



NSCB Fact Sheet

NATIONAL STATISTICAL COORDINATION BOARD

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In Region 1, there were two women for every ten men winners in the past three election years

Men continued to win a greater number of electoral positions than their women counterparts at the district, provincial and municipal levels. In the 1998, 2001 and 2004 elections, there were about two women for every ten men winners. The highest representation for women in the legislative body was in the Congress with one out of 12 positions in the 2001 and 2004 elections.

From 1995 to 2001, the percentage of women elected officials steadily increased from 13.0 percent in 1995 to 17.0 percent in 2001. However, the percentage of women winners decreased by 15.9 percent in 2004. The number of elected women decreased by 6.6 percent. This was largely due to the lesser number of women mayors and Sanggunian Bayan (SB) members with a reduction of nine and seven winners, respectively.

Among the provinces, it was only in Pangasinan where the number of women elected officials steadily increased from 59 winners in 1995 to 81 winners in 2004. Meanwhile, the number of elected women in Ilocos Sur decreased by 21.2 percent in 2004, the highest among the provinces.

There were more women than men registered voters in Region 1 in the 2001 and 2004 elections. The same trend was observed among the provinces except in Ilocos Sur in 2004. Women comprised about 50.3 percent of the total registered voters for both election years. However, there were more men actual voters in 2004 with a 50.1 percent share. This was also the general trend among the provinces, except in Pangasinan, where there were more women voters. Meanwhile, the voters turn-out rate, which is the percentage of registered voters who actually voted, increased from 2001 to 2004 for both sexes but the rate for women was lower by about 1.0 percentage point. All provinces exhibited the same trend on the voters turn-out rate for both sexes for the same election period.

It was noted that in 2004, as there was a decrease in the number of women voters, there was also a decrease in the number of elected women. The decrease in the number of elected women could be due to lesser number of women candidates or due to lesser number of people voting for them. If the former, it could be possible that there were lesser women voters since there were lesser women candidates. If the latter, it could also mean that since there were fewer women voters, there were also lesser women winners. At the provincial level, Pangasinan relatively showed the same trend, in which the increase in the number of women winners

Table 1. Number of Elected Officials by Province 1995, 1998, 2001 and 2004

Government Position	Number of Elected Officials							
	Women				Men			
	1995	1998 r/	2001	2004 r/	1995	1998 r/	2001	2004
<i>Representatives</i>	1	2	1	1	11	10	11	11
Ilocos Norte	-	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Ilocos Sur	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	2
La Union	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2
Pangasinan	-	-	-	-	6	6	6	6
<i>Governors</i>	-	-	-	-	4	4	4	4
Ilocos Norte	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Ilocos Sur	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
La Union	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Pangasinan	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
<i>Vice-Governors</i>	1	-	-	-	3	4	4	4
Ilocos Norte	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Ilocos Sur	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
La Union	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Pangasinan	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
<i>Sangguniang</i>	5	8	11	10	35	32	31	32
<i>Pantalawigan</i>								
Ilocos Norte	1	4	4	4	9	6	6	6
Ilocos Sur	1	2	5	3	9	8	5	7
La Union	2	1	1	1	8	9	9	9
Pangasinan	1	1	1	2	9	9	11	10
<i>Mayors</i>	11	30	28	19	114	95	97	106
Ilocos Norte	-	6	8	5	23	17	15	18
Ilocos Sur	5	9	7	4	29	25	27	30
La Union	1	9	7	5	19	11	13	15
Pangasinan	5	6	6	5	43	42	42	43
<i>Vice-Mayors</i>	11	12	11	13	114	113	114	112
Ilocos Norte	2	2	-	3	21	21	23	20
Ilocos Sur	5	3	6	3	29	31	28	31
La Union	1	1	3	3	19	19	17	17
Pangasinan	3	6	2	4	45	42	46	44
<i>Sangguniang Bayan</i>	142	154	175	168	864	858	841	850
Ilocos Norte	36	32	31	26	150	154	155	160
Ilocos Sur	36	37	48	42	236	235	228	234
La Union	20	35	32	30	140	127	130	134
Pangasinan	50	50	64	70	338	342	328	322
Total	171	206	226	211	1,145	1,116	1,102	1,119

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Sources: Commission on Elections and Department of Interior and Local Government

may be attributed to the increase on the number of women voters.

All of the above seem to convey that there are still gender biases in the electoral process from making the decision to vote or not to the actual selection of the candidates to be voted. The elimination of these gender biases should be one of the major concerns of organizations promoting gender equality and women empowerment. More advocacy activities in TV, radio and print should be conducted to educate the electorate and to encourage women to take more active role in the exercise of their suffrage and in their participation in the political arena.

Table 2. Number of Registered and Actual Voters and Voters Turn-out Rate, by Province, 2001 and 2004

Province	2001						2004					
	No. of Registered Voters		No. of Actual Voters		Voters Turn-out Rate		No. of Registered Voters		No. of Actual Voters		Voters Turn-out Rate	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Region 1	1,012,541	998,678	832,754	830,877	82.2	83.2	1,167,348	1,155,339	976,760	978,838	83.7	84.7
Ilocos Norte	134,563	132,272	112,411	112,108	83.5	84.8	150,684	148,868	127,656	128,158	84.7	86.1
Ilocos Sur	146,671	144,486	125,082	126,468	85.3	87.5	165,923	166,256	144,664	147,391	87.2	88.7
La Union	160,747	158,644	133,891	133,523	83.3	84.2	181,814	179,277	153,939	154,270	84.7	86.1
Pangasinan	570,560	563,276	461,370	458,778	80.9	81.4	668,927	660,938	550,501	549,019	82.3	83.1

Source: Commission on Elections

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