

Gender Parity Law and Its 'Escape Clause' — Panama's Electoral Code

Gender Equality · Good practice · Panama

Quality score: 37/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Panama's Electoral Code requires 50% women on party candidate lists, but Article 373's 'escape clause' lets parties fill gaps with men when they can't find female candidates. In 2024 no party fully complied; women won only 15 of 71 National Assembly seats (21%).

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	0/1
Achievement / evidence	0/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[Tribunal Electoral de Panamá](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[OAS Electoral Observation Mission — Panama 2024 preliminary report](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[Freedom House — Panama 2024](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[International IDEA — Promoting agreements to improve gender parity in Panama](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[IPU Parline — Panama National Assembly, May 2024 election](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

Cite this — Evidoria. *Gender Parity Law and Its 'Escape Clause' — Panama's Electoral Code*. Persistent ID: 0540d056-1482-4a69-8eec-56f3152c3088.