

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE GCC COUNTRIES' PARLIAMENTS

Although the GCC countries remain hereditary monarchies, it is interesting to look at how their parliaments operate, examining some key similarities and differences that exist among them, as well as highlighting important milestones.



## COMPOSITION

Oman and Bahrain are the only two **bicameral** GCC parliaments, the rest is unicameral.

50% of UAE's FNC members are elected by the **electoral college**. FNC is the only GCC parliament that **cannot propose new laws**.

**National Assembly**



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**Council of Oman**



**Federal National Council**



**Consultative Council**



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	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	UAE	Qatar	Saudi Arabia
elected members	40	50	85	20	0	0
appointed members	40	15	86	20	35	150

Those are Cabinet Ministers (ex-officio members).

Kuwait's National Assembly seats **more elected than appointed members** and has **more powers** than its GCC counterparts.

**Qatar and Saudi Arabia** are the only two countries with **all-appointed parliaments**.

## POLITICAL PARTIES



**Political parties** are in general **prohibited** across the GCC and candidates thus run in the elections as independents. However, in **Bahrain and Kuwait** they can form **political societies** and run under their banner.



## WOMEN IN THE PARLIAMENT

### FIRST AND LAST



**Oman** was the **first country to allow women run and vote** in parliamentary elections.



**Qatar** was the **last GCC country to appoint women** in its parliament in 2017.

### 1ST FEMALE SPEAKER



The **UAE** elected the **first woman Speaker of the House** in the GCC in 2015, the second one was elected in Bahrain in 2018.



### 1ST WOMEN QUOTA



**Saudi Arabia** was the **first to introduce women quota** in the parliament. It was set at **min. 20%** and KSA thus has the **largest number of women members (30)** among the GCC parliaments.

### PROPORTION



The **UAE** was the **2nd to introduce quota for women** and the first to set it at **50%**, becoming the first GCC parliament with **equal gender representation** and simultaneously also the **largest proportion of women**.



**Kuwait** currently has the **lowest proportion of women** in the Parliament.