



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES Women in the Electorate: MENA Region

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- ❖ Yemen, the first country in the Arabian Peninsula to enfranchise women, saw an increase in women's voter registration from 1.8 million to 3.4 million from 1997 – 2001.¹
- ❖ Voter turnout in the 2002 municipal elections in Bahrain reached roughly 51%, and 52% of those who voted were women.²
- ❖ In Egypt, local politicians and activists believe that the national turnout rate among women was as high or higher than 50% in the 2005 Parliamentary elections.³
- ❖ In the 2005 Turkish national elections, 74% of eligible men voted, while 77% of eligible women voted.⁴
- ❖ In the local council and presidential elections of 2006, 61% of Yemeni women reported that they had voted in the elections.⁵
- ❖ During the 2009 Parliamentary elections in Lebanon, 80% of eligible female voters voted, while only 78% of eligible men voted.⁶
- ❖ In the June 2009 municipal elections in Morocco, 45% of eligible women voted, while 57% of men voted.⁷
- ❖ In the first part of the 2000s in Syria, for every 1,000 men who voted, an average of 866 women voted as well.⁸
- ❖ In 2015, women were granted the right to vote and run for office in Saudi Arabia.⁹
- ❖ In Qatar, 50% of the eligible electorate is comprised of women.¹⁰
- ❖ In Tunisia, 50.5% of registered voters are women.¹¹

¹ <https://www.ndi.org/files/Parl%20Elections%20Yemen%20part4.pdf>

² http://www.academia.edu/727107/Politics_and_Gender_Advancing_Female_Political_Participation_in_the_Kingdom_of_Bahrain

³ <http://web.stanford.edu/~blaydes/Voters.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/78432?download=true>

⁵ <http://www.iwpr.org/initiatives/swmena>

⁶ <http://www.swmena.org/en/report/85>

⁷ <http://www.swmena.org/en/report/99>

⁸ <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rising-female-voter-turnout-the-big-story-of-50-years/article5326782.ece>

⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/09/20119298149855126.html/>

¹⁰ <http://www.thenational.ae/world/middle-east/qatar-holds-rare-vote-amid-calls-for-quotas-for-women>

¹¹ <http://www.genderconcerns.org/pdfs/Gender-Election-Monitoring-Tunisia-2014-preliminary-Report.pdf>