

1978 Guyanese Constitutional Referendum

A **constitutional referendum** was held in [Guyana](#) on 10 July 1978. The proposed change to Article 73 of the [constitution](#) would abolish the need for referendums to change the entrenched provisions of the constitution (including presidential powers, the dissolution of Parliament and the electoral system) and instead allow them to be changed by a two-thirds majority in parliament (which the ruling [People's National Congress](#) had at the time).

It would also result in the postponement of the elections scheduled for later in the year, and instead the parliament elected in [1973](#) would be declared a Constituent Assembly.

The bill was passed by parliament on 10 April, with the referendum to be held three months later. The changes were reportedly approved by 97% of voters with a turnout of 70%, although the figures were subject to fraud by the government. The opposition claimed that turnout was only between 10% and 14%.

Following the referendum, the parliamentary term was prolonged and a new socialist constitution was written and promulgated in 1980.

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Results

Choice	Votes	%
For	419,936	97.09
Against	8,956	2.91
Invalid/blank votes	2,228	—
Total	431,120	100
Registered voters/turnout	609,225	70.77

