

extra

JAPAN

The term of office for members of the House of Representatives is 4 years, but the length of time in office may be curtailed if the House of Representatives is dissolved. The term of office for members of the House of Councillors is 6 years, and one half of the membership is elected every 3 years; 100 of the 252 members are elected from the nation at large (national constituency) and the remainder are allocated to the 46 prefectures roughly according to population.<sup>1/</sup>

The following are the dates of general elections held in Japan from 1970 to 1980 and the percentage of voter turnout for each election:<sup>2/</sup>

<u>House of Representatives</u>		<u>House of Councillors</u>		
		<u>National constituency</u>		<u>Local constituency</u>
12/20/72	71.76%	06/27/71	59.23%	59.24%
12/05/76	73.45%	07/07/74	73.20%	73.20%
10/07/79	68.01%	07/10/77	68.48%	68.49%
06/22/80	74.57%	06/22/80	74.54%	74.54%

<sup>1/</sup> Articles 45 and 46 of the Constitution; Articles 4 and 12 of the Public Office Election Law, Law No. 100, April 15, 1950, as last amended by Law No. 83, June 27, 1978.

<sup>2/</sup> Nihon tokei nenkan, 1980, p. 648; Asahi shimbun, June 23, 1980.

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