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## **Background**

*Election date(s)*

24.11.2018 to 01.12.2018

*Timing of election*

Upon normal expiry

*Expected date of next elections*

30.11.2022

*Number of seats at stake*

40

*Scope of elections*

Full renewal

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## **Candidates**

*Total number of candidates*

292

*Number of male candidates*

252

*Number of female candidates*

40

*Percentage of women candidates*

13.7%

*Notes*

Although political parties are not allowed, "political associations" were legalized by an amendment in 2005 to the 1989 law prohibiting political parties.

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## **Voter turnout**

*Registration*

365,467

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## **Results**

*About the election*

The 2018 election saw a high turnover: Only three of the 23 outgoing MPs who were seeking re-election kept their seats in the 40-member Council of Representatives. A handful of candidates affiliated with "political associations" (see note) were voted in, including three candidates from Al Asalah and one from the Unity Gathering Assembly . The number of women doubled to six. Ms. Fawzia Zainal was elected Speaker, becoming the first woman in Bahrain to assume the post. Prior to the 2018 elections, several political associations, including the Islamic National Accord Association (Al Wefaq, a Shia association and the main political opposition group), were dissolved by court orders upon request from the government. In June, the King ratified an amendment to the Exercise of Political Rights Act, enacted by parliament in May. The amended law prohibits leaders and members of dissolved political associations as well as those who have spent more than six months in prison from running for elected office. The government encouraged Shias to run as independent candidates. Note: Although political parties are not allowed, "political associations" were legalized by an amendment in 2005 to the 1989 law prohibiting political parties. Note on the Parties or coalitions winning seats: The distribution of seats above refers to the composition of the Council of Representatives in April 2019. In addition to the political associations, there are three parliamentary groups formed after the 2018 elections: "Bahrain", led by Mr. Ammar Qambar, Chairman of the Services Committee; Al Methaq – "National Action Charter", led by MP Mohamed Alsisi Alboainain; and Taqadom, which unofficially represents the Progressive Tribune association.

*Percentage of seats won by largest party or coalition*

42.5%

*Alternation of power after elections*

No

*Parties or coalitions winning seats*

<b>Political group</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Assala Association</b>	3
<b>Taqadom</b>	2
<b>Unity Gathering Assembly</b>	1
<b>Almethaq - "National Action Charter"</b>	6
<b>Bahrain</b>	11
<b>Independents</b>	17

*Members elected, by sex*

Number of men elected

34

Number of women elected

6

*Percentage of women elected*

15%

*Sources*

Council of Representatives (03.12.2018, 05.12.2018, 23.04.2019, 02.05.2019)

<http://www.vote.bh> Bahrain: Unrest, Security, and U.S. Policy Updated December 4, 2018, Congressional Research Service (<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/95-1013.pdf>)  
Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (<https://www.adhrb.org/>)

Women Directly Elected

6

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**New legislature**

*Total number of men after the election*

34

*Total number of women after the election*

6

**First Speaker of the new legislature**

*First Speaker of the new legislature*

Fawzia Zainal (Female)

*Date of election*

12.12.2018