



Over 96,000 voter applications filed in 23 districts since July 2012

Introduction

This report documents voter registration statistics gathered from 33 reporting districts from July 10, 2012 to March 7, 2013. It is based on information collected by District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) deployed by the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN). DLTOs interviewed District Election Commissioners (DECs) about ongoing voter registration, among other topics relevant to pre-election preparations for General Election 2013. The statistics gathered by DLTOs from DEC offices also include data sent by the National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for new voter registration since July 2012.

DECs Keeping and Sharing Voter Registration Statistics

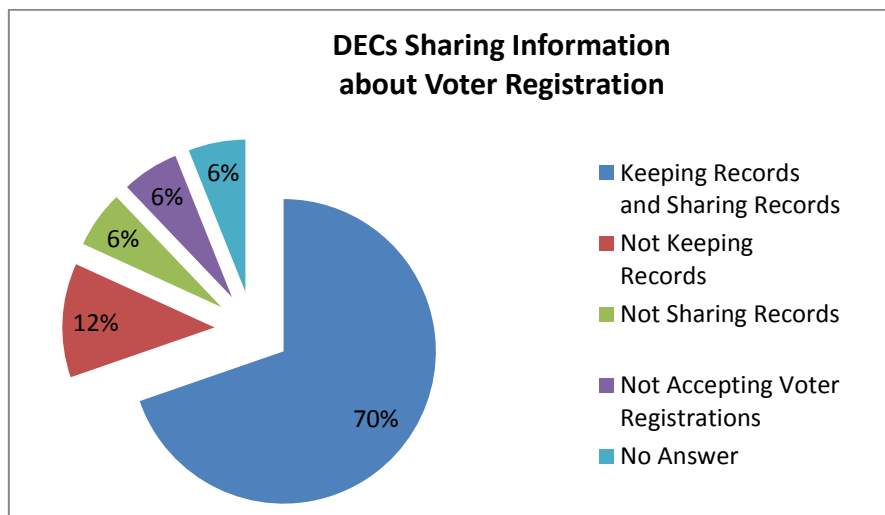
FAFEN DLTOs asked DECs about the ongoing voter registration in 33 districts - 15 in Punjab, 14 in Sindh, three in Balochistan and one in KP.

The DECs in these districts were asked if their offices were receiving applications for voter registration. A total of 29 of the 33 DECs (88%) said they are receiving applications for voter registration. Two DECs said they had stopped receiving applications (6%), and two chose not to share information about voter registration with FAFEN observers (6%).

Of the 29 districts receiving voter registration applications, 23 DECs (79%) said they are compiling statistics (keeping records) on voter registration, while four (14%) were not. The remaining two DECs did not share any information (7%).

DECs Sharing Information with FAFEN about Voter Registration					
Province/ Region	Receiving Voter Registration Applications			Not Receiving Applications	Not Sharing Information
	Keeping and Sharing Records	No Records	Not Sharing		
Punjab	Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Kasur, Jhang, Hafizabad, Bahawalnagar, Gujranwala, Jhelum, Narowal, Bahawalpur, Vehari	Sahiwal, Rajanpur	–	–	Bhakkar, Layyah
Sindh	Tando Mohammad Khan, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Jacobabad, Sanghar, Tharparkar, Ghotki, Naushero Feroz, Dadu, Kamber Shahdadkot	Sukkur	Khairpur	Malir, Shaheed Benazirabad	–
Balochistan	Mastung, Washuk	Kech	–	–	–
KP	–	–	Charsadda	–	–
Total	23	4	2	2	2

In total, among the 33 DEC interviewed, more than two-third DECs (23, or 70%) shared complete information with FAFEN about ongoing voter registration statistics. More than one-tenth (4, or 12%) were receiving voter registration applications, but were not keeping records of the number of applications. Two DECs were receiving applications, but declined to share the data with FAFEN (6%), two were not receiving voter registration applications (6%), and two declined to provide any information about voter registration to FAFEN (6%).



