

# Local Governance in Global perspectives

Organized by the Local Autonomy College of  
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Key Features of Japan's Local  
Government Election System  
and What Mongolia Can Learn  
from It

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# Why is it important?

- ☐ Election is Democracy
- ☐ Participating in Local election = First place for citizens to exercise their right to participate in local governance
- ☐ Self-governing bodies/Assemblies make decisions directly affect residents' daily life
- ☐ The electoral system must continue to improve and evolve

# Local government election system in Japan and Mongolia

	Japan	Mongolia
<b>Principle</b>	Universal suffrage Equal election Secret election Elections based on representative democracy	Universal suffrage Free election Secret election
<b>Types</b>	6 types of election	4 types of election
<b>National level</b>	House of Representative's election/Lower House election  House of Councilor election/Upper House election	Presidential election Parliament election
<b>Local level</b>	Prefectural level - Gubernatorial election - Member of Assembly election  Municipal level (city, town, village) - Mayoral election - Member of Assembly election All directly elected by residents.	Capital city/Province - Member of Assembly election  District/Soum (town)  - Member of Assembly election Assembly nominate a candidate for the appointment of Governor → Governor of Capital city/Province is appointed by PM.  Governor of District/Soum (town) is appointed by Governor of Capital city/Province.
<b>Term</b>	4 years	4 years

**Main difference is Governors/ Mayors are not elected directly from the residents.**

**The Constitution of Mongolia Article 60, 61 stated that provisions, governors are to be nominated by the Citizens' Representative Assembly and appointed by the higher-level governor or the Prime Minister.**

# Japan: Candidate deposit in Local election

**First introduced in Japan in 1925** as part of an election law extending suffrage to all adult males.

## **After WWII**

- The right to vote was given to females
- the Public Office Election Law of 1950 replaced the old law, but the system of deposit remained unchanged

Election deposit is relatively high

The threshold for retaining the deposit in Japan is also high

## Local election Candidate deposit amount

1. Prefectural assembly elections 600,000 yen
2. City assembly elections 300,000 yen
3. Town and village assembly elections 150,000 yen

# The method for calculating the amount of confiscation

## Let us do some math:

X = number of votes a candidate received,

Y = total number of valid votes cast in the election

N = number of seats available (for example, in a multi-seat election)

If  $X < 1/10 \times (Y/N)$  then full confiscation

## For example,

Nakamura ward, Nagoya city has 135,134 population (as of Oct 2019). Assuming 95,000 of it are voters and 50,000 of the voters who turned up actual on election day. There are 2 seats at the assembly.

Y=50,000 valid votes

N=2 seats

The confiscation threshold is:  $X < 1/10 \times (50,000/2) = 2500$ . If the candidate will lose the deposit if he/she fails to get at least 2500 votes.

# Trend in Mongolia

In 2024 local elections, a total of **1,992** candidates competed for **45** seats in the Citizens' Representative Assembly of Ulaanbaatar City



Average 44 candidates for each seat

## Challenges:

- Voters may feel overwhelmed by the excessive number of choices
- It becomes difficult to evaluate each candidate's platform or policy position thoroughly
- The abundance of information and unfamiliar names can cause confusion and disengagement
- Voters will only concentrate on the party not the candidate



Reducing voter turnout and participation

# Local government election campaign period

## Japan

### Public Offices Election Act

Election campaign is permitted during the period starting from the official notification of candidacy until the day before the election.

The campaign period is **9 days** for members of prefectural assembly, **7 days** for members of city assembly and **5 days** for member of a town or village assembly.

## Mongolia

### Law on Local Assembly Election

Election campaign period begins on the day a candidate is registered and issued a candidate certificate and continues until the day before the election.

The certificate must be issued no later than **15 days** before election day.

## Conclusion

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The following measures could contribute to a more focused and meaningful electoral process in Mongolia:

- Introduction of candidate deposit requirement (with minimum threshold and Capital city assembly election only)
- Establishment of a minimum campaign duration, differentiated by election type

**FIRST REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS AND CAREFUL LEGAL  
CONSIDERATION TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH MONGOLIA'S  
CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTORAL FRAMEWORKS**





**THANK  
YOU**