

GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)
Description of contents



- (1) Box no. 2032
- (2) Folder title/number: (12)
Fukushima Prefecture National Elections

(3) Date: Apr. 1947

(4) Subject:

Classification	Type of record
331	d

(5) Item description and comment:

(6) Reproduction: Yes No

(7) Film no.

Sheet no.

FUKUSHIMA MIL GOVT TEAM
APO 547

QGS - E

29 April 1947

REPORT OF SURVEILLANCE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS

1. Name of Prefecture: Fukushima.

Number of registered voters:
(Includes approximately 30000 ex-military personnel yet to
be demobilized)

Men 474339
Women 533271
Total 1007610

*25 April 47
House of
Representatives*

2. Persons actually voting for House of Representatives candidates:

Men 358023
Women 313070
Total 671093

3. Number of persons claiming franchise but not permitted to vote:
None.

4. Number of surveillance teams on election day: 8

5. Number of polling places: 978

6. Number of polling places visited: 142

7. Number of ballot counting stations: 363

8. Number of ballot counting stations visited: 17

9. Were candidates purge questionnaires available at Election
Administration Committee's offices and at Screening Committees
offices in all cases? Yes

10. Comment on publicity given by press, radio and at political
gatherings to the fact that candidates purge questionnaires
are available at Election Administration Committees offices
and at Screening Committees offices:

Seven press releases to 132 newspapers in the prefecture.
667 releases given through medium of posters and bulletin boards
through District offices. 5 releases to District and City
Election Boards, 4 releases at the monthly meeting of district
heads.

11. Comment on the extent public used privilege of examining candidates questionnaires:

To date 6691 persons have examined candidates questionnaires.

12. Number of seats in House of Representatives from this prefecture: 12.

Number of candidates by parties:

Socialist	9	Japan Reform	1
Democrat	9	Buddist Socialist	1
Liberal	9	Constitution Justice	1
Communist	3	Progressive	1
National Cooperative	1		

Number of Independents: 8

Number actually elected by parties: 12

Democrat	4
Liberal	4
Socialist	3
Constitution Justice	1

Number of Independents elected: None

Total number of votes cast for each party:

Socialist	184535	Japan Reform	2616
Democrat	158766	Buddist Socialist	2088
Liberal	204883	Constitution Justice	30708
Communist	14133	Progressive	18146
National Cooperative	5739		

Total number of votes cast for Independents: 34189

13. Any Women elected?

	Yes	No	Number
House of Representatives	X		2

14. Number of pre-election campaign meetings held throughout prefecture by each party:

<u>PARTY</u>	<u>NO. MEETING</u>	<u>TOTAL ATT.</u>
Socialist	345	26970
Democrat	340	24120
Liberal	280	18740
Communist	135	9620
Japan Reform	8	380
Buddist Socialist	18	750
Constitution Justice	35	3200
Progressive	5	650
Independent	226	38299

15. Were there an adequate number of polling places: Yes
16. Are four election bulletins enclosed with this report? Yes, to the original letter only.
17. Number of pre-election meeting held by this team:

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Att.</u>
With Election Administration Committee	5	250
With officials	6	90

18. Report generally on extent of local publicity given to election.

Excerpts from Political Affairs Bulletin distributed to 130 newspapers, throughout the Prefecture. Recommended to Prefectural Election Committee that publicity be concentrated in areas where absenteeism was high in previous elections. Conference held with publishers of leading newspapers relative to maintaining publicity for remaining elections.

19. Number of violations reported to this team:

Prior to and during the election there were no violations reported to this headquarters, subsequent to the election, however, violations have been reported and will be made the subject to of a separate report at a later date.

20. Military Governments team's comments and evaluations:

There were no criticism voiced in regards to activities of the occupation forces during the elections.

The interest of the people was rather high in this election, as in contrast with elections held for the House of Councillors, All candidates were active in their campaigning, many of them concentrating their campaign in rural areas.

