

General Election Results - 15 December 1997

The 1997 election date was announced on 29 October by President of the Republic Sam Hinds (People's Progressive Party - PPP). Parliamentary and presidential voting were scheduled for the same day.

The main presidential candidates were Mrs. Janet Jagan (PPP), widow of former President Cheddi Jagan who became Prime Minister following his death in March 1997, and Mr. Desmond Hoyte (People's National Congress - PNC), Head of State from 1985 to 1992. Mr. Hinds was the PPP's candidate for Prime Minister.

During the campaign, Mrs. Jagan focused on issues related to education, health care, housing and improving roads, and pointed to her party's record of reducing international debt and creating jobs.

Mr. Hoyte, for his part, emphasised that he would work toward increasing foreign investment to exploit the country's wealth of natural resources.

As in the past, the PPP was mainly supported by rural citizens of East Indian origin while the PNC constituents were mostly urban-based Guyanese of African descent. Altogether 10 parties (including six new ones) were in the running.

Polling day was generally peaceful, as thousands of police and military personnel oversaw the proceedings.

Teams of international observers from the Commonwealth and OAS were also on hand. Voter turnout was large and, in the wake of the results giving the left-leaning PPP (allied with the Civic group) the victory in another racially charged election, the PNC alleged widespread vote-rigging.

The National Assembly national seat breakdown was PPP 29 and PNC 22.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT



ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Proportional Representation

53 elected seats

VOTER TURNOUT

Total Valid Votes	399,310
Invalid Votes	8,747
Total Votes Cast	408,057
Registered Voters	461,481
Voter Turnout	88.42%


CRITICAL DATES

Dissolution of House	Wed, 29 Oct 1997
Nomination Day	Wed, 05 Nov 1997
Polling Day	Mon, 15 Dec 1997
First Meeting of New Parliament	Thu, 26 Feb 1998

Voter turnout was 88.42%.

On 19 December, Mrs. Jagan was sworn in as President.


SUMMARY RESULTS

Political Group	Code	Votes	% votes	Seats
Alliance for Guyana	AFG	4,783	1.20%	1
A Good and Green Guyana	AGGG	1,552	0.39%	-
God Bless Guyana	GBG	314	0.08%	-
Guyana Democratic Party	GDP	2,528	0.63%	-
Justice for All People	JFAP	1,265	0.32%	-
National Democratic Front	NDF	105	0.03%	-
National Independent Party	NIP	258	0.06%	-
People's National Congress/Reform	PNC/R	161,901	40.55%	22
People's Progressive Party/Civic 	PPP/C	220,667	55.26%	29
The United Force	TUF	5,937	1.49%	1
Total Valid Votes		399,310	100%	53

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