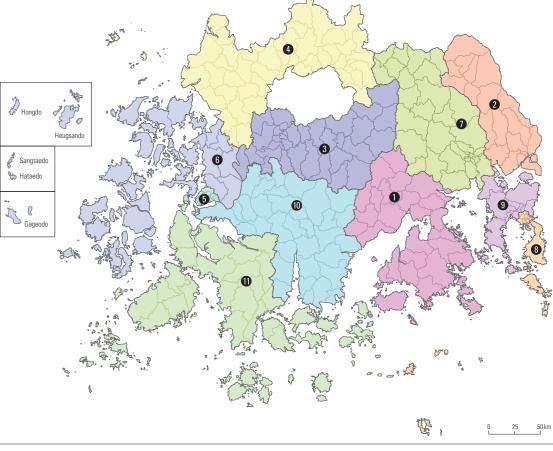
stituency can be considered too broad.

Change of Constituencies in Declining Population Regions

Constituencies of the 15th National Assembly Election (Jeollanam-do, 1996)

E. 0 25 50 km Gangjin-gun, Wando-g O Damyang-gun, Jangseong-gur Suncheon-si I Hampyeong-gun, Yeonggwang-gu 🕡 Haenam-gun, Jindo-gun 2 Goheung-gu 🛛 Mokpo-si, Sinan-gun 🛛 2 Suncheon-si II B Mokpo-si, Sinan-gun 3 Gokseong-gun, Gurye-gur B Yeosu-si Yeocheon-si, Yeocheon-gun Gwangyang-Ø Muan-gur Naiu-s 🚯 Jangheung-gun, Yeongam-gun Boseona-aun, Hy

Constituencies of the 19th National Assembly Election (Jeollanam-do, 2012)

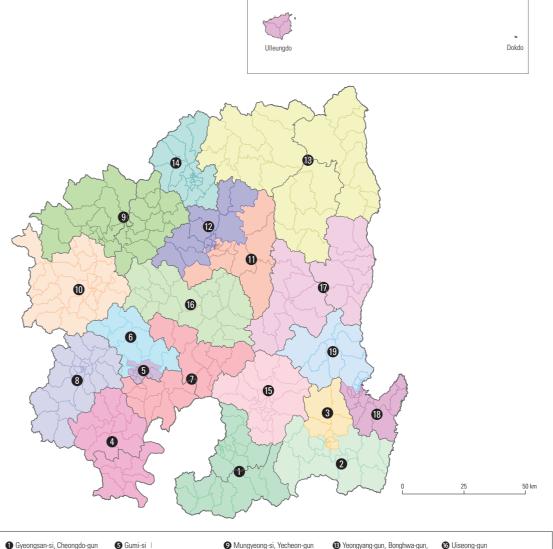


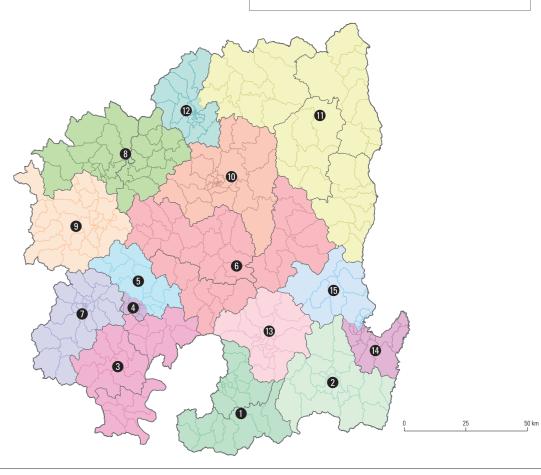
1 Goheung-gun, Boseong-gun	 Damyang-gun, Hampyeong-gun, 	6 Muan-gun, Sinan-gun
2 Gwangyang-si, Gurye-gun	Yeonggwang-gun, Jangseong-gun	🕖 Suncheon-si, Gokseong-gu
3 Naju-si, Hwasun-gun	S Mokpo-si	8 Yeosu-si

Constituencies of the 15th National Assembly Election (Gyeongsangbuk-do, 1996)

Central Election Management Commission (1996)

Constituencies of the 19th National Assembly Election (Gyeongsangbuk-do, 2012)





Ulleungdo

🚯 Uiseong-gun	 Gyeongsan-si, Cheongdo-gun 	4 Gumi-si I	Gimcheon-si	🛈 eongyang-gun, Ye
🕡 Cheongsong-gun, Yeongdeok-gur	Q Gyeongju-si	5 Gumi-si Ⅱ	B Mungyeong-si, Yecheon-gun	Bonghwa-gun, Ul
🚯 Pohang-si Nam-gu	 Goryeong-gun, Seongju-gun, 	6 Gunwi-gun, Uiseong-gun,	Sangju-si	🕲 Yeongju-si
🕑 Pohang-si Buk-gu	Chilgok-gun	Cheongsong-gun	Andong-si	B Yeongcheon-si

Change in the Constituency Numbers for National Assembly Elections and Seats

O Sangju-si

Andong-si

Andong-si |

Q Gyeongju-si

Gyeongju-si II

Goryeong-gun, Seongju-gun

6 Gumi-si I

8 Gimcheon-s

🛛 Gunwi-gun, Chilgok-gun

Classification	Seoul	Busan	Daegu	Incheon	Gwangju	Daejeon	Ulsan	Sejong	Gyeong- gi-do	Gang- won-do	Jeolla- buk-do	Jeolla- nam-do	Chungc- heongbuk-do	Chungc- heongnam-do	Gyeongsang- buk-do	Gyeongsang- nam-do	Jeju Special Self-Govern- ing Province	The Total Number of Local constitu- encies' Seats	The Total Number of Proportional Repre- sentatives' Seats	
The 15th General Election (1996)	47	21	13	11	6	7			38	13	14	17	8	13	19	23	3	253	46	299
The 16th General Election (2000)	45	17	11	11	6	6	5		41	9	10	13	7	11	16	16	3	227	46	273
The 17th General Election (2004)	48	18	12	12	7	6	6		49	8	11	13	8	10	15	17	3	243	56	299
The 18th General Election (2008)	48	18	12	12	8	6	6		51	8	11	12	8	10	15	17	3	245	54	299
The 19th General Election (2012)	48	18	12	12	8	6	6	1	52	9	11	11	8	10	15	16	3	246	54	300
Rate of Change (1996–2012)	13.4	8.7	17.4	39.9	32.2	39.3	-	-	74.4	16.1	7.4	1.2	23.7	23.1 (29.3)*	11.6	-3.0 (29.8)**	25.2			

Central Election Management Commission (1996

*Chungcheongnam-do: The rate of change including Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City is 29.3%. **Gyeongsangnam-do: The rate of change including Ulsan Metropolican City is 29.8%.

Uljin-gun

B Yeongcheon-si

🚯 Yeongju-si

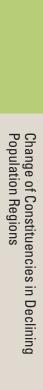
→ 2010 **54.5**

→ 2014 **56.8**

Central Election Management Commission (2015)



SOCIETY AND CULTURE



9 Yeosu-si II

🔞 Jangheung-gun, Gangjin-gun, Yeongam-gun

Central Election Management Commission (2012)

🚯 Haenam-gun, Wando-gun, Jindo-gun

a-gun, Uljin-gun

-gun, Yeongdeok-gun, 🛛 🔞 Pohang-si Nam-gu Pohang-si Buk-gu

Central Election Management Commission (2012

Public Official Election Act

