

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Election Candidacy Reflects Women's Exclusion From Top Positions

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Image by Aayush Yagol

The Election Commission (EC)'s deadline for filing candidacy for the upcoming local level election expired on 25 April 2022. The numbers reveal that women are not prioritized by political parties for the top positions and are confined to the seats reserved for them; namely, Women Ward Member and Dalit Women Ward Member.

In contrast, women candidates nominated by political parties for vital positions such as Mayor/Chairperson, Deputy-mayor/Vice-chairperson, and Ward Chairperson are only 361 (8% of total candidacy), 3066 (81% of total candidacy), and 820 (3% of total candidacy) respectively. In the past local election, the top positions were occupied by men, and the deputy positions were allocated to women by the political parties. The Local Election Act 2073 mandates political parties to elect at least 50% women candidates when they are nominating 2 candidates for the local elections. But, with the many alliances happening between the political parties, they are only electing a single candidate and are no longer mandated to nominate a female candidate. This has resulted in a substantial decrease in the candidacy of females for vital positions. Were the political parties only nominating female candidates because the law mandated it? How can the public believe these political parties' commitment to inclusion when the marginalization of women can be clearly seen during the elections?

Read more: [Election Commission Nepal](#) and [Online Khabar](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The EC website has made the list of 17,733,723 registered voters in Nepal publicly available with their individual details including name, age, gender, voting station, spouse's name, parents' names, and voter ID number. The privacy of citizens and the consequences of its violation are often not taken into consideration by the state mechanisms and this is a recent example of it.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
2. The EC recently issued a press release after questions were raised about the printing of ballot papers before the candidacy filing deadline. The response was that they had to proceed with the printing as it takes 40 days to print, verify, pack, and dispatch the ballot papers and 7 days for the ballot papers to reach the remote destinations in the country.
Read more: [Election Commission Nepal](#)
3. A Dalit youth named Santalal Paswan from Khadak Municipality in Saptari was beaten to death by a group of local non-Dalits in the pretense of supporting an independent candidate for the upcoming local elections. The violence erupted following a marriage procession but soon took a political turn and the subsequent death.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
4. The candidacy for upcoming local elections has once again highlighted the prevalence of nepotism in Nepali politics. It is observed that the top political leaders may not necessarily shift the power they have accumulated over the years to their cadres but rather transfer it to their close kin.
Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)
5. There are no Dalit women candidates in the nine wards of Lalitpur Metropolitan City even when the law mandates it. The lack of nomination highlights the negligence of major political parties on the issues of social inclusion and questions the significance of the position.
Read more: [Nagarik News](#)
6. The Press Council Nepal has recently taken action against 35 media outlets not complying with the election code of conduct. They have asked the media houses to not publish information defaming the prestige of political parties or candidates, and not spread false news.
Read more: [Press Council Nepal](#)

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Presented by



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