



A Summary of the National Assembly

- It was Monday, November 11, 1962, when late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the 11th ruler of Kuwait, fondly known as the "father of the Constitution," approved the constitution, which is the first of its kind in the Arabian Gulf region.
- It contributed to a qualitative leap towards building a modern state based on constitutional institutions and a system founded on principles of rights and duties.
- The Constitution is an expression of the will of the ruler and the citizen to live within framework of an active constitutional democracy and build the state of law.
- It is also a document determining the system of the state, regulates relationship between the executive, legislative and judicial authorities.
- Prior of the issuance of the Constitution, Kuwaitis elected the Constituent Assembly in January 1962 to draft the first constitution of the nation.
- The Assembly formed a five-member committee to oversee the wording of the draft that defines the entity of the State of Kuwait, regulate relations among authorities and freedoms.
- The Constituent Assembly began deliberating the draft Constitution on August 12, 1962.
- In its meeting held on October 30, the articles of the draft were read, and the constitution was adopted unanimously in a session held on November 3, 1962.
- The Chairman of the Constituent Assembly presented the new constitution to the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem at Sief Palace on November 8, 1962.



- Only 72 days after the constitution was approved, the first parliamentary elections were held in Kuwait on January 23, 1963, which officially marked the start of political practice under the new constitution.
- It was the gateway of the constitutional beginning of the three main authorities: legislative, executive and judicial Kuwait's Constitution consists of 183 articles distributed to five chapters; the first is about the State and the System of Government.
- Second is about fundamentals of the Kuwaiti Society.
- Third is dedicated to public rights and duties, and fourth is about authorities and the fifth is about general and transitional provisions.
- Since the ratification of the constitution 57 years ago, Kuwaiti National Assembly held 15 legislative terms and 36 governments formed.



- The decision to allocate a certain number of constituencies within which voters could exercise their voting rights began early in 1961 when an elections law was adopted.
- State-wide elections for seats in the national assembly began in earnest on January 23, 1963, in accordance with dividing the country into 20 separate constituencies.
- By 1966 the number of constituencies was amended to 10 from which 50 candidates for the parliament were voted for to take their seats in the national assembly representing their constituencies and the Kuwaiti people at large.
- The 10 constituency configuration survived in the parliamentary elections of 1967, 1971, and 1975.
- In 1980 the number of constituencies increased to 25 and the number of registered voters exceeded 42,000.
- Thereafter that configuration was repeated in the elections of 1981, 1985, 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, and 2006.
- It was in August 2006 that a new law was passed requiring the number of constituencies to be constricted to five, from each 10 candidates for seats in the parliament would emerge.
- At that time the number of registered voters was 384,790 -- among them 209, 111 female, and 175,679 males. That configuration is still in effect.
- Today, Kuwait parliament consists of 50 members who represent five constituencies, 10 each.

- The five constituencies were divided based on two theories, the first is geographic and the second demographic with equal numbers of 10,000 voters in each constituency.



- On 13 July 2003, the offices of crown prince and prime minister were separated in 2003 for the first time since independence.



- The State of Kuwait has given female citizen all their rights in voting and electing after a long journey in order to recognize their constitutional and political right.
- She was able to achieve this success due to several factors, including the development of the legislative and social system which allowed many Kuwaiti talents to occupy the highest positions locally and regionally.
- In June 2005, the cabinet announced the selection of Eng. Fatima Saud Al-Sabah and Eng. Fawzia Mohammed Al-Bahr as members of the Municipal Council, and selected Dr. Masouma Al-Mubarak to be as the Minister of Planning and State Secretary for Administrative Development.
- In April 2006, Kuwaiti women, exercised for the first time, their political right to vote and run for election when Eng. Janan Boshehri announced her candidacy in the supplementary elections to the Municipal Council.

- Kuwait is expected to hold its next elections on December 5 to vote for members of the country's National Assembly in its 16th legislative term, according to a draft decree approved by Kuwait's cabinet.



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