1. Election for the House of Representatives

The 23rd Election for the House of Representatives, the first general election after World War II, was held on April 25, 1946. Starting with this election, the voting age was changed from 25 to 20 years of age, and the age of electoral eligibility from 30 to 25 years of age. Also, women were given voting rights for the first time. The percentage of the constituent body to the national population which stood at about 30% in the days of universal male suffrage rose to about 60% after the 23rd Election for the House of Representatives. After voting rights had been extended to women in Japan, the turnout of female voters was about 50%, lower than that of male voters in the 23rd, 24th and 26th Elections for the House of Representatives. However, the female voters' turnout exceeded that of male voters in the 23rd Election for the House of Representatives. Of the 13 elections that have thus far been conducted for the House of Representatives since April 1946, the national average turnout of voters in the 23rd Election for the House of Representatives with 9.8% and second was in the 23rd Election for the House of Representatives with 9.25%.

A check of the post-election power of political parties indicates that the Japanese House of Representatives is an extreme party system. A law for the House of Representatives held before the enforcement of the new Constitution of Japan in May 3, 1947, a law that the candidates for the House of Representatives have a number of the candidates for the House of Representatives with 9.8%, and second in the 23rd Election for the House of Representatives with 9.25%. The National Assembly Act of the 23rd Election for the House of Representatives with 9.8%, and second was in the 23rd Election for the House of Representatives with 9.25%.

2. Election for the House of Councillors

The turnout rate for each person is elected in the House of Councillors was lower than the elected seats in the House of Representatives. The highest turnout rate for each person is elected in the House of Councillors was 50%, which is more than double the turnout rate for each person is elected in the House of Councillors. The difference in turnout percentage between males and females showed the same tendency as in the election for the House of Representatives. When the election is conducted by political party, a conservative political party became the leading party in every past election with the exception of the 9th Election for the House of Councillors. In the House of Representatives, the conservative party had been split into many parties. In the 6th Election for the House of Representatives, the first and second largest parties were dominated by conservative political parties with the exception of the 9th Election for the House of Representatives, whereas in the House of Councillors, a coalition of political parties has always ranked second.

The ratio of women to all the elected members of the House of Representatives was higher than 1%, as registered by the women members of the House of Representatives, and the percentage exceeded 6% in the 8th and 9th Elections for the House of Councillors.

3. Constituencies and Fixed Number of Seats for the House of Representatives

The number of constituencies as classified by fixed number of seats was one constituency with a fixed number of seats of 43; with three, 2; with four, and 4; with five.

The fixed number of seats for the House of Representatives was 496 in 117 constituencies in 1972, but was increased to 551 in 118 constituencies as of October 1, 1976, as the law had been partially amended due to the request to Japan of the United Nations and the state is the national population.

Since the population has been remarkably increased in major cities and their suburban areas, and the population has decreased in other areas, there has arisen a marked imbalance between the number of seats and the fixed number of seats for the House of Representatives. As of September 1974, the number of electors per capita of the fixed number of seats was highest in Tottori Prefecture's First Constituency with 45,880 electors and lowest in Hokkaido Prefecture's First Constituency with 48,650 electors.

3. Constituencies and Fixed Number of Seats for the House of Councillors

The legislature based on the old Constitution of Japan up until the end of World War II was made up of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives. Under the new Constitution of Japan, the National Diet which functions as the state legislature consists of the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives. The number of seats for the House of Councillors is 252, including 100 seats from the national constituency and 132 from the proportional constituencies.

In the local constituencies, each prefecture is considered a constituency, and the number of seats for each constituency is set at two, four, six or eight, depending on its population. Eight-member constituencies exist in Tottori and Hokkaido, six-member constituencies in Aichi, Osaka, Hyogo and Hokkaido prefectures, four-member constituencies in 23 prefectures, and two-member constituencies in 38 prefectures. Due to increases and decreases in the national population since the enactment of the law, the number of electors per capita of the fixed number of seats was highest in Nagasaki Prefecture with 42,680 electors and lowest in Tottori Prefecture with 41,080 electors as of September 15, 1974.

(Sources: Data from the Ministry of Home Affairs)