

# WOMEN PARTICIPATION & UTTARAKHAND 2017 ELECTORAL DATA



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One of the most defining images of Uttarakhand is its numerous abandoned villages. With unabated migration largely driven by lack of employment and income generating activities, men have tended to leave the hills for greener pastures leaving the elderly, women and children behind. This phenomenon has resulted in skewed voting patterns that are clearly evident in the vote shares of women and men voters in the 34 constituencies in the nine hill districts of Uttarakhand.

In order to better understand the complexity of the electoral landscape, one needs to first look at the breakup of the 70 assembly seats across the 13 districts of Uttarakhand. These 70 seats are largely distributed evenly in the plain and hill regions; 36 seats in the four plain districts leaving the balance 34 in the remaining nine districts in the hills. However, this distribution only emerged in the third assembly election of Uttarakhand that was held in February 2012. Prior to that, there were 40 seats in the hills and the balance 30 in the plains. With the delimitation exercise, the numbers in the hill and plain districts changed significantly.

As migration from the hills has continued over the years; this has impacted at several levels like total population, male population, total electors, male electors and finally the male voters. This brief report throws some starting numbers regarding the gaps in voting numbers between women and men that deserves further examination and ground research.

The enclosed electoral data summary is an attempt to look at the past 2017 Uttarakhand assembly elections from the point of view of voter turnout in the 34 assembly seats in the nine hill districts. The data and its analysis examine women and men voter turnout numbers from a district and from a constituency perspective.

## **Note:**

**We would like to clarify the meaning of the words Electors and Voters. Electors are those whose names appear on the voting list. Voters are those who cast their votes in the election. The Election Commission of India uses the expressions of Electors and Voters in their data based electoral summaries.**

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## Top 10 Highlights

1. The average voting turnout in Uttarakhand in the 2017 Vidhan Sabha election was 65.6%. Elections were held on February 15, 2017 in 70 seats of which 36 are in the four plain districts of Haridwar, Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar and Nainital. The remaining 34 seats are in the nine hill districts of Uttarakhand.
2. The number of men electors is greater than women electors in 28 of the 34 hill constituencies. It is only in 6 constituencies viz. Kedarnath, Chaubatakhal, Pauri, Didihat, Dharchula and Dwarahat that women electors outnumber the men.
3. There were a total of 15,34,661 men electors of which 7,84,939 cast their votes with a voting percentage of 51.15% in 34 constituencies in nine hill districts. Thus, on an average half the men electors in the hill districts did not vote in the 2017 election.
4. There were a total of 14,72,513 women electors of which 9,58,865 cast their votes with a voting percentage of 65.12% in 34 constituencies in nine hill districts. Thus, on an average two out of three women cast their votes in the hill districts in the 2017 election.
5. On 33 of the above 34 hill seats, women voters have outnumbered men voters. It is only in the assembly seat of Purola in Uttarkashi district that there are 583 more men voters compared to women voters.
6. There were an average of 28,202 women voters in each hill assembly. In comparison, only 23,086 men have voted in each hill assembly.
7. 5,116 more women than men have voted on an average in each of the 34 assembly constituencies.
8. The biggest difference amongst women and men voters is in the constituencies of Bageshwar (9,802 votes), Rudraprayag (9,517) and Dwarahat (9043).
9. Purola is the only hill constituency in the district of Uttarkashi where more men than women cast their votes. 583 more men voted compared to women voters.
10. Apart from the above 33 hill constituencies, there are 4 more constituencies in the plain districts where women voters have outnumbered men voters, These 4 constituencies are Doiwala, Rishikesh, Kaladhungi and Khatima. Thus, of the total 70 constituencies in Uttarakhand, women have voted in larger numbers than men on 37 assembly seats in the 2017 assembly election.

## 34 Constituencies & Nine Hill Districts : Uttarakhand 2017 Election Women & Men Electoral and Voter Participation Overview

A.	Uttarkashi	Men		Women		
S. No.	Constituency	Electors	Voter	Electors	Voter	Difference Between Women & Men Voters
1.	Gangotri	41953	25196	39168	28680	3484
2.	Yamunotri	35726	21760	33812	24300	2540
3.	Purola	34827	24695	32326	24112	583***
<b>Total</b>		<b>112506</b>	<b>71651</b>	<b>105306</b>	<b>77092</b>	<b>5441</b>

\*\*\* Purola is the only hill constituency where more men than women cast their votes. 583 more men voted compared to women voters.

