

Elections in Bangladesh: an overview

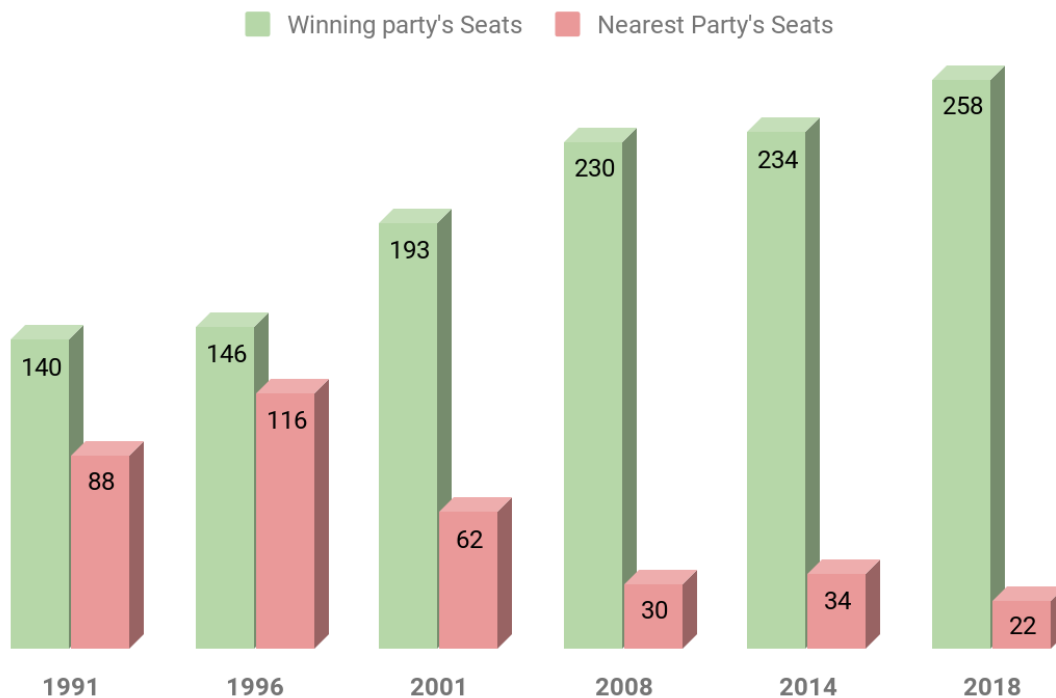
Introduction

After the successful uprising against Hussain Muhammad Ershad's nine years of military rule in 1990, Bangladesh entered into a parliamentary democracy and paved the way for a credible election in 1991. Since then, 6 general elections have been held in the country. The first four of these elections were held under caretaker governments and the last two elections were held under party governments. Here, in this paper, we present some basic statistical information about these 6 elections.

Winner

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) has won 4 out of 6 elections while League's main competitor Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) won only 2. However, until 2008-elections held under caretaker government-result were a tie.

