# Bosnia and Herzegovina's 40% Candidate-List Quota — Lists Comply, but Women Still Win Only About One in Five Seats (Cautionary Case)

Gender Equality · Good practice · Bosnia and Herzegovina

Quality score: 37/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited


### *Summary*

Since 2013 Bosnia's Election Law requires 40% of each party list to be the less-represented gender, with placement rules. Parties comply, yet women won just 8 of 42 seats (19%) in the state House of Representatives in 2022, down from 21.4% in 2014 and 2018.


### *Key dimensions*

| Dimension | Score |
|---|---|
| Transferability / replicability | 1/3 |
| Impact on gender equality | 0/1 |
| Effectiveness | 0/1 |
| Efficiency | 0/1 |
| Evaluated outcomes | 1/1 |
| Sustainability | 1/1 |
| Achievement / evidence | 0/1 |
| Gender-mainstreaming embedding | 0/1 |
| Curator validation | 1/1 |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

### *Data sources*


C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-20

Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Election Law, Art. 4.19) — accessed 2026-11-20

Forum of Federations — Quotas, party lists and women's representation in BiH — accessed 2026-11-20

International IDEA Gender Quotas Database — Bosnia and Herzegovina — accessed 2026-11-20

OSCE/ODIHR final report, 2022 general elections — accessed 2026-11-20

LSE EUROPP — what we learned from BiH's 2022 election — accessed 2026-11-20



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