

It's
About
Time: An
initiative
to elect
women
in PEI

A Gender Analysis of PEI's 2012 Municipal Election Results

PEI Coalition for Women in Government



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A Gender Analysis of PEI's 2012 Municipal Election Results¹

In the 2012 municipal elections, women represented 30.4% of all candidates and 30.8% of those elected.¹ When municipalities not holding elections in 2012 are included, namely Charlottetown, Summerside, Stratford and Cornwall, women hold 29.8% of municipal seats in PEI. This percentage has been consistent for the past four elections. In 2009, women held 29.3% of seats. In 2006 and 2003, 30.1% and 30.9% of seats were held by women.

Elected Women

After the 2012 Municipal Elections, 29.8% of municipal councillors in PEI are women, including;

- 31.5% of municipalities holding special election meetings
- 21.7% of municipalities holding all day polls
- no women mayors
- women chairpersons in 26.1% of municipalities holding special election meetings

Looking separately at communities where all day election polls are held and smaller communities which hold special election meetings is helpful in interpreting municipal numbers. Communities which hold special election meetings, such as Abrams Village, Brackley, Meadowbank and St. Nicholas, see women holding 31.5% of the seats, up just slightly from 2009 and 2006, when women held 31.2% and 30.8% of the seats. In 14 of these communities, women represent at least 50% of the council.

Of the 69 communities to have elections in 2012, eighteen (18), or 26.1%, have women chairpersons. None of these communities hold all day polls. This is a decrease from 2009, when 30.4% of communities had women in the role of chairperson, and an increase from 2006, when 12 of 68, or 17.7%, had women mayors or chairpersons.

Larger communities holding all day election polls more closely resembling provincial elections, such as Kensington, Summerside and Montague, are traditionally less likely to elect women to

¹ 69 municipalities held elections in 2012. Municipalities not holding elections include Charlottetown, Summerside, Cornwall and Stratford.

council. Women held just 17.9% of council seats in election poll municipalities in 2003, and 9.2% in 2000. After the 2006 elections, women held 27.6% of seats, a phenomenal improvement. After the 2009 elections, however, women held only 19.5% of seats in these communities. This has increased after the 2012 elections, with women holding 21.7% of seats in municipalities which hold all day election polls². There are currently no female mayors.

In the 2012 municipal elections, women represented 24.3% of all candidates in election poll municipalities, up slightly from 23.2% in 2009. In 2006, 25.2% of candidates in municipalities holding all day polls were women. In 2003, 19.9% of candidates in election poll communities were women, and, in 2000, the percentage was 13%.

Women Candidates

In the 2012 Municipal Elections, women made up 30.4% of candidates, including;

- 31.5% of municipalities holding special election meetings
- 24.3% of municipalities holding all day polls

² This percentage includes Charlottetown, Stratford, Summerside and Cornwall, which held elections in 2010.