Graph 1: Winning and Nearest Party's number of seats



Graph 2: Percentage of the winner and nearest party's share of votes

Winner Party vs. Nearest Party

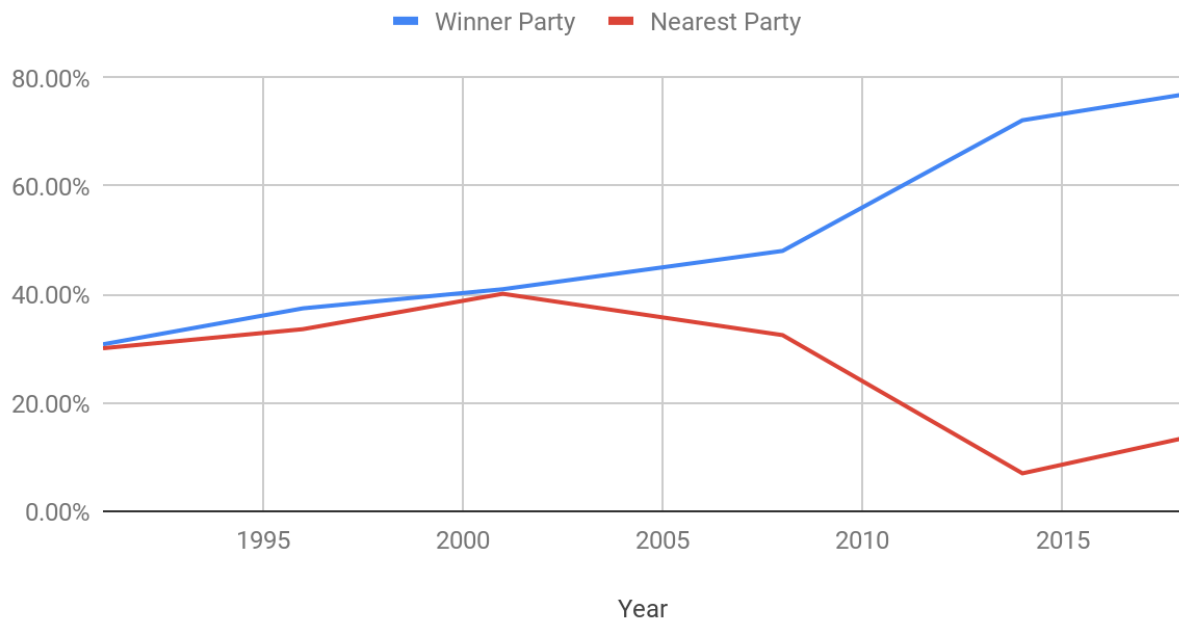


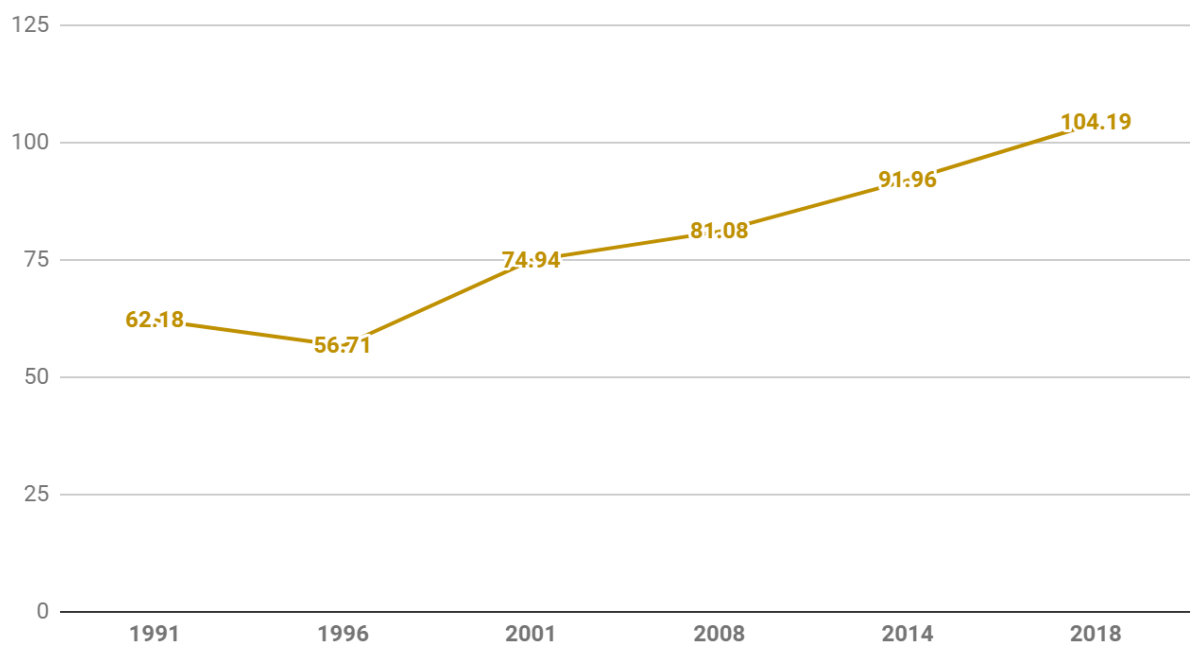
Table 1: Winning and Nearest Party's seats and share of votes

