

Japanese Electoral Systems, 1947–Present

TABLE A.1.1
Electoral Rules for Japan’s Lower House, 1947–Present

	<i>Time Period</i>		
	<i>1947–1994</i>	<i>1994–Present</i>	
Number of seats, districts	511 [†] / 129 [†]	300 / 300	180 [‡] / 11
Election rule	SNTV	Plurality (First past the post)	Closed-list PR
District size	2-6 (mean, median = 4)	1	6-29 (mean = 16.4)
Period of office	4 yrs, but subject to early dissolution	4 yrs, but subject to early dissolution	4 yrs, but subject to early dissolution

[†]In the last SNTV election, there were 129 districts and 511 seats. These numbers changed over time, as occasional redistrictings added urban seats and expanded the size of the chamber.

[‡]In the 1996 MMM election, there were 200 PR seats. This was reduced to 180 before the 2000 election.

BALLOT STRUCTURE

- Under SNTV, each voter cast one vote for an individual candidate in a multi-seat district.
- Under MMM, each voter is allotted one vote for a candidate in a single-seat district *and* one vote for a party in multiseat district.

ALLOCATION RULE

- Under SNTV, each district elected M members. With a couple of exceptions, M was equal to 3, 4, or 5.
- Under MMM, the district tier uses plurality rule. The regional tier uses closed-list PR-d’Hondt.
- Under MMM, a district candidate may also appear on her party’s PR list.

TABLE A.I.2

Electoral Rules for Japan's Upper House, 1947–Present

	<i>Time Period</i>		
	<i>1947–1980</i>	<i>1983–1998</i>	<i>2001–Present</i>
Number of seats, districts	152 prefectural, 100 national list	152 prefectural, 100 PR	146 prefectural, 96 PR
Election rule for prefectural districts	SNTV, M = 1 to 4	SNTV, M = 1 to 4	SNTV, M = 1 to 5
Election rule for national list	SNTV, M = 50	Closed-list PR, M = 50	Open-list PR, M = 48
Period of office	6 years (76 MPs elected every three years).	6 years (76 MPs elected every three years).	6 years (73 MPs elected every three years).

APPENDIX 2

Election Results, House of Representatives, 1986–2005

TABLE A.2
Election Results, House of Representatives, 1986–2005

<i>July 6, 1986</i> (SNTV)	Vote %	Seat %	Total Seats
LDP	49.4	58.6	300
JSP	17.2	16.6	85
CGP	9.4	10.9	56
DSP	6.4	5.1	26
JCP	8.8	5.1	26
NLC	1.8	1.2	6
SDL	0.8	0.8	4
Other/Indep	6.0	1.8	9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	512

<i>February 18,</i> <i>1990 (SNTV)</i>	Vote %	Seat %	Total Seats
LDP	46.1	53.7	275
JSP	24.4	26.6	136
CGP	8.0	8.8	45
JCP	8.0	3.1	16
DSP	4.8	2.7	14
USDP	0.9	0.8	4
PP	0.4	0.2	1
Other/Indep	7.4	4.1	21
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	512

<i>July 18, 1993 (SNTV)</i>	<i>Vote %</i>	<i>Seat %</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
LDP	36.6	43.6	223
JSP	15.4	13.7	70
JRP	10.1	10.8	55
CGP	8.1	10.0	51
JNP	8.1	6.8	35
DSP	3.5	2.9	15
JCP	7.7	2.9	15
NPH	2.6	2.5	13
USDP	0.7	0.8	4
Other/Indep	6.9	5.9	30
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	511

<i>October 20, 1996 (MMM)</i>	<i>% PR Votes</i>	<i>% PR Seats</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>% SMD Vote</i>	<i>% SMD Seats</i>	<i>SMD Seats</i>	<i>Total seats</i>
LDP	38.6	35.0	70	38.8	56.3	169	239
NFP	28.0	30.0	60	28.0	32.0	96	156
DPJ	10.1	17.5	35	10.7	5.7	17	52
JCP	12.6	12.0	24	12.6	0.7	2	26
JSP	2.2	5.5	11	2.2	1.3	4	15
NPH	1.3	0.0	0	1.3	0.7	2	2
DRP	0.3	0.0	0	0.3	0.3	1	1
Other/Indep	4.4	0.0	0	6.1	3.0	9	9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	200	100.0	100.0	300	500

TABLE A.2
(*cont.*)

