

Ghana

1. **Year Achieved Independence:** 1957 from the United Kingdom
2. **Political Institutions:** After independence, Ghana experienced frequent alternations between civilian and military rule up until 1992. Despite the large number of coups, its elections have been largely democratic and open to multiple parties. During periods of civilian rule, the unicameral Parliament—the National Assembly—has been the country’s main legislative body; during periods of military rule, it often held no power. Since the National Assembly’s creation in 1956, all members have been directly elected using a first-past-the-post system in single-member constituencies.
3. **Lower Chamber Electoral System:**
 - 1956: The National Assembly was initially comprised of 104 members.
 - 1960: Following a referendum on the issue of changing Ghana’s status from a constitutional monarchy to a republic with increased presidential authority, and Kwame Nkrumah’s simultaneous victory in the presidential election, the terms of the members of the National Assembly are extended for five years.
 - 1964: Amendments to the constitution that designate the Convention People’s Party (CPP) as the sole legal party are approved in a referendum.
 - 1965: The 198 members of the National Assembly, representing the CPP, are elected unopposed.
 - 1966: The National Assembly is dissolved after a military coup.
 - 1969: Civilian rule is restored and the National Assembly is re-established with 140 members.
 - 1972: A military coup ousts the Busia government and the National Redemption Council began ruling by decree.
 - 1975: The Supreme Military Council (SMC) assumes the role of highest legislative (and executive) body.
 - 1979: The SMC is ousted in a military coup and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) assumes power under the leadership of Flgt-Lt. Jerry Rawlings. Multi-party elections for the 140-seat National Assembly are held.
 - 1981: After ousting President Hilla Limann in a military coup, Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC), suspends the Constitution, bans opposition parties and grants the PNDC full legislative (and executive) power.
 - 1992: The PNDC lifts the ban on opposition parties. Under the terms of the new constitution, the National Assembly is re-established with 200 members.
 - 2004: The National Assembly is increased to 230 members.
4. **Electoral History:**

Election Date	Polity Score *	CLEA Data Release
July 17, 1956		
June 9, 1965	-9	
August 29, 1969	-88	
June 18, 1979	6	
December 29, 1992	-1	
December 7, 1996	2	√
December 7, 2000	2	√
December 7, 2004	8	√

Notes: *The Polity Score ranges from -10 to 10, from least democratic to most democratic. Data come from the Polity IV dataset: <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/polity/data/>.

5. Sources on Electoral History:

Banks, Arthur S., Thomas C. Muller, and William R. Overstreet, eds. Political Handbook of Africa 2007. Washington, D.C.: CQ P, 2007. 396.

Krennerich, Michael, Dieter Nohlen, and Bernhard Thibaut, eds. *Elections in Africa: a Data Handbook*. New York: Oxford UP, 1999. 423-428.

Nunley, Albert C. "Elections in Ghana." *African Election Database*. 30 May 2006. 3 June 2008 (http://africanelections.tripod.com/gh.html#1992_Parliamentary_Election).

6. Sources of Electoral Data:

- 1996 and 2004: Data collected by Federico Ferrara.
- 2000: Data in three sources (i.e. Backer and Kollman, Ferrara, and Adam Carr's Electoral Archive at <http://psephos.adam-carr.net/>) adjusted and integrated by CLEA.