QGS - D

23 April 1947

REPORT OF SURVEILLANCE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS

- 20 April 47
House of Councillors
1. Name of Prefecture: Fukushima
Number of registered voters
Men 474716
Women 533408
Total 1008124
 2. Persons actually voting for House of Councillors candidates.
Men 325994
Women 266508
Total 592502
 3. Number of persons claiming franchise but not permitted to vote
Men None
Women None
Total None
 4. Number of surveillance teams on election day: 17
 5. Number of polling places: 981
 6. Number of polling places visited: 384
 7. Number of ballot counting stations: 363
 8. Number of ballot counting stations visited: 98
 9. Were candidates purge questionnaires available at Election Administration Committee's offices and at Screening Committee's offices in all cases: Yes
 10. Comment on publicity given by press, radio and at political gatherings to the fact that candidates purge questionnaires are available at Election Administration Committee's offices and at Screening Committee's offices:

Press: Seven press releases were given out to the newspapers. 667 releases given out through the medium of posters and bulletin boards through District Offices. 5 releases to District and City Election Boards, 4 releases at the monthly meeting of district heads.

11. Comment on the extent public used privilege of examining candidates questionnaires.

House of Councillors candidates questionnaires were only available at the Prefectural Office and seven persons came to examine them.

12	Number of seats in House of Councillors from this Prefecture (Excl. of National Constituency seats)				4
	Number of candidates by parties				6
	Democratic Club	1	Socialist	2	
	Progressive	2	Communist	1	
	Number of independent candidates (excl. of National Constituency seats)				1
	Number actually elected by parties (excl. of National Constituency seats)				3
	Democratic Club	1	Socialist	1	
	Progressive	1			
	Number of independents elected (excl. of National Constituency seats)				1
	Total number of votes cast for each party (excl. of National Constituency seats)				
	Democratic Club	74976	Socialist	91169	
	Progressive	95672	Communist	17520	Total 279337
	Total number of votes cast for Independents (Excl. of National Constituency seats)				256686

13. Any women elected? No

14. Number of pre-election campaign meetings held throughout the prefecture by each party:

<u>PARTY</u>	<u>NO. MEETINGS</u>	<u>TOTAL ATT.</u>
Democratic Club	24	8620
Socialist	10	3600
Communist	6	2400
Progressive	6	2160
Independents	156	49031

15. Were there an adequate number of polling places? Yes

16. Are four election bulletins enclosed with this report? Yes

17. Number of pre-election meetings held by MG team:

		<u>Total Att.</u>
With Election Administrative Comm	5	250
With officials	5	70

18. Report generally on extent of local publicity given to election. How did MG teams contribute to publicizing elections?

Excerpts from the Political Affairs Bulletin were distributed to 130 newspapers, daily and weekly throughout the Prefecture. Conferences were held with the publishers and editors of the largest newspapers in the prefecture relative to maintaining publicity for the remaining elections as it was anticipated that public interest would not be as great for the remaining three elections as it was for the election held 5 April. Prefectural and Municipal officials were contacted relative to giving wide publicity to the remaining elections. The Fukushima Branch of the New Japan Womens League posted placards appealing to the women not to stay away from the polls on election day.

19. Number of violations reported to this team:

Prior to and during the election for the House of Councillors no violations were reported to this headquarters, subsequent to the elections, however, violations have been reported and will be made the subject of a separate report at a later date.

20. Military Government team's comments and evaluations:

There was no criticism voiced in regard to the activities of the occupation forces during the election.

In several instances it was noted that the local election administrative committees had little or no knowledge of Japanese elections or laws, this was reflected in their appointees serving as superintendent of the poll. This fault was pointed out to the chairman of the Prefectural Election Administrative Committee, by this headquarters, and is being remedied.

Considerable confusion was noted over the number of candidates running for office and the number of candidates from the same party running for office. It is suggested that in the future a system of primary elections might be instituted, not only to avoid confusion but also to gain party solidarity.

The lack of interest on the part of the people, was due mainly to the part of the candidates in that they did not campaign in the rural areas but concentrated on the cities.

This headquarters in concentrating publicity on the areas where absenteeism was the greatest in the 20 April election