

## **Constituencies Where Candidates Won by Less Than 1 per cent Margin**

More than 6000 candidates entered 2015 General Elections in Myanmar and 1150 candidates were elected – 168 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 323 for Pyithu Hluttaw, 630 for State/Region Hluttaws and 29 ethnic affairs ministers. National League for Democracy (NLD) had a landslide victory, winning 77 percent of seats. It is intriguing whether the election results would be different based on the electoral system.

Myanmar uses the first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system; also known as a simple majority system and it applies to elections in Myanmar's national Parliament, as well as to elections in states/regions. Under this system, the candidate with the highest number of votes in a given constituency wins the seat.

The FPTP voting system has certain advantages, mainly its simplicity in respect of voting and vote-counting. It is also convenient in countries like Myanmar where people have very little experience and the Union Election Commission is required to invest training and public education to adopt a more complex electoral system. On the other hand, a candidate who wins a seat may not actually receive the majority of votes. FPTP is also regarded as wasteful since votes cast for losing candidates count for nothing.

Considering the importance of the electoral system on the election results, this short article provides analysis of candidates who won by an extremely narrow margin – less than 1 per cent. The data used in this article was obtained from Union Election Commission and Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation transcribed into excel format both in Burmese and English for the purpose of analysis. There are 7 constituencies in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with candidates winning by less than 1 per cent margin.

Ta-Arng Palaung National Party won in Amyotha Hluttaw Shan State Constituency 5, with 25.29 per cent of the vote, by a narrow margin over Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).

**Table 1: Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency where a candidate won with less than 1 per cent margin**

<b>Constituency Name</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Per cent of Valid Vote</b>
Amyotha_ Shan_5	Daw Nan Htwe Hmone	SNLD	22.45
	Daw San San Htwe	NLD	9.72
	Dr. Sai Kyaw Ohn	SNDP	10.62
	U Khun Htoo	Individual	6.74
	U Nyi Sein	Ta-Arng Palaung National Party	25.29
	U Sai Sar Lu	USDP	25.17

NLD won over USDP in 3 Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies, namely Kanpetlet, Poke Ba Thi Ri and Ywangan, by a slim margin less than 1 per cent. NLD earned 35.11 per cent of votes in Taunggyi Constituency while Pao National Organization followed closely with 34.78 per cent. On the other hand, USDP won a seat for Kaunggon constituency over NLD by 0.45 margin and Kokang Democracy and Unity Party for Kun Long constituency over USDP by 0.34 margin.

Please see the following table for details.

**Table 2: Pyithu Hluttaw Constituencies where candidates won with less than 1 per cent margin**

<b>Constituency Name</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Per cent of Valid Vote</b>
Kanpetlet	Thura U Aung Ko	Union Solidarity and Development Party	37.40
	U Phwe Naing	Chin League for Democracy	8.17
	U San Khin	National League for Democracy	37.94
	U Tin Maung Hla	Chin National Democratic Party	16.50
Kunlong	Daw Nan Khin Htay	National League for Democracy	20.10
		SNDP	6.57
	U An Tony Su	Kokang Democratic Party	2.11
	U Haw Sahuk Chang	Union Solidarity and Development Party	29.15
	U Khun Zal@U Khun Kywe	Wa Democratic Party	4.48
	U Iwan chaung	Lhaovo National Unity and Development Party	8.09
	U Yam Kyin Kan	Kokang Democracy and Unity Party	29.49

Kyaunggon	Daw Aye Aye Thet	National Unity Party	1.93
	Daw Kyi Swe	Myanmar Farmer Development Party	3.48
	U Ba Hein	National League for Democracy	44.76
	U Mann Win Shwe	Karen National Party	1.76
	U Saw Win Kyaw	Kayin People Party	2.86
	U Thein Tun	Union Solidarity and Development Party	45.21
Poke Ba Thi Ri	U Myint Lwin Than	Individual	1.32
	U Wai Lwin	Union Solidarity and Development Party	49.18
	U Yee Mon@Maung Tin Thit	National League for Democracy	49.50
Taunggyi	Dr.Daw Than Ngwe	National League for Democracy	35.11
	Dr.Nan Aye Swe@Daw Khin Swe	Shan Nationalities Democratic Party	1.41
	U Bo Min Htoo	Danu National Democracy Party	0.83
	U Sai Lin Myat	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy	3.63
	U Sai Zaw Zaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party	24.23
	U Win Ko	Pao National Organisation	34.78
Ywangan	U Aung Soe Min	National League for Democracy	38.12
	U Aung Thein	Danu National Democracy Party	17.54
	U Nay Myo	Danu National Organisation Party	6.59
	U Saw Htun Khaing@U Pauk Sa	Union Solidarity and Development Party	37.74

As illustrative by the above cases, the 2015 General Elections results would have been different if not for the first-past-the-post electoral system. Despite FPTP having both advantages and disadvantages, it is still unclear whether Myanmar will opt for a different electoral system for next election.

## References

2015 General Election Results, Union Election Commission, Myanmar