

Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Special Bulletin
Countdown towards the General Election

On 25 October 2007, the Royal Decree setting 23 December 2007 as the date for the general election took effect after its adoption by the Cabinet on 16 October 2007. Less than 60 days remain before the Thai voters will cast ballots to elect qualified candidates to represent them in the House of Representatives.

Earlier on 7 October 2007, three organic laws, namely, the Political Parties Act, the Election Commission Act and the Act on Elections of Members of the House of Representatives and on Elections and Selection of Senators, 1 [1][1] had also been enacted. These laws set out details and mechanisms necessary for holding elections in accordance with the Constitution.

Based on the 2007 Constitution, the election for Members of the House of Representatives must be held within 90 days from the date of the entry into force of these laws, while the election and selection of Senators must be completed within 150 days. 2 [2][2]

Preparations for the 23 December general election

At the 23 December election, 480 Members of the House of Representatives will be elected – 400 through the constituency system and 80 through the proportional or party-list system. 3 [3][3]

A candidate running for a seat in the House of Representatives must be member of a political party for at least 30 days before the date of the election. 4 [4][4]

Pursuant to the Elections Act, the Election Commission announced on 17 October 2007 the numbers of seats and electoral districts in each province for the constituency system and the number of electoral districts in each of the eight electoral areas for the proportional system. 5 [5][5]

For the constituency system, there are 157 electoral districts calculated on the basis of the total population of 62,828,706 (as of 31 December 2006) and the average of one member of the House of Representatives per 157,071 people. Bangkok, with population of 5,695,956, has the highest numbers of representatives to be elected and electoral districts, namely 36 and 12 respectively, followed by Nakhon Ratchasima which will have 16 representatives to be elected from 6 electoral districts. Trat, Ranong, Samut Songkram and Singburi will have one representative each.

As for the numbers of provinces in each of the eight electoral areas for the proportional or party-list system, these vary between 3 and 15, depending, among others, on the number of the cumulative population. Adjacent provinces are grouped together. The average number of population in each electoral area is approximately 7.8 million. Each electoral area will elect 10 representatives.

With the general election date set for 23 December 2007, the Election Commission has also indicated the tentative timeframe of various dates relating to the general election, including:

22 October – 22 November 2007	Registration for voters requesting to vote outside their electoral districts or overseas
7-11 November 2007	Acceptance to political parties' lists of candidates of political parties for Members of the House of Representatives, who will be proportionally elected from eight electoral areas (or the so-called "party-list candidates")
12-16 November 2007	Application of candidates for Members of the House of Representatives under the constituency system

1 [1][1] The Act on Elections of Members of the House of Representatives and on Elections and Selection of Senators (hereinafter referred to as "the Elections Act").

2 [2][2] Constitution, § 296. According to the timeframe, the 90th day after the entry into force of the three organic laws is Friday 4 January 2008.

3 [3][3] Constitution, § 93.

4 [4][4] Constitution, § 296.

5 [5][5] The Elections Act, § 7.

3-16 December 2007
15-16 December 2007

Voting dates for registered overseas voters
Voting dates for voters registered for
advanced voting

Updates on political parties

According to the statistics published by the Election Commission, as of 10 October 2007, there are **a total of 68 political parties** registered with the Commission. Of these, 63 are active political parties. Since August 2007, there have been 30 new parties registered with the Election Commission. 6[6][6]

Numbers of Members of the House of Representatives
and Electoral Constituencies of Each Province
for the Election of Members of the House of Representatives
under the Constituency System
for the 23 December 2007 General Elections

The average number of population per one Member of the House of Representatives (MP) is calculated by dividing the number of total population as of 31 December 2006, which is 62,828,706, by the total number of MPs to be elected through the constituency system, which is 400. On average, there are 157,071 people per one MP.

The number of electoral constituencies in each province depends on the number of MPs each province may have, but each constituency may have no more than 3 MPs.

No.	Province	No. of Population	No. of MPs	No. of Constituencies
1	Amnat Charoen	368,934	2	1
2	Ang Thong	283,943	2	1
3	Bangkok	5,695,956	36	12
4	Buri Ram	1,536,722	10	4
5	Chachoengsao	654,206	4	2
6	Chai Nat	339,006	2	1
7	Chaing Rai	1,225,713	8	3
8	Chaiyaphum	1,119,146	7	3
9	Chanthaburi	502,389	3	1
10	Chiang Mai	1,658,298	11	4
11	Chon Buri	1,209,290	8	3
12	Chumphon	478,964	3	1
13	Kalasin	975,562	6	2
14	Kamphaeng Phet	728,320	5	2
15	Kanchanaburi	834,447	5	2

6[6][6] According to the information available on the website of the Election Commission (http://www.ect.go.th/thai/download50/party_34.pdf), in the list of 68 parties, five political parties are in the process of being considered by the Constitutional Tribunal for dissolution due to their failure to fulfill requirements stipulated in the Political Parties Act of 1998. Also, 43 political parties have yet to fulfill all requirements stipulated in the Political Parties Act of 2007 (i.e., either to have no less than 5,000 members or to have at least one branch in each of the country's regions), which they must do within one year after the Political Parties Act entered into force.

