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# Gujarat Local Body Elections 2026 — 9,262 Seats Across 393 Civic Bodies; First OBC Panchayat President Reservation

26 April 2026 · **POLITY**

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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# Gujarat Local Body Elections 2026 — 9,262 Seats Across 393 Civic Bodies; First OBC Panchayat President Reservation

 26 April 2026 · 3 min read · 2 tags

## WHY IN NEWS

Gujarat held elections today (April 26, 2026) for **393 civic bodies** — covering 15 municipal corporations, 84 municipalities, 34 district panchayats, and 260 Taluka Panchayats. The election decides **9,262 seats** from among **25,537 candidates** — making it one of the largest simultaneous local body elections in India. A historic feature this cycle is the **first-ever OBC reservation for 7 District Panchayat President posts** under the State Election Commission’s new reservation framework. Results will be declared on **April 28, 2026**.

## SCALE OF THE ELECTION

BODY TYPE	COUNT	SEATS
Municipal Corporations (Mahanagar Palika)	15	Major urban centres
Municipalities (Nagar Palika)	84	Tier 2/3 towns
District Panchayats (Jilla Panchayat)	34	Rural district governance
Taluka Panchayats	260	Sub-district rural bodies
<b>Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>9,262 seats</b>
Total candidates	25,537	—

## OBC RESERVATION — A FIRST FOR DISTRICT PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS

For the first time in Gujarat’s history, **7 out of 34 District Panchayat President (Adhyaksha) posts are reserved for OBC candidates**. This follows a Supreme Court framework requiring states to:

- 1 Conduct empirical inquiry into OBC backwardness at local body level
- 2 Determine the quantum of reservation not exceeding 50% in aggregate (SC+ST+OBC)

### 3 Notify reserved seats by category before polls

The Supreme Court (in *Vikram Singh v. Union of India* and related rulings) had held that OBC reservation in local bodies is not automatic — it requires fresh data collection. Gujarat’s move signals compliance with this framework.

## MULTI-EVM SYSTEM

For the 15 municipal corporations, the **Gujarat State Election Commission (SEC)** deployed a **multi-EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) system** to handle the large number of candidates per ward (some wards have 50+ candidates, exceeding a single EVM’s ballot capacity). Multi-EVM systems link two or more EVMs to cover all candidates in a single ballot — first used in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka local body elections.

## KEY MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

CORPORATION	SIGNIFICANCE
Ahmedabad (AMC)	Largest; PM Modi’s home city; BJP stronghold since 1994
Surat (SMC)	Diamond and textile hub; BJP sweeps historically
Vadodara (VMC)	Cultural capital; PM Modi’s parliamentary constituency
Rajkot (RMC)	Saurashtra’s largest; BJP dominated
Morbi	First election post-2022 bridge collapse tragedy

## POLITICAL CONTEXT

Gujarat local body elections are traditionally seen as a **BJP bastion test** — the party has controlled most urban local bodies for three decades. The 2026 elections come at a time when:

- **AAP (Aam Aadmi Party)** had made inroads in 2021 Surat municipal elections but faces a more formidable BJP machinery post-2022 assembly win
- **Congress** is rebuilding after its 2022 state poll collapse (60 seats vs BJP’s 156)
- **OBC reservation** for Panchayat President posts is a direct competition for community votes

## PANCHAYATI RAJ SIGNIFICANCE

Local body elections are **critical for constitutional provisions** in UPSC context:

- **Article 243** – Panchayats; **Article 243G** – powers and functions (11th Schedule)
- **Article 243T** – reservation in Municipalities; **Article 243D** – reservation in Panchayats
- OBC reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) requires the **triple test** (SC, 2021): empirical inquiry + proportionality + 50% cap aggregate
- **State Election Commission (SEC)** – independent constitutional body under Article 243K for superintendence of local body elections

## UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS2 – Polity	Panchayati Raj; OBC reservation triple test; Article 243; SEC
GS2 – Governance	Decentralisation; local body elections; Multi-EVM system

**Mains Keywords:** Gujarat local body elections, OBC reservation, triple test, SEC, 73rd Amendment, Panchayati Raj, District Panchayat President

### Facts Corner

ITEM	FACT
Polling date	April 26, 2026
Result date	April 28, 2026
Total bodies	393 (15 corps + 84 muns + 34 DPs + 260 TPs)
Total seats	9,262
Total candidates	25,537
OBC DP President posts (first time)	7 of 34
Multi-EVM used	Yes – for municipal corporations
Constitutional provision	Articles 243–243ZG (Part IX and IX-A)

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