Year	Winning Party				Nearest Party			
	Party	Seats	Votes	% of Votes*	Party	Seats	Votes	% of Votes
1991	BNP	140	10,507,549	30.81%	AL	88	10259866	30.08%
1996	AL	146	15,882,792	37.44%	BNP	116	14,255,986	33.6%
2001	BNP	193	22,833,978	40.97%	AL	62	22,365,516	40.13%
2008	AL	230	33,634,629	48.04%	BNP	30	22,757,101	32.50%
2014	AL	234	12,357,374	72.14%	JP	34	11,99,727	7%
2018	AL	258	59,442,570	76.86%	JP	22	4,443,351	5.38%

*compared to valid votes

Voters

Graph 3: Total voters (in millions)



Male and Female Voters

Graph 4: Percentage of Male and Female Voters

% of male Voters and % of female voters

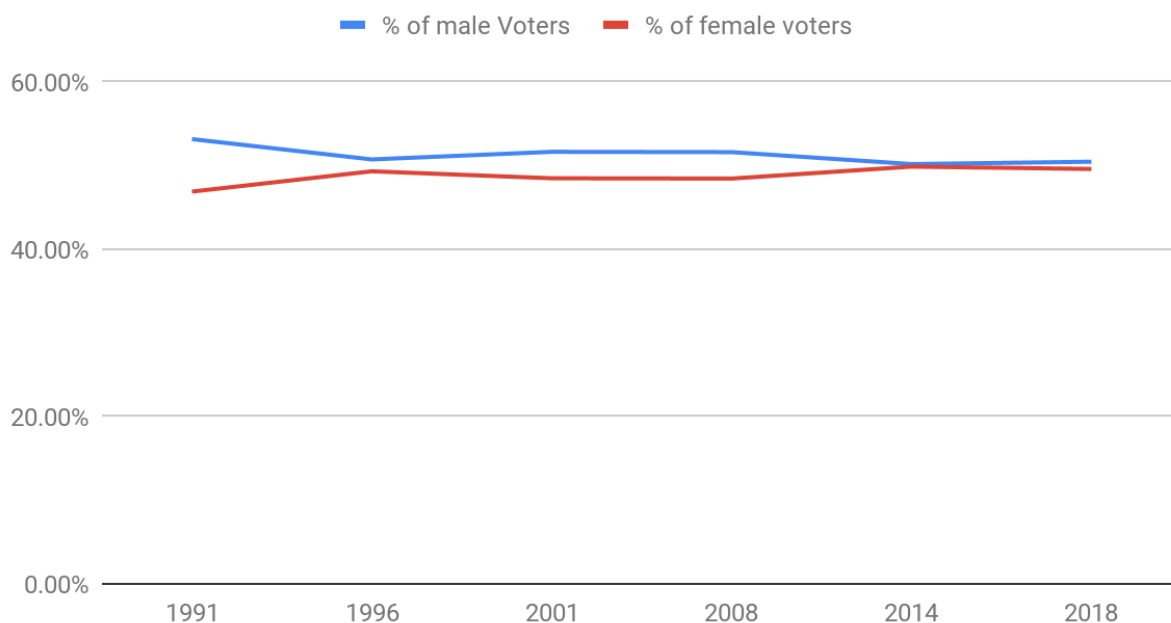


Table 2 : Male and Female voters (In Millions)

Year	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014	2018
Male Voters	33.04	28.75	38.68	41.82	46.12	52.54
Female Voters	29.14	27.95	36.31	39.26	45.84	51.64
Total Voters	62.18	56.71	74.94	81.08	91.96	104.19
% of male Voters	53.14%	50.71%	51.62%	51.58%	50.15%	50.43%
% of female voters	46.86%	49.29%	48.46%	48.42%	49.85%	49.57%