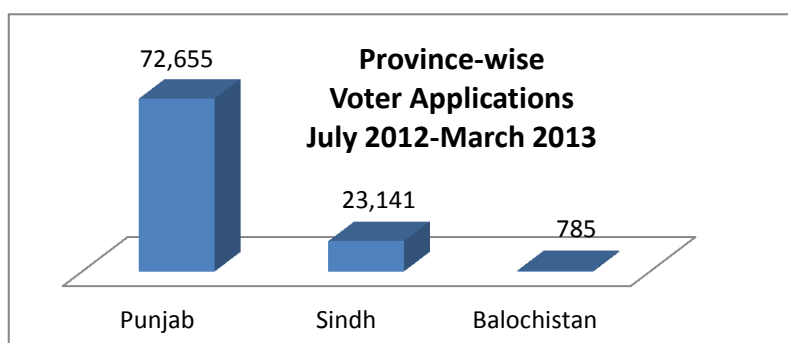
Province-wise Voter Registration Statistics

The 23 DECs who shared statistics with FAFEN received a total of 96,581 applications (includes data from NADRA) for voter registration from July 10, 2012 to March 7, 2013.

DECs in 13 Punjab districts received the most voter registration applications (also includes data received from NADRA) in the reporting period. They received 72,655 applications, or 75.2% of the total, in the following districts: Sahiwal, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Kasur, Jhang, Hafizabad, Bahawalnagar, Gujrawanwala, Jhelum, Narowal, Bahawalpur, Vehari, and Rajanpur. More than 60.5% of the applications in Punjab were in Rawalpindi (44,000), followed by Sahiwal (14,320, or 19.7%) and Bahawalpur (10,660, or 14.7%). The remaining 10 districts reported applications of 3,675 voters (5.1%).

A total of 23,141 voter applications were registered in 10 districts in Sindh. These districts, with almost 24% of the total applications, were Tando Muhammad Khan (210), Mirpurkhas (7,368), Umerkot (4,482), Jacobabad (4,475), Sanghar (1,025), Tharkparker (2,012), Ghotki (574), Naushero Feroz (532), Dadu (1,010) and Kamber Shahdakot (1,453).

In Balochistan, 785 voter applications were received (less than 1% of the total) in Mastung (463) and Washuk (322). The DEC in Charsadda (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) did not share the information regarding voter registration.



About FAFEN

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 42 leading civil society organizations working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), FAFEN also implements robust programs in-between elections related to monitoring parliamentary affairs, connecting constituents to their elected representatives, monitoring the performance of public and elected institutions and advocating electoral and democratic reforms.

FAFEN Election Program

FAFEN is implementing a long-term election observation program nationwide, including both pre and post-electoral processes. FAFEN is deploying 130 District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) across the country to monitor all phases of elections. FAFEN's Constituency Long-Term Observers (CLTOs) will observe the political campaigns in all National Assembly constituencies during the two months prior to Election Day. In addition, FAFEN will deploy more than 43,000 trained, non-partisan citizens to monitor polling stations across the country on Election Day.

All FAFEN observers adhere to the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Code of Conduct for National Observers as well as the Global Principles for Non-Partisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations (April 2012). FAFEN's 10-month observation process, that began on February 1, 2013, will help keep all election stakeholders informed on issues relevant to fairness and transparency at every stage of the election process.

FAFEN Election Observation Methodology

FAFEN's election observation activities are based on the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, global best practice standards for elections, as well as the legal obligations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Pakistan in 2010. FAFEN LTOs use standardized checklists to report electronically to the FAFEN Election Observation Secretariat in Islamabad regularly. FAFEN compiles data and information from around the country to issue regular thematic updates for the consideration of voters and election stakeholders.

FAFEN LTOs monitor and report on the activities of District Election Commissioner (DEC) offices, preparations of elections such as appointment and training of election officials, the process of candidate nominations, and compliance with the ECP's Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates (after the announcement of election schedule). In addition, LTOs observe and report on compliance of the executive branch with legal responsibilities and ECP regulations, including restrictions on transfers of civil service personnel and initiation of new development schemes. LTOs also monitor political and electoral intimidation and violence, the actions of the police and other security forces, and the overall political environment during the pre-election period.