No.	Province	No. of Population	No. of MPs	No. of Constituencies
16	Khon Kaen	1,750,500	11	4
17	Krabi	403,363	3	1
18	Lampang	773,790	5	2
19	Lamphun	405,564	3	1
20	Loei	613,303	4	2
21	Lop Buri	752,775	5	2
22	Mae Hong Son	255,174	2	1
23	Maha Sarakham	937,686	6	2
24	Mukdahan	335,447	2	1
25	Nakhon Nayok	250,003	2	1
26	Nakhon Pathom	821,905	5	2
27	Nakhon Phanom	695,351	4	2
28	Nakhon Ratchasima	2,555,587	16	6
29	Nakhon Sawan	1,076,015	7	3
30	Nakhon Si Thammarat	1,510,460	10	4
31	Nan	477,662	3	1
32	Narathiwat	707,171	5	2
33	Nong Bua Lam Phu	496,692	3	1
34	Nong Khai	899,580	6	2
35	Nonthaburi	999,057	6	2
36	Pathum Thani	861,338	6	2
37	Pattani	635,730	4	2
38	Patthalung	503,321	3	1
39	Phangnga	245,394	2	1
40	Phayao	486,219	3	1
41	Phetchabun	1,002,317	6	2
42	Phetchaburi	456,681	3	1
43	Phichit	557,832	4	2
44	Phitsanulok	844,508	5	2
45	Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya	754,595	5	2
46	Phrae	468,373	3	1
47	Phuket	300,737	2	1
48	Prachin Buri	453,819	3	1
49	Prachuap Khiri Khan	494,416	3	1
50	Ranong	179,850	1	1
51	Ratchaburi	828,930	5	2
52	Rayong	573,785	4	2

No.	Province	No. of Population	No. of MPs	No. of Constituencies
53	Roi Et	1,310,047	8	3
54	Sa Kaeo	538,344	3	1
55	Sakon Nakhon	1,109,046	7	3
56	Samut Prakan	1,107,626	7	3
57	Samut Sakhon	462,510	3	1
58	Samut Songkhram	194,990	1	1
59	Saraburi	609,855	4	2
60	Satun	281,545	2	1
61	Si Sa Ket	1,446,484	9	3
62	Sing Buri	216,969	1	1
63	Songkhla	1,317,501	8	3
64	Sukhothai	608,820	4	2
65	Suphan Buri	843,904	5	2
66	Surat Thani	960,698	6	2
67	Surin	1,375,257	9	3
68	Tak	527,677	3	1
69	Trang	607,450	4	2
70	Trat	219,949	1	1
71	Ubon Ratchathani	1,783,035	11	4
72	Udon Thani	1,527,562	10	4
73	Uthai Thani	326,988	2	1
74	Uttaradit	467,482	3	1
75	Yala	468,252	3	1
76	Yasothon	540,889	4	2
Total		62,828,706	400	157

**Electoral Areas for the Proportional (or Party-List) Election
of Members of the House of Representatives
of the 23 December 2007 General Elections**

Group of Provinces	Electoral Area No.	No. of Members of the House of Representatives for the electoral area	Number of population in the electoral area	Provinces included in the electoral area
1	1	10	7,615,610	1. Mae Hong Son 2. Chiang Mai 3. Chiang Rai 4. Phayao 5. Nan 6. Phrae 7. Lampang 8. Lamphun 9. Sukhothai

Group of Provinces	Electoral Area No.	No. of Members of the House of Representatives for the electoral area	Number of population in the electoral area	Provinces included in the electoral area
				10. Tak 11. Kamphaeng Phet
2	2	10	7,897,563	1. Uttaradit 2. Phitsanulok 3. Phichit 4. Nakhon Sawan 5. Uthai Thani 6. Lop Buri 7. Phetchabun 8. Chaiyaphum 9. Khon Kaen
3	3	10	7,959,163	1. Amnat Charoen 2. Mukdahan 3. Nakhon Phanom 4. Sakon Nakhon 5. Kalasin 6. Maha Sarakham 7. Nong Khai 8. Udon Thani 9. Nong Bua Lam Phu 10. Loei
4	4	10	7,992,434	1. Buri Ram 2. Surin 3. Si Sa Ket 4. Ubon Ratchathani 5. Yasothon 6. Roi Et
5	5	10	7,818,710	1. Sa Kaeo 2. Nakhon Ratchasima 3. Pathum Thani 4. Nakhon Nayok 5. Phrachin Buri 6. Chachoengsao 7. Chon Buri 8. Rayong 9. Chanthaburi 10. Trat
6	6	10	7,802,639	1. Bangkok 2. Nonthaburi 3. Samut Prakan
7	7	10	7,800,965	1. Ranong 2. Chumphon 3. Prachuap Khiri Khan 4. Phetchaburi 5. Ratchaburi 6. Samut Songkhram 7. Samut Sakhon 8. Nakhon Pathom 9. Kanchanaburi 10. Suphan Buri 11. Chai Nat 12. Sing Buri 13. Ang Thong 14. Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya 15. Saraburi
8	8	10	7,941,622	1. Surat Thani 2. Phangnga 3. Phuket 4. Krabi

Group of Provinces	Electoral Area No.	No. of Members of the House of Representatives for the electoral area	Number of population in the electoral area	Provinces included in the electoral area
				5. Nakhon Si Thammarat 6. Trang 7. Patthalung 8. Satun 9. Songkhla 10. Pattani 11. Yala 12. Narathiwat
Total	8	80	62,828,706	76

Source: Election Commission of Thailand

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