Voter turnout

Graph 5: Percentage of voter turnout

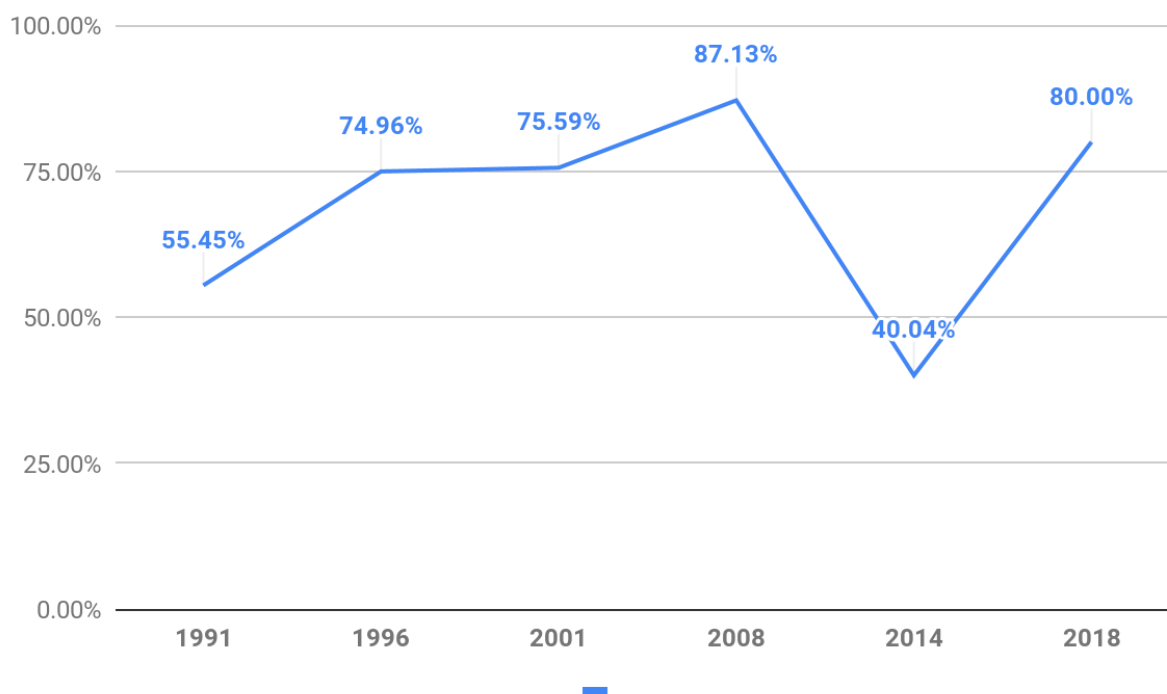


Table 3: Voter turnout between 1991 to 2018 (in Million)

Year	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014	2018
Valid Vote	34.10	42.41	55.73	70.01	17.12	8,26,45,221
Invalid Vote	0.37	0.46	0.44	0.63	0.26	8,87,690
Total Casted Vote	34.47	42.88	56.18	7,06,48,485	17.39	8,35,32,911
Percentage	55%	74%	75%	87%	40%	80%

