



## Republic of Cape Verde

Electoral Commission Website  
<https://www.cne.cv>

**Parliamentary Structure**  
Unicameral

**Election System**  
Presidential: Majority  
National: d'Hondt PR  
Municipal: d'Hondt PR

# Female Political Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Metafile

### Administrative Divisions

The Republic of Cape Verde is divided into 22 *concelhos* (counties or municipalities) which are subdivided into 32 *freguesias* (civil parishes). Geographically, the islands are divided into two regions known as the Barlavento Islands which include 6 northern islands and the Sotavento Islands which include 4 southern islands.

### Election System

The d'Hondt method of proportional representation is used to allocate seats in National Assembly and the President is elected by the National Assembly using an absolute majority electoral system (IPU, 2016). Voting proceeds to a second round for the top two candidates should there not be an absolute majority in the first round. Municipal elections are conducted using a system of proportional representation.

The last national and Presidential elections were held in March 2016 and the last municipal elections were held in July 2012.

### Women's Representation & Quota Information

Cape Verde has legislated gender quotas at the national and sub-national level. Voluntary political party quotas do not form part of any of the largest political parties policies (Quota Project, 2014). The national assembly quota is written into electoral law and is a candidate quota. The quota stipulates that the lists put forward for national elections should contain a balanced representation of both sexes. Legal sanctions for non-compliance state that political parties or coalitions whose lists contain at least 25% of female candidates will be eligible for public funding. There are also legislated candidate quotas at the sub-national level. The quota is also written into electoral law and states that there should be a balanced representation of both sexes on lists submitted for the election of municipal councils. Legal sanctions for non-compliance are also implemented by imposing restrictions on public funding for political parties. If the lists submitted by parties, coalitions or groups of citizens do not contain at least 25% of female candidates, the parties/groups will not have access to public funding.

### Seats & Trends in Seat Numbers

Following the January 2006 parliamentary election women represented 11 of the 72 (15.28%) seats in the National Assembly. This number increased to 15 of the 72 seats (20.83%) following the February 2011 elections. Following the local elections that took place in July 2012, women were elected into 107 of the 469 (22.81%) positions in local government.

### References

- Cape Verde*. 2014. [Online]. Available: <http://www.quotaproject.org/country/cape-verde.html>. [2016, December 16].
- CABO VERDE*. 2016. [Online]. Available: [http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/reports/2057\\_B.htm](http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/reports/2057_B.htm). [2017, January 27].