

Costa Rica's Gender Parity Electoral Code — 49% Women in Legislature (2009–2026)

Gender Equality · Good practice · Costa Rica

Quality score: 78/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Costa Rica's 2009 Electoral Code mandates 50% women on all candidate lists with strict vertical and horizontal alternation and electoral sanctions; women held 49.1% of Assembly seats in 2022–2026 and won a historic majority in February 2026, making Costa Rica a globally cited ben

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-06-23

[Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones \(TSE\) de Costa Rica](#) — accessed 2026-06-23

[Tico Times: first female majority \(Feb 2026\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-23

[Americas Quarterly: when do quotas work?](#) — accessed 2026-06-23

[SciELO: Gender parity in Costa Rica 2022-2026](#) — accessed 2026-06-23

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