Invalid Votes

Graph 6: Percentages of invalid voters compared to cast votes

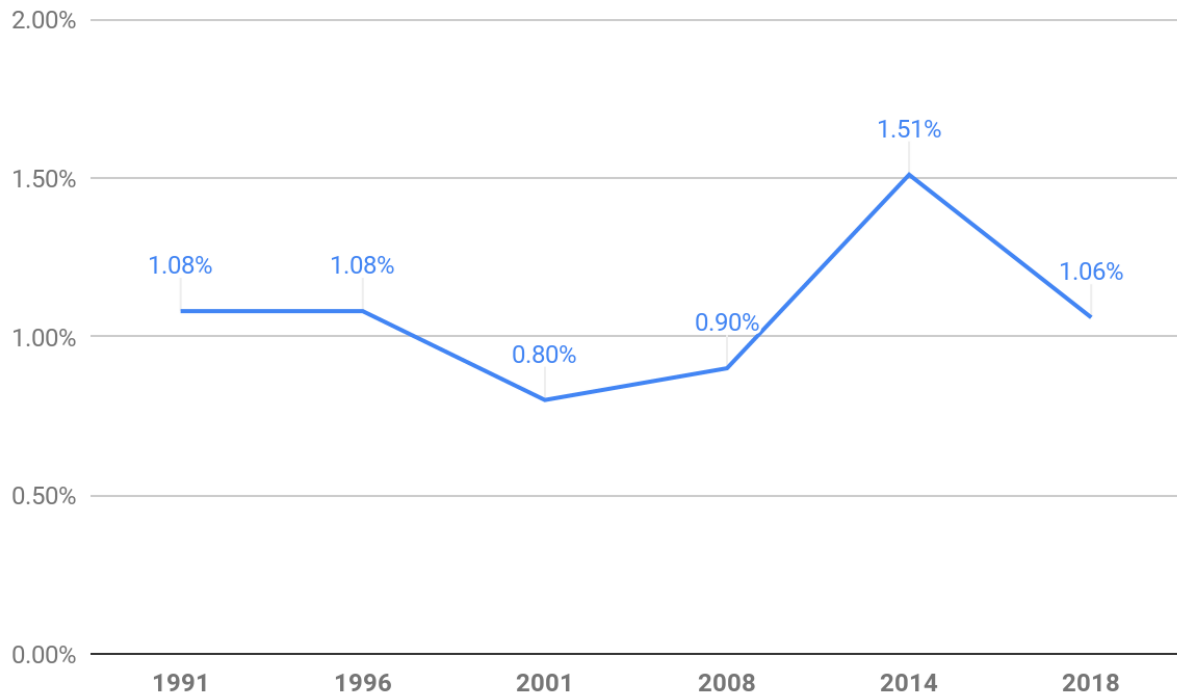


Table 4: Information about invalid votes

Year	Invalid votes	Compared to cast votes
1991	373,322	1.08%
1996	462,302	1.08%
2001	449,082	0.80%
2008	636,294	0.90%
2014	263,037	1.51%
2018	881,619	1.06%

Political Parties

Before 2008, there was no obligation of registration for political parties to participate in the election. Back then, every registered and non-registered party tried to participate in the election. Thus the number of contested parties was high. But due to the obligations of registration in 2008, only the registered parties, now, can participate in the election.

Graph 7: Political Parties contested in 6 elections

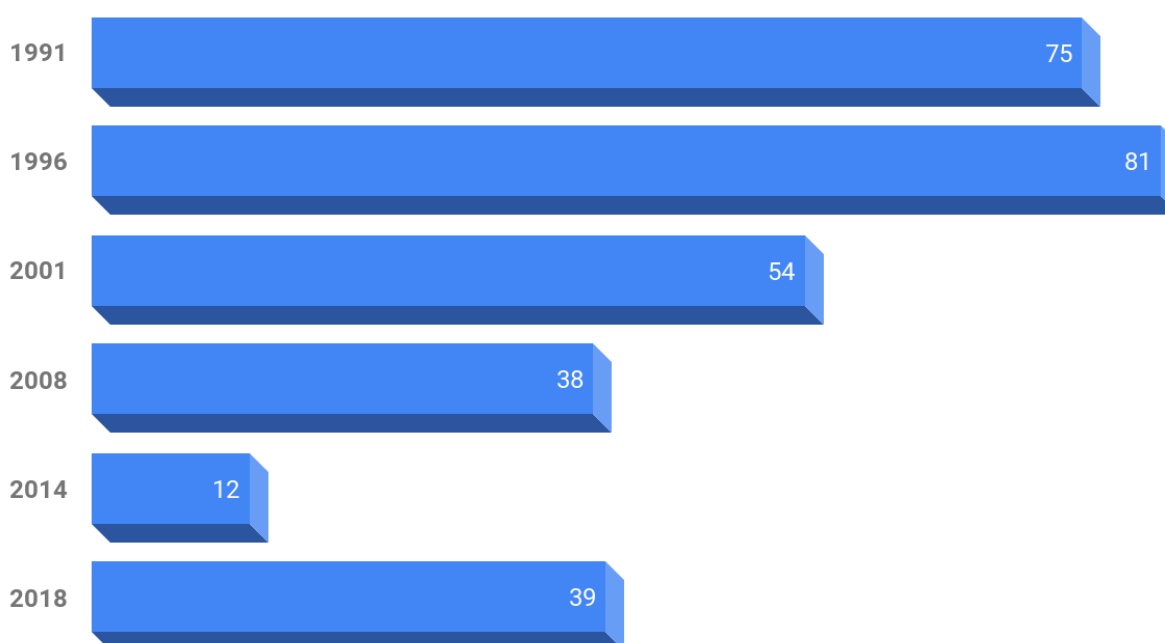


Table 5: Parties that contested and made the win

Year	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014	2018
Political Parties	75	81	54	38	12	39
Parties did not secure any seat	63	74	46	30	5	31

