

A SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S PERFORMANCE IN KENYA'S 2022 ELECTION

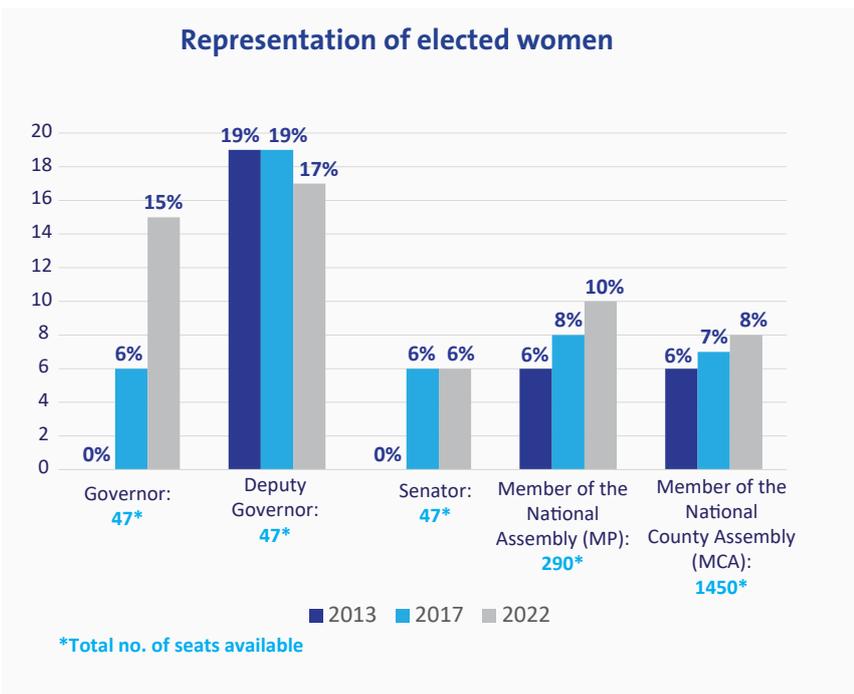


Photo: Shutterstock/Photo Contributor : vstekomimages

Overview

The August 2022 general election witnessed a positive shift in political participation and representation of women. Female candidates made up an estimated 11% of the total number of candidates gazetted by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). The 2022 election also recorded an increment in the number of women vying for elective positions, which ultimately resulted in an increased number of women successfully elected. For instance, the number of female gubernatorial candidates increased from nine in 2017 to 22 in 2022. Out of these 22, seven women were elected as County Governors, representing a 32% success rate. On September 27, 2022, President William Ruto unveiled his new Cabinet¹, which comprises seven women Cabinet Secretary nominees out of 22, representing 32% of the cabinet. The President also appointed three other women to the Executive, including the Advisor on National Security, the Advisor on Women's Rights and Agency, and the Secretary to the Cabinet, bringing the representation of women in the Executive to 39%. This is an improvement from the 2017 Cabinet, which had a 30% representation of women. However, despite progress noted following the 2022 elections, women's representation in the National Assembly and the Cabinet still fails to meet the Constitutional two-thirds gender requirement for elective and appointive positions.

Percentage change across the last three elections



Analysis of gazetted female candidates versus those elected in the post-2010 Constitution elections

	Governor	
	Gazetted women candidates	Elected women
2013	6	0
2017	9	3
2022	22	7

	Senator	
	Gazetted women candidates	Elected women
2013	17	0
2017	20	3
2022	44	3

	Member of the National Assembly (MP)	
	Gazetted women candidates	Elected women
2013	129	16
2017	131	23
2022	207	29

	County Woman Member of the National Assembly (Woman Rep)	
	Gazetted women candidates ³	Elected women
2013	-	47
2017	-	47
2022	359	47

	Member of the County Assembly (MCA)	
	Gazetted women candidates	Elected women
2013	623	82
2017	900	96
2022	1136	115

¹<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/william-ruto-names-cabinet-3964098>.
²The Deputy Governor seat is not an elective seat, but it is still important to document representation in this seat in line with the two-thirds gender rule that applies to both elective and appointive seats.
³There is no data on the gazetted number of Women Representative candidates for 2013 and 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 ELECTION

Women's Performance at the National Level

Female candidates made up an estimated

11%

of the total number of candidates gazetted by the IEBC.

The Senate position attracted the highest number of female candidates at 13% of the total number of candidates gazetted for the Senate seat

Women now hold 201 of the 1882 elective seats³ in Kenya, representing

10.6%

of elected leaders.

This is up from 172 (9.1%) seats after the 2017 election and 145 (7.7%) after the 2013 election.

The most significant change was recorded in the governor seat, where the percentage of women governors increased

From **6%** in 2017 (3 women governors)

To **15%** (7 women governors elected) in 2022.

Additionally, for the first time in Kenya's history, an independent female candidate was elected governor in Meru County.

Following the August 2022 election,

6 out of 12 nominees to the National Assembly are women

and

18 out of the 20 nominees to the Senate are women (with one nominated to represent the youth and one representing Persons with Disabilities).

These nominated seats were allocated in proportion to the total number of seats won by political parties at the National Assembly and the Senate following the general election.

Following the nominations, the total number of women in the National Assembly currently stands at

82

out of 349

(29 MNAs, 47 Women Representatives, and six nominated)

This number falls below the threshold of 117 women members needed to meet the two-thirds gender rule.

A very high retention rate was documented in the National Assembly where

77%

of the women MPs, 15 out of 23, retained their seats during the 2022 election.

The representation of young female parliamentarians in the 13th Parliament is as follows –

5 Senate

3 MP

15 Women Representative

representing **6%** of the parliamentarians

Women's Performance in the Counties

The total number of women MCAs following the August 2022 election now stands at

727

(115 elected; 612 nominated)

Following the nominations, the total number of MCAs across the 47 county assemblies has increased from

1,450 to 2,062

At the county level, Nakuru County recorded the highest number of elected women representatives at

15

out of 68 elective seats (1 governor, 1 senator, 11 MPs and 55 MCAs).

For the MCA seat, Kiambu County had the second highest number of elected women MCAs at

7

out of 59 MCAs.

Apart from the Woman Representative seat,

6

counties did not elect women to any other elective seat, including the Governor, Senator, or Member of the National Assembly seat. These counties are Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Kajiado, and Nyamira.

UN Women Kenya supports promoting gender equality in the electoral cycle in Kenya, which is embedded in UN Women's overall strategy to promote women's leadership and participation in politics. UN Women has been partnering with the Government of Kenya and non-state actors, especially the women's movement, to increase the number of women in political leadership in Kenya, made possible through partnership and the generous support of:

