

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, December 13, 2015** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected story and answer the attached study questions.

Saudi women vote for the first time (Main, page A2)

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Read the title of this article. Have you ever voted for something before? Why is voting important? What are some reasons why people don't or are not able to vote?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. ballot
- B. bar
- C. cast
- D. conservative
- E. dubious
- F. gender
- G. liberal
- H. municipal
- I. partition
- J. platform
- K. polling station
- L. quota
- M. representative
- N. reforms
- O. segregation
- P. vying

1. an action, plan, rule, etc., that is meant to improve something
2. to make (a vote) formally
3. a building where people go to vote in an election
4. believing that government should be active in supporting social and political change
5. a ticket or piece of paper used to vote in an election
6. a member of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress or of a state government; someone who acts or speaks for or in support of another person or group
7. a wall or screen that separates one area from another
8. used ironically in phrases to describe something bad or undesirable as if it were an honor or achievement
9. to compete with others in an attempt to get or win something
10. an official limit on the number or amount of people or things that are allowed
11. the state of being male or female
12. to prevent or forbid (someone) *from* doing something
13. the practice or policy of keeping people of different races, religions, etc., separate from each other
14. of or relating to the government of a city or town
15. a person who believes in the value of established and traditional practices in politics and society

16. the official beliefs and goals of a political party or candidate

Comprehension

1. Saudi Arabia allowed women to vote in elections for the first time. More than how many women registered to vote? **(Multiple Choice – choose the best answer)**
 - a) 10,000
 - b) 100,000
 - c) 1 million
 - d) None of the above
2. There were 979 women candidates vying for a seat on the country's municipal councils. What is the quota on the number of female council members?
3. The only government body in which Saudi citizens can elect their representatives are _____. **(Fill in the blanks)**
4. Mai Sharif, 32, one of the women who voted in the election, said she and other hope the election opens doors to other reforms, such as allowing women to travel outside the country without permission from whom?
5. Because of Saudi Arabia's strict gender-segregation rules, how did men and women cast their ballots?
6. During the campaign period, female candidates could not directly address male voters. Give one example of what they had to do to present their platforms.
7. The General Election Commission estimated there are at least 5 million eligible voters out of a population of 20 million – **true or false?**
8. The candidates were vying for about 2,100 council seats. An additional 1,050 seats are appointed with approval from whom?
9. While the municipal councils do not have legislative powers, they do oversee a range of what?
10. How many years are the terms the candidates serve for?

Additional Activities

1. **Answer the following questions about the article you just read:**
 - A. Who or what is this article about?
 - B. Why do you think this article is important?
 - C. What is the most important or interesting fact you learned from this article?
2. After reading the article, pick at least two of the candidates currently campaigning for the U.S. presidential nomination to research. Compare the two candidates and their platforms. What issues do you agree with them on? Which issues do you disagree on? Based on your research of the candidates, who would you most likely vote for?

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 5
- B. 12
- C. 2
- D. 15
- E. 8
- F. 11
- G. 4
- H. 14
- I. 7
- J. 16
- K. 3
- L. 10
- M. 6
- N. 1
- O. 13
- P. 9

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

- 1. b) 100,000
- 2. There is no quota.
- 3. municipal councils
- 4. Without permission from a male relative.
- 5. They cast their ballots at separate polling stations.
- 6. They had to present from behind a partition. They had to rely on projectors and microphones. They had to use male supporter or relatives to present for them. **(Answers may vary – only one example necessary)**
- 7. True
- 8. King Salman
- 9. They oversee a range of community issues.
- 10. Four years