Number of Candidates contested and lost their security deposit

Graph 8: Candidates lost the deposit

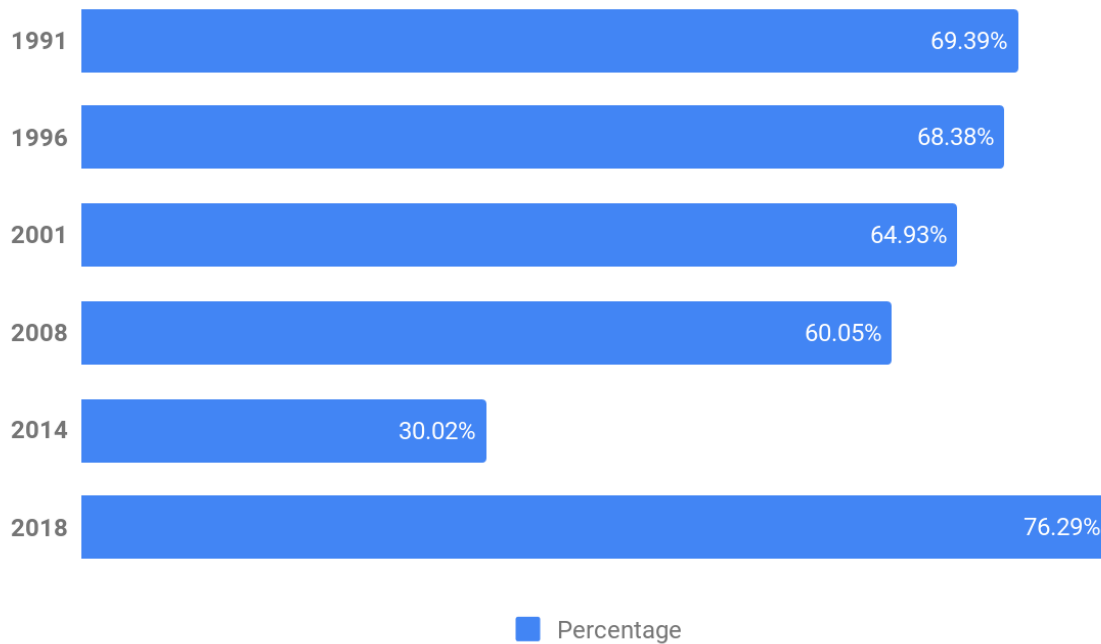


Table 6: Candidates contested and whose security forfeited

Year	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014	2018
Candidates	2,787	2,574	1,939	1,567	543	1,865
	40	36	38	59	29	70
% of W	1.43	1.40	1.96			
Candidates' Deposit Forfeited	1934 (69.39)	1760 (68.38%)	1259 (64.93%)	941 (60.05%)	163 (30.02%)	1422 (76.29%)