<i>June 25, 2000</i> (MMM)	% PR Votes	% PR Seats	PR Seats	% SMD Vote	% SMD Seats	SMD Seats	Total seats
LDP	28.3	31.1	56	41.0	59.0	177	233
DPJ	25.2	26.1	47	27.6	26.7	80	127
CGP	13.0	13.3	24	2.0	2.3	7	31
JCP	11.2	11.1	20	12.1	0.0	0	20
LP	11.0	10.0	18	3.4	1.3	4	22
SDP	9.4	8.3	15	3.8	1.3	4	19
NCP	0.4	0.0	0	2.0	2.3	7	7
Other/Indep	1.3	0.0	0	8.1	7.0	21	21
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	180	100.0	100.0	300	480

<i>November 9,</i> 2003 (MMM)	% PR Votes	% PR Seats	PR Seats	% SMD Vote	% SMD Seats	SMD Seats	Total seats
LDP	35.0	38.3	69	43.8	56.0	168	237
DPJ	37.4	40.0	72	36.9	35.0	105	177
CGP	14.8	13.9	25	1.5	3.0	9	34
JCP	7.8	5.0	9	8.1	0.0	0	9
NCP	—	—	0	1.3	1.3	4	4
SDP	5.1	2.8	5	2.9	0.3	1	6
LL	—	—	—	0.2	0.3	1	1
Other/Indep	—	—	—	5.3	4.0	12	12
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	180	100.0	100.0	300	480

<i>September 11, 2005 (MMM)</i>	<i>% PR Votes</i>	<i>% PR Seats</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>% SMD Vote</i>	<i>% SMD Seats</i>	<i>SMD Seats</i>	<i>Total seats</i>
LDP	38.2	42.8	77	47.7	73.0	219	296
DPJ	31.0	33.9	61	36.7	17.3	52	113
CGP	13.3	12.8	23	1.4	2.7	8	31
JCP	7.3	5.0	9	7.3	0.0	0	9
SDP	5.5	3.3	6	1.5	0.3	1	7
PNP	1.7	1.1	2	0.6	0.7	2	4
NPN	2.4	0.6	1	0.2	0.0	0	1
NPD	0.6	0.6	1	0.0	0.0	0	1
Other/Indep	—	—	—	4.6	6.0	18	18
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	180	100.0	100.0	300	480

Note: See appendix 3 for a key to party names.

Election Results, House of Councillors,
1986–2007

TABLE A.3
Election Results, House of Councillors, 1986–2007

<i>July 6, 1986</i>	<i>PR Vote %</i>	<i>PR Seat %</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>District Vote %</i>	<i>District Seat %</i>	<i>District Seats</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
LDP	38.6	44.0	22	45.1	65.8	50	72
JSP	17.2	18.0	9	21.5	14.5	11	20
CGP	13	14.0	7	4.4	3.9	3	10
JCP	9.5	10.0	5	11.4	5.3	4	9
Other/Indep	14.9	8.0	4	13	7.9	6	19
TOTAL	—	100.0	50	—	100.0	76	126
<i>July 23, 1989</i>	<i>PR Vote %</i>	<i>PR Seat %</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>District Vote %</i>	<i>District Seat %</i>	<i>District Seats</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
JSP	35.1	40.0	20	26.4	34.2	26	46
LDP	27.3	30.0	15	30.7	27.6	21	36
Rengo	—	—	—	6.8	14.5	11	11
CGP	10.9	12.0	6	5.1	5.3	4	10
JCP	7	8.0	4	8.8	1.3	1	5
DSP	4.9	4.0	2	3.6	1.3	1	3
Other/Indep	14.9	6.0	3	18.6	15.8	12	15
TOTAL	100	100.0	50	—	100.0	76	126

<i>July 26, 1992</i>	<i>PR Vote %</i>	<i>PR Seat %</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>District Vote %</i>	<i>District Seat %</i>	<i>District Seats</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
LDP	33.3	38.0	19	43.4	64.9	50	69
JSP	17.8	20.0	10	12.9	15.6	12	22
CGP	14.3	16.0	8	7.8	7.8	6	14
JCP	7.9	8.0	4	10.6	2.6	2	6
DSP	5	6.0	3	2.3	1.3	1	4
Rengo	—	—	—	9.7	0.0	0	0
JNP	8.1	8.0	4	—	—	—	4
Other/Indep	13.8	4.0	2	13.3	7.8	6	8
TOTAL	—	100.0	50	—	100.0	77	127

