



Election Commission

2023 Citizen Centric Report

COMMISSION

JESUS I. SABLAN
Chairperson (Saipan & Northern Islands)

ESTHER A. YATAR
Vice-Chairperson (Rota)

DORIS ANN ALDAN-ATALIG
Member (Saipan & Northern Islands)

JESUS S. CEPEDA
Member (Saipan & Northern Islands)

REMEDIO R. SABLAN
(Saipan & Northern Islands)

LELANIE I. MANGLONA
Member (Rota)

JOHN D. ATTAO
Member (Tinian & Aguiguan)

JONATHAN C. MANGLONA
(Tinian & Aguiguan)

VACANT
(Saipan & Northern Islands)

COMMISSION STAFF

KAYLA S. IGITOL
Executive Director

CHRISTINA K. NORITA
Election Register Clerk

AMBROSIO J. LISUA
Administrative Officer

ASHLEY B. BORNILLA
Election Register Clerk

JOELYN L. MAGOFNA
Administrative Specialist

BENWACHI N. TAISAKAN
Outreach Coordinator

Who are we?

The Commonwealth Election Commission was created under Public Law 12-18, as amended which was codified in Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code. It was created to establish procedures and requirements of voters and the conduct of elections within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commission shall have nine (9) members appointed by the Governor subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Five members shall be residents of Saipan and the islands north of Saipan, two members shall be residents of Rota, and two members shall be residents of the islands of Tinian and Aguiguan. No person may be appointed a commission member who is not a registered voter of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Election Commission’s Executive Director is Kayla S. Igitol, who serves at the pleasure of the Commission. Including the Executive Director, CEC’s full-time staff consist of six employees. Eight months prior to election the commission hires Ten (10) temporary employees to assist in preparation and closing of election.

Mission

To ensure a fair, honestly, orderly and impartial election process.



WHO QUALIFIES TO REGISTER?

A person is eligible to vote who meets the following qualifications as provided in Title 1 Division 6 § 6201.

1. A citizen or national of the United States
2. Who, on the date of election, is 18 years of age or older
3. Domiciled in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the election
4. Has not been declared by a court to be of unsound mind
5. Not serving a sentence for a felony



CONTACT US

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

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PERFORMANCE

2022 ABSENTEE REQUESTED

GENERAL ELECTION **2,054**

RUN-OFF **2,233**

NORTHERN MARIANAS DESCENT REGISTRY (NMDR)

Northern Marianas Descent Qualification

A person of Northern Marianas descent is a person who is a citizen or national of the United States and who has at least some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof. For purposes of determining Northern Marianas descent by adoption, a child without any degree of Northern Marianas descent when adopted while under the age of eighteen by a person of Northern Marianas descent shall not acquire any degree of Northern Marianas descent. For purposes of determining Northern Marianas descent, a person shall be considered to be a full-blooded Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian if that person was born or domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands by 1950 and was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands before the termination of the Trusteeship with respect to the Commonwealth.

Any person who has less than one quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof, claiming to be a person of Northern Marianas descent shall provide evidence to support that he/she possess some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof to the Superior Court. Based on the evidentiary standard of “preponderance of the evidence”, the Superior Court may grant or deny such claim, and the decision of the Superior Court on such claim shall be subject to a “de novo” judicial review. However, if the Superior Court finds and agrees that the person in fact possesses at least some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof, the Superior Court shall certify that the person is a person of Northern Marianas descent.

Voter Registration Statistic

Precinct	Total by Precinct	Polling Site
Precinct 1A	959	Saipan Southern High
Precinct 1B	2,828	Dandan Md. School
Precinct 1C	1,367	Kobler Youth Center
Precinct 2	1,591	Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Precinct 3A	1,029	Oleai Elm School
Precinct 3B	3,058	Garapan Elem School
Precinct 4A	707	Tanapag Youth Center
Precinct 4B	635	GTC Elem School
Precinct 4C	410	J.P. Mafnas Legislative Building
Precinct 4D	184	Northern Islands
Precinct 5	2,975	Kagman Youth Center
Precinct 6	1,680	Tinian Gymnasium
Precinct 7	1,852	NMC Campus—ROTA
TOTAL:	19,275	