Women Candidates

Graph 9: Number of Women candidates contested and elected

% of women MPs compared to total MPs

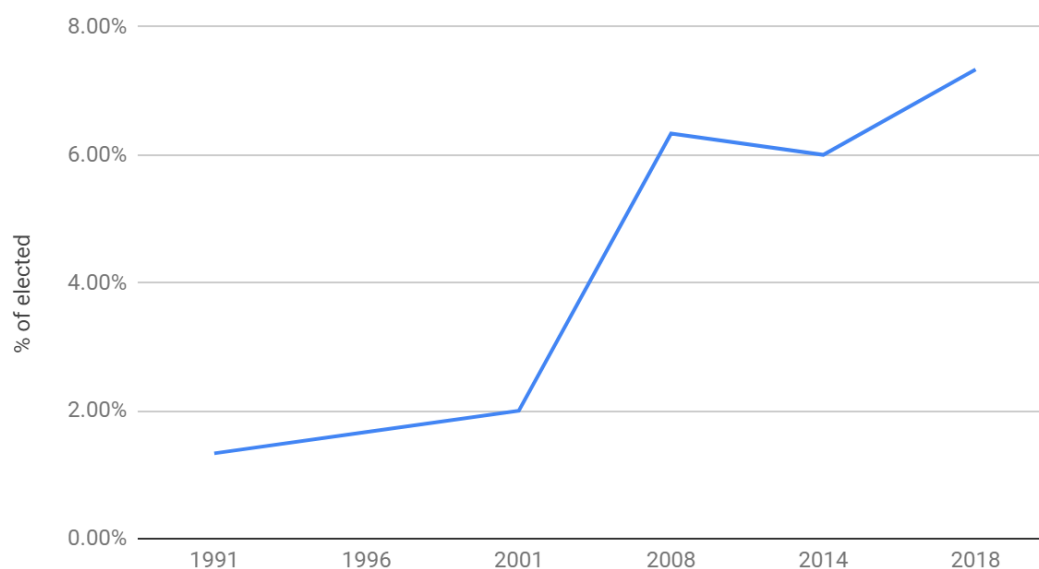


Table 7: Number of Women Contested and Elected from 1991 to 2018

	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014	2018
contested	40	36	38	59	29	70
Constituencies	47	48	46	59	30	61
Elected	5	5	6	19	19	22
% (elected/contested)	10%	13.89%	15.79%	32.2%	62.07%	31.43%

Vote differences

Graph 10: Highest vote difference between winning and nearest candidates

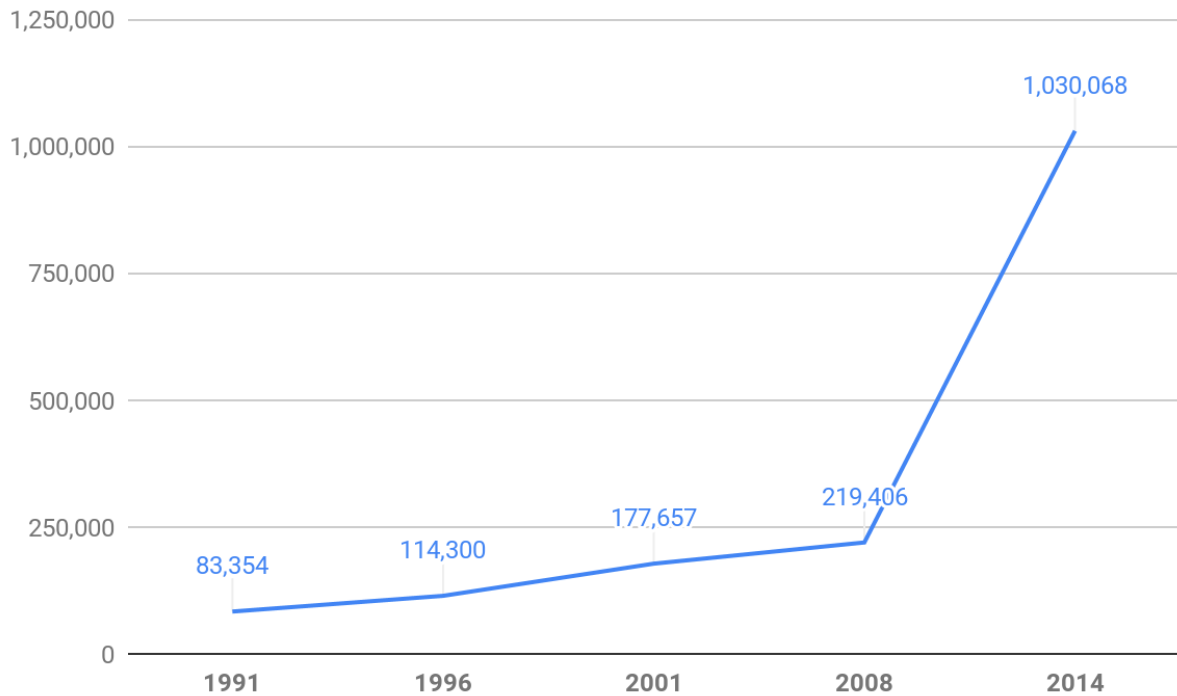


Table 8: Information about highest vote difference between winning and nearest candidates

