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POLITICAL FRANCHISE

1903-1904

Franchise	Names of the Electoral Districts	Number of Representatives	Number of Registered Electors
<p>Qualifications of Electors.</p> <p>—</p> <p>The age of 21 years and British Nationality,</p> <p>and</p> <p>(1) Qualification to serve as a Common Juror,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(2) Payment of rent for immovable property at the rate of at least £ 6 per annum.</p> <p>or</p> <p>(3) Receipt from immovable property of an income of at least £ 6 per annum.</p>	<p>I District.</p> <p>East Valletta.</p>	<p>Eight</p> <p>viz.</p>	
	<p>II District.</p> <p>West Valletta, Sliema, St. Julian's and Misida.</p>	<p>Seven for Malta</p> <p>and</p>	<p>For Malta 7,125</p> <p>For Gozo and Comino 1,126</p>
	<p>III District.</p> <p>Floriana, Hamrun, Pietà, Curmi and Zebbug.</p>	<p>One for Gozo and Comino.</p>	
	<p>IV District.</p> <p>Cospicua, Vittoriosa, Calcara, Zabbar and Marsascala.</p>		
	<p>V District.</p> <p>Senglea, Paula, Tarxien, Luca, Gudja, Axiak, Zeitun, Marsascirocco, S. Giorgio a Mare and Birzebbugia.</p>		
	<p>VI District.</p> <p>Birchircara, Balzan, Lia, Attard, Gargur, Naxaro, Musta and Melleha.</p>		
	<p>VII District.</p> <p>Notabile, Rabato, Dingli, Siggieui, Crendi, Micabiba, Zurrico, Bubakra, Safi and Chircop.</p>		
	<p>VIII District.</p> <p>Gozo and Comino.</p>		

MODE OF ELECTION.—*Fifty Ordinances Nos. VII of 1826, I of 1837, I of 1853, and VI of 1896; and Proclamations Nos. IX of 1887, III of 1888, IV and V of 1895, XIV of 1896 and XV of 15th July, 1907.*

The Electors are registered in a List which is revised annually and published in the Government Gazette in the month of February in each year. A Court of Revision holds sittings to receive claims, consider objections &c., which must be made within ten days from the date of the publication of the Electoral List. An amended List of the electors is then published in the Gazette. Elections are conducted by five Election Commissioners appointed annually by the Head of the Government, in the month of January of each year. Whenever an election is to be held, the Head of the Government notifies the fact to the Commissioners by a writ, under his hand and the Seal of the Island, the writ being published in the Gazette. Voting certificates are delivered to the Electors; and a Notice is published in the Gazette of the time and place at which the Commissioners will be in attendance to receive claims of persons omitted through error, together with a report from the Commissioners that the certificates have been delivered. Candidates for election are nominated in writing. The nomination paper must be signed by the Candidate himself, or, in the event of his absence from Malta and its Dependencies, by his duly appointed representative, and by four Electors registered in the Electoral District. It must state the Electoral District for which the candidate is nominated, and must, within seven working days from the day of the publication, in the Government Gazette, of

FRANCHISE.

Ordinary duration of Council and Sessions and Period of Meetings	By what Acts regulated	Number of Votes at last General Election	Date of last General Election	Remarks
<p>It is incumbent on the Governor to dissolve the Council at the expiration of three years from the date of the return of the first writ at the last preceding General Election, unless it has been sooner dissolved.</p> <p>The Sessions are held yearly, and not more than 12 months may elapse between the last Sitting of one Session and the first Sitting of the next. As a rule each Session lasts about 8 months.</p>	<p>Letters Patent dated 3rd June, 1903.</p>	<p>Vide column "remarks."</p>	<p>Feb. 25, 1904.</p>	<p>Five General Elections were held during the year the Members being returned unopposed and resigning their seats each time immediately after election, as a protest against the alteration in the Constitution of the Council.</p>

the said Notice, be delivered to the Commissioners by the Candidate himself or by one of the signatories of the said writing. If, at the expiration of the term, only one candidate stands nominated for any electoral district, the Commissioners return his name to the Clerk to the Council, who publishes such return in the Gazette. But if more than one candidate is nominated for any Electoral District or Districts, the Commissioners publish the names of the candidates, and afterwards the Head of the Government appoints the day and places for the Election, and appoints Assistant Commissioners to superintend the voting. Each elector attends at the electoral office of the district and section to which he belongs, and delivers his certificate to the Assistant Commissioner in that office. The Assistant Commissioner, having satisfied himself of the identity of the elector, delivers to him a ticket, having first marked it on both sides with the official mark; and the elector, having secretly recorded his vote on the ticket and folded it up, places it in an urn in the presence of the Assistant Commissioner. If any elector is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause from voting in the manner above described, or if it appears from the certificate that the elector therein mentioned is unable to read, he is permitted to state orally to the Assistant Commissioner the name of the person for whom he desires to vote. The Assistant Commissioner, in such cases, records the vote of such elector on the ticket in the manner directed by the elector, and places the ticket in the urn. Such permission is not granted if the fact that an elector is unable to read is not stated in the certificate, unless the inability to read is due to some physical indisposition which is known to the Assistant Commissioner. As soon as the Commissioners receive all the election-writs, the poll is taken at public sittings held by the Commissioners in one of the Halls of the Superior Courts.