B.	Chamoli	Men		Women		
S. No.	Constituency	Electors	Voter	Electors	Voter	Difference Between Women & Men Voters
4.	Karanprayag	46268	23740	45581	30424	6684
5.	Tharali	50706	26174	47835	31021	4847
6.	Badrinath	51612	29776	47675	31402	1626
	<b>Total</b>	<b>148586</b>	<b>79690</b>	<b>141091</b>	<b>92847</b>	<b>13157</b>

C.	Rudraprayag	Men		Women		
S.No.	Constituency	Electors	Voter	Electors	Voter	Difference Between Women & Men Voters
7.	Rudraprayag	48687	23471	47882	32988	9517
8.	Kedarnath	40738	23576	42055	30191	6615
	<b>Total</b>	<b>89425</b>	<b>47047</b>	<b>89937</b>	<b>63179</b>	<b>16132</b>

D.	Tehri	Men		Women		
S.No.	Constituency	Electors	Voter	Electors	Voter	Difference Between Women & Men Voters
9.	Ghansali	46352	17683	44372	26579	8896
10.	Partap Nagar	40840	16580	39078	24247	7667
11.	Devprayag	40918	18044	39522	24762	6718
12.	Tehri	41592	19147	38601	24078	4931
13.	Narendr Nagar	43964	23926	39474	27902	3976
14.	Dhanolti	39812	23175	36531	25912	2737
	<b>Total</b>	<b>253478</b>	<b>118555</b>	<b>237578</b>	<b>153480</b>	<b>34925</b>

<b>E.</b>	<b>Pauri</b>	<b>Men</b>		<b>Women</b>		
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Difference Between Women &amp; Men Voters</b>
15.	Srinagar	52133	25492	50189	33262	7770
16.	Chaubattakhal	43663	17563	44326	23787	6224
17.	Pauri	45753	20731	45910	26522	5791
18.	Kotwdar	51366	33133	49783	37007	3874
19.	Lansdowne	41844	17362	38107	20974	3612
20.	Yamkeshwar	43926	21032	39571	23550	2518
	<b>Total</b>	<b>278685</b>	<b>135313</b>	<b>267886</b>	<b>165102</b>	<b>29789</b>

<b>F.</b>	<b>Pithoragarh</b>	<b>Men</b>		<b>Women</b>		
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Difference Between Women &amp; Men Voters</b>
21.	Gangolihat	49950	24475	47251	29245	4770
22.	Pithoragarh	52060	30114	51817	34853	4739
23.	Didihat	39083	23510	41596	27025	3515
24.	Dharchula	41590	25663	42253	27129	1466
	<b>Total</b>	<b>182683</b>	<b>103762</b>	<b>182917</b>	<b>118252</b>	<b>14490</b>

<b>G.</b>	<b>Bageshwar</b>	<b>Men</b>		<b>Women</b>		
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Difference Between Women &amp; Men Voters</b>
25.	Bageshwar	56020	28083	53924	37885	9802
26.	Kapkot	47341	27545	46433	31213	3668
	<b>Total</b>	<b>103361</b>	<b>55628</b>	<b>100357</b>	<b>69098</b>	<b>13470</b>

<b>H.</b>	<b>Almora</b>	<b>Men</b>		<b>Women</b>		
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Difference Between Women &amp; Men Voters</b>
27.	Dwarahat	43438	18634	46163	27677	9043
28.	Salt	48392	18282	46764	25239	6957
29.	Someshwar	43179	19386	41387	26147	6761
30.	Jageshwar	46816	22488	42759	28057	5569
31.	Ranikhet	40214	18246	38363	22211	3965
32.	Almora	45276	23678	42681	27327	3649
	<b>Total</b>	<b>267315</b>	<b>120714</b>	<b>258117</b>	<b>156658</b>	<b>35944</b>

<b>I.</b>	<b>Champawat</b>	<b>Men</b>		<b>Women</b>		
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Voter</b>	<b>Difference Between Women &amp; Men Voters</b>
33.	Lohaghat	52871	25090	47778	32684	7594
34.	Champawat	45751	27489	41546	30473	2984
	<b>Total</b>	<b>98622</b>	<b>52579</b>	<b>89324</b>	<b>63157</b>	<b>10578</b>

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