Year	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014	2018
Winning Candidate	Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (AL)-Gopalganj-2	Faruk Khan (AL)-Gopalganj-1	Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (AL)-Gopalganj-2	Hussain Muhammad Ershad (JP)-Rangpur 3	Md. Nurul Islam Sujan (AL)-Panchagarh-2	Dr Md Enamur Rahman Dhaka 19
Winner's Vote	93,015	119,536	185,821	239,046	1,037,360	490,427
Nearest Candidate	Fazle Elahi Sarfuzzaman (BNP)	A.K. Imdadul Haque (Jamat)	Sheikh Saifur Rahman Nantu (BNP)	Md. Abdul Kaium Mondol (BNP)	Emran Al Amin (JSD)	Deawan Md Salauddin
Nearest Candidate's Vote	9,661	5,236	8,164	19,640	7,292	69,566
Vote Difference	83,354	114,300	177,657	219,406	1,030,068	

Lowest vote difference

Graph 11: Lowest vote difference between winning and nearest candidates

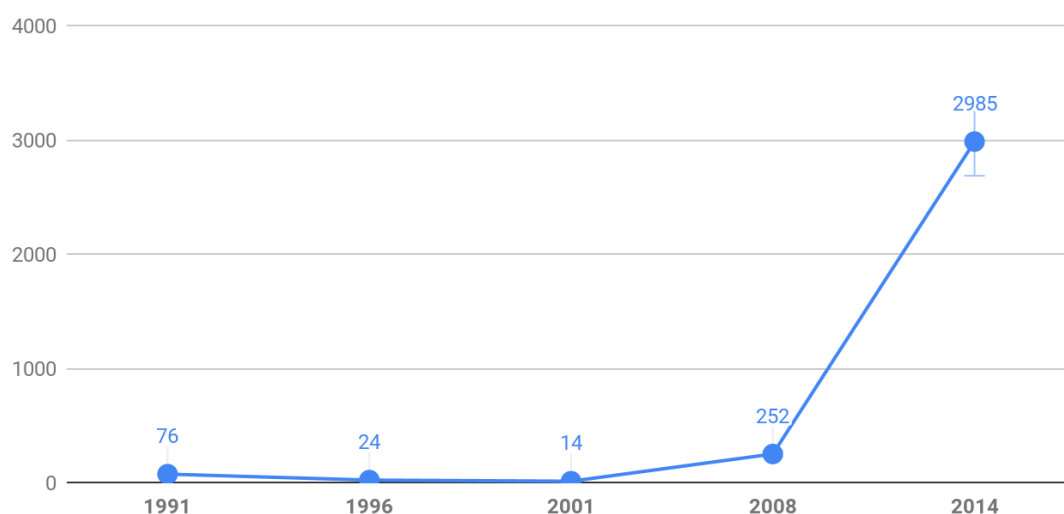


Table 9: Information about the lowest vote difference between winning and nearest candidates

Year	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014
Winning Candidate	Golam Rabbani (BNP)-Joypurhat-1	A S M Firoz (AL)-Patuakhali-2	Dr. Alauddin Ahammad (AL)-Kishoreganj-1	MD. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS (AL)-Sirajganj-5	Sayed Abu Hossain (JP)-Dhaka-4
Winner's Vote	48,167	45,937	86,623	119,582	17,772
Nearest Candidate	Abbas Ali Mandal (AL)	Md. Shahidul Alam Talukdar (BNP)	Md. Idris Ali Bhuiyan (BNP)	MAJOR MANJUR QUADER (BNP)	Awlad Hossain (Independent)
Nearest Candidate's Vote	48,091	45,913	86,509	119,330	14,787
Vote Difference	76	24	14	252	2,985

Note: All information-except the information of 2018-are taken from the election reports made by the Bangladesh Election Commission. Since the report of 2018 is not published yet, information on this election is taken from the various newspapers.