<i>July 23, 1995</i>	<i>PR Vote %</i>	<i>PR Seat %</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>District Vote %</i>	<i>District Seat %</i>	<i>District Seats</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
LDP	27.3	30.0	15	25.4	40.8	31	46
JSP	16.9	18.0	9	11.8	9.2	7	16
JCP	9.5	10.0	5	10.4	3.9	3	8
NFP	30.8	36.0	18	26.5	28.9	22	40
NPH	3.6	4.0	2	2.5	1.3	1	3
Other/Indep	11.9	2.0	1	23.4	15.8	12	13
TOTAL	—	100.0	50	—	100.0	76	126

TABLE A.3
(*cont.*)

<i>July 12, 1998</i>	<i>PR Vote %</i>	<i>PR Seat %</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>District Vote %</i>	<i>District Seat %</i>	<i>District Seats</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
LDP	25.2	28.0	14	30.8	40.8	31	45
DPJ	21.7	24.0	12	16.2	19.7	15	27
JSP	7.8	8.0	4	4.3	1.3	1	5
JCP	14.6	16.0	8	15.7	9.2	7	15
CGP	13.8	14.0	7	3.3	2.6	2	9
LP	9.3	10.0	5	1.8	1.3	1	6
NPH	1.4	0.0	0	—	—	—	0
Other/Indep	6.2	0.0	0	27.9	25.0	19	19
TOTAL	—	100.0	50	100	100.0	76	126

<i>July 29, 2001</i>	<i>PR Vote %</i>	<i>PR Seat %</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>District Vote %</i>	<i>District Seat %</i>	<i>District Seats</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
LDP	38.6	41.7	20	41.0	61.6	45	65
DPJ	16.4	16.7	8	18.5	24.7	18	26
CGP	15.0	16.7	8	6.4	6.8	5	13
LP	7.7	8.3	4	5.5	2.7	2	6
JCP	7.9	8.3	4	9.9	1.4	1	5
JSP	6.6	6.3	3	3.4	0.0	0	3
CP	2.3	2.1	1	—	0.0	0	1
Other/Indep	5.5	0.0	0	15.2	2.7	2	2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	48	100.0	100.0	73	121

<i>July 11, 2004</i>	<i>PR Vote %</i>	<i>PR Seat %</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>District Vote %</i>	<i>District Seat %</i>	<i>District Seats</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
DPJ	37.8	39.6	19	39.1	42.5	31	50
LDP	30.0	31.3	15	35.1	46.6	34	49
CGP	15.4	16.7	8	3.9	4.1	3	11
JCP	7.8	8.3	4	9.8	—	—	4
SDP	5.3	4.2	2	1.8	—	—	2
Other/Indep	3.7	0.0	—	10.4	6.8	5	5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	48	100.0	100.0	73	121
<i>July 29, 2007</i>	<i>PR Vote %</i>	<i>PR Seat %</i>	<i>PR Seats</i>	<i>District Vote %</i>	<i>District Seat %</i>	<i>District Seats</i>	<i>Total Seats</i>
DPJ	39.5	41.7	20	40.4	54.8	40	60
LDP	28.1	29.2	14	31.4	31.5	23	37
CGP	13.2	14.6	7	6.0	2.7	2	9
JCP	7.5	6.3	3	8.7	0.0	0	3
SDP	4.5	4.2	2	2.3	0.0	0	2
PNP	2.2	2.1	1	1.9	1.4	1	2
NPN	3.0	2.1	1	—	0.0	0	1
Others + Independents	2.1	0.0	0	9.3	9.6	7	7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	48	100.0	100.0	73	121

KEY TO PARTY NAMES

CGP	Clean Government Party (<i>Komeito</i>)
DPJ	Democratic Party of Japan
DRP	Democratic Reform Party
DSP	Democratic Socialist Party
JCP	Japan Communist Party
JNP	Japan New Party
JRP	Japan Renewal Party
JSP	Japan Socialist Party (renamed the Social Democratic Party)
LDP	Liberal Democratic Party
LL	Liberal League
LP	Liberal Party
NCP	New Conservative Party
NFP	New Frontier Party
NLC	New Liberal Club
NPD	New Party Daichi
NPH	New Party Harbinger (<i>Sakigake</i>)
NPN	New Party Nippon
PNP	People's New Party
PP	Progressive Party
Rengo	Japan Trade Union Confederation
SDL	Social Democratic League
SDP	Social Democratic Party (previously the JSP)
USDP	United Socialist Democratic Party