

*How's chances for one of those glances:*  
INTRA-PARTY RULES AND WOMEN'S PROBABILITY OF  
WINNING PARLIAMENTARY SEATS

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**Abstract**

Political parties are the gatekeepers to political office. They affect who runs for legislative seats and who gets a spot on viable list positions. In placing candidates on these positions, the party does also determine the representation of women in parliament. The decision who runs for legislative office, how many women or men, and on which position falls in the candidate selection process preceding the election. Therefore, the following thesis seeks to answer the question of which candidate selection mode increases the nomination of women to viable list positions. I argue that it depends on whether responsibility for insufficient female representation is concentrated or diffused. If a single party leader or a limited number of party elites conduct candidate selection, responsibility focuses on an identifiable actor. Hence, the main hypothesis is that less inclusive (smaller) candidate selectorates lead to more women on viable list positions. Two further interaction hypotheses state that this effect increases when an interest group (women's sub-organisation or voters) pressures the selectorate for female representation. Using an original dataset of 9000+ candidates of 38 parties in six countries, I investigate the effect of candidate selection procedures. Results provide evidence that more inclusive (larger) selectorates lead to a higher share of women on viable list positions. Moreover, the pressure of parties' voters positively moderates the effect.

**Keywords:** representation; gender and politics; candidate selection;  
intra-party democracy; electoral systems;