NMD Registry Statistic

Years	Total Registered
2008-2023	10,215



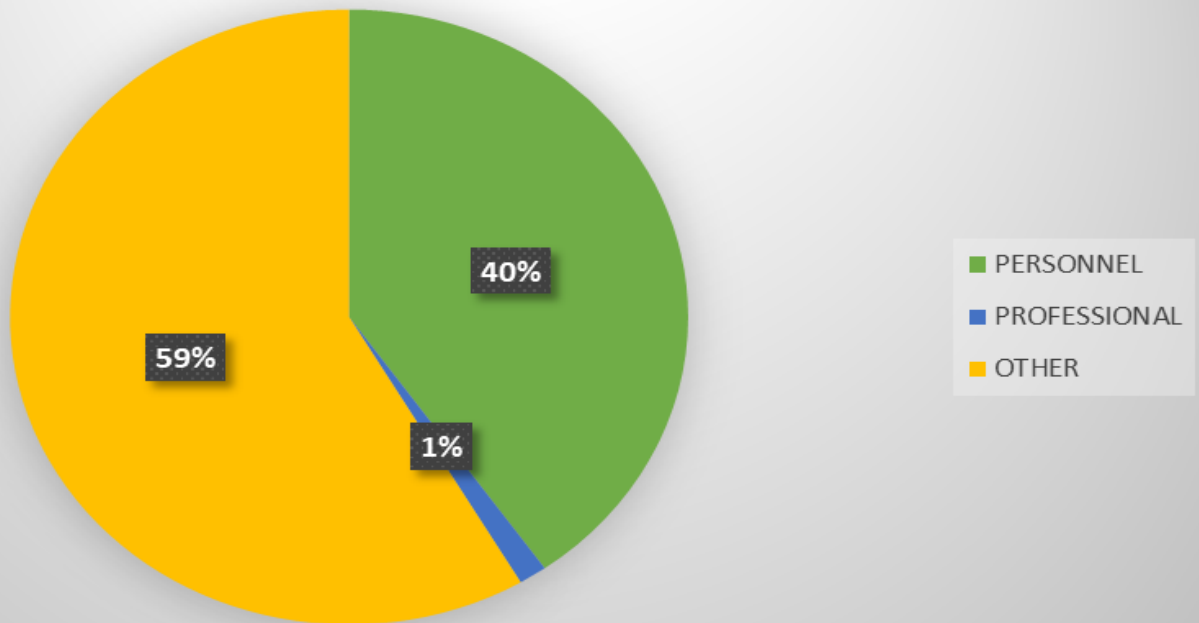
FINANCES

EXPENDITURES	Fiscal Year 2022
Personnel	362,633
Professional Services	12,150
Others	527,156
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	901,939.00

The Election Assistance Commission allocated \$901,939.00 to the Commonwealth Election Commission under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2022 Federal election cycle. The grants was used for cost associated with the pandemic during the 2022 election such as:

- Ballots and envelopes printing
- Voter registration and upgrades on database
- Absentee postage, including tracking software
- Voting equipment, including tabulators and hardware
- Cleaning supplies, protective mask and equipment for staff and poll workers on election, vote center and polling site
- and others.

FY 2023 BUDGET DEMOGRAPHIC DATA





FUTURE OUTLOOK AND CHALLENGES

LOOKING FORWARD

In anticipation of future elections, The CEC continues to strive in:

- ⇒ The Commonwealth Election Commission Board members to meet and address issues with election laws and election regulations that need to be amended to ensure a smooth process.
- ⇒ Continuing efforts to register voters and Northern Marianas Descent
- ⇒ To conduct comprehensive training for all poll workers.
- ⇒ Revisit and amend poll worker training procedures
- ⇒ Adopt operating procedures on ballot handling and ballot accountability

CHALLENGES

CEC confronts issues and barriers with:

- ◆ Validating the voter registry
- ◆ Increasing the number of registered Northern Marianas Descent
- ◆ Hiring of Temporary staff/poll workers
- ◆ Power/water issues at all polling sites
- ◆ Flight delay for Rota and Tinian ballots
- ◆ The processing of absentee ballots
- ◆ Conducting preliminary counts on Rota and Tinian

UPCOMING ELECTION

2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Polls Open: 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

OPEN SEATS

POSITION	NO. OF SEAT
1. U.S. Delegate	1
2. Attorney General	1
3. Senate	2
Rota	1
4. House of Representative	
Precinct 1	6
Precinct 2	2
Precinct 3	6
Precinct 4	2
Precinct 5	2
Precinct 6	1
Precinct 7	1
5. Municipal Council	
Saipan	3
Tinian	3
Rota	3
6. Board of Education	3
Tinian	1
Rota	1

2023 CNMI REGISTERED VOTERS BY AGE

