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CP/doc.4811/12  
13 December 2012  
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FINAL REPORT OF THE OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION  
FOR THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN JAMAICA  
DECEMBER 29, 2011



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
United States of America

## Organization of American States

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December 4, 2012

His Excellency Joel Hernández  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mexico  
to the Organization of American States  
Chair of the Permanent Council  
Washington, D.C.

Excellency:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to request that the attached report on the Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) in Jamaica be distributed to the members of the Permanent Council. This report reflects the activities carried out by the EOM during the general elections held on December 29, 2011.

Accept, Excellency, renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Jose Miguel Insulza  
Secretary General

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION  
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DECEMBER 29, 2011**

**Secretariat for Political Affairs**

## CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CHAPTER II. POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CHAPTER III. MISSION ACTIVITIES AND OBSERVATION.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>CHAPTER IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>APPENDIX.....</b>	<b>38</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 24, 2011, the Government of Jamaica invited the Organization of American States (OAS) to observe the General Parliamentary Elections to be held on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011<sup>1</sup>. The OAS Secretary General responded positively to this request on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011<sup>2</sup> and organized an Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) comprising 24 international observers from 16 different countries. Regarding the gender composition of this EOM, 54 percent of the observers were women, and 46 percent were men. This was the second time the OAS deployed an Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) in Jamaica.

The Secretary General invited Ambassador Lisa Shoman, currently serving as a Senator in the Parliament of Belize, to lead the OAS Electoral Observation Mission to Jamaica. Shortly before elections, the General Secretariat signed an agreement of privileges and immunities<sup>3</sup> with the Government of Jamaica and, subsequently, the Chief of Mission signed an agreement with the Electoral Commission establishing the objectives and procedures for observers' activities<sup>4</sup>.

The OAS/EOM began official activities on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, through a preliminary visit involving meetings with electoral authorities, representatives of political parties, political analysts, NGOs and members of civil society and the promotion of the exchange of information with the different actors within the electoral process.

The majority of the observers arrived in Jamaica on December 26 and participated in a day of training, familiarizing themselves with their duties and with the electoral process. On Election Day, observers were deployed to all the 14 Parishes in the country observing polling stations and often returning more than once to observe the progress of events throughout the day. Observers witnessed firsthand the electoral preparations, voting, the counting of ballots and the transmission of results.

There were 150 candidates contesting the Parliamentary General Elections. The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and the Peoples National Party (PNP) each fielded 63 candidates. The Marcus Garvey People's Political Party presented ten candidates and the National Democratic Movement (NDM) seven candidates. The Jamaica Alliance Movement had one candidate and there were six independent candidates. The official results showed that PNP won 42 seats and the JLP won 21 seats.

The OAS/EOM wishes to congratulate all those involved in the Parliamentary General Elections, including the Electoral Commission, the Electoral Office, the government officials, the police force, political parties and candidates, members of civil society organizations, presiding officers, poll clerks and party agents who offered members of EOM/OAS their own perspectives on this process.

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1 Appendix I: Letter of Invitation.

2 Appendix II: Letter of Acceptance.

3 Appendix III: Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.

4 Appendix IV: Agreement on electoral Observation Process.

The Mission would also like to express its gratitude to the governments of Bolivia, Chile and the United States for providing financial support for this mission.

## CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

The Electoral Observation Missions of the Organization of American States (OAS/EOMs) have become a key instrument for the strengthening and the defense of democracy in the Americas. OAS/EOMs promote the right to elect and be elected in an inclusive, free and transparent manner and the respect for the political will of the people as expressed through the ballot box.

The presence of an OAS/EOM reflects the solidarity and support of the Inter-American community towards the efforts undertaken by democratic institutions in states that organize and administer their own electoral processes. OAS Missions promote the recognition of political rights, particularly the right to suffrage, as the legitimate expression of the opportunity of every citizen to elect representatives and to be elected in an inclusive and free manner.

Since 1962, the OAS has observed more than 195 electoral processes in the Hemisphere, although the greatest advance in these initiatives has taken place in the last 15 years. During this time period, the OAS has observed many different types of elections - general, presidential, parliamentary, and municipal elections, referendums, signature validation and collection processes, as well as primary elections within political parties –always at the request of the Member State. In Jamaica, the OAS observed the General Elections that took place in 2007; this was the second occasion that the OAS deployed an Electoral Observation Mission in the country.

The Secretary General designated Ambassador Lisa Shoman of Belize as Chief of Mission, and Ms. Rosa Serpa Moncada, Specialist in the OAS Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) served as Deputy Chief of Mission. The Mission initiated its activities in the country with the arrival of the Chief and Deputy Chief of Mission on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Subsequently the Mission installed itself permanently, with the arrival of the core group specialists: general coordinator, electoral organization specialist, political analyst, press officer, legal analyst and financial officer.

The OAS deployed an Electoral Observation Mission composed of 24 observers from 16 countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Grenada, Guatemala, Mexico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Spain, United States and Venezuela)<sup>5</sup>. On Election Day, the group of international observers was present in all the fourteen parishes as well as the national capital Kingston. The Mission concluded its work on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

The main objective of the OAS/EOM was to observe the Jamaican electoral process and to verify its compliance with internationally recognized principles and standards, as established in the Inter-American Democratic Charter to guarantee “free and fair elections<sup>6</sup>.” Specifically, the objectives of this Mission were:

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<sup>5</sup> Appendix V: List of Observers

<sup>6</sup> “Inter-American Democratic Charter”, Chapter V, Article 23.

- To verify compliance with the election laws and regulations in place in Jamaica, to assess the electoral process in the context of standards adopted by the OAS Member States, and to make note of what was observed and inform the Secretary General and the Permanent Council.
- To work with the Jamaican governmental and electoral authorities, and with Jamaicans in general, to ensure the impartiality, transparency, and reliability of the electoral process.
- To help to create an atmosphere of public trust and to encourage citizen participation.
- To serve as a channel to seek and build consensus in situations of conflict among the different participants in the electoral process, as requested.
- To make recommendations in order to help improve the Jamaican electoral system.
- To demonstrate international support and Inter-American solidarity for the development of an electoral process that is impartial, transparent, and reliable.

This report is organized in four chapters. The next chapter presents a general overview of the political system and electoral organization in Jamaica. The third chapter describes the activities of the OAS/EOM as well as its observations from the three key stages of the election: the pre-electoral period, Election Day, and the post-electoral stage. The final chapter presents the general conclusions of the Mission and recommendations to strengthen the electoral process in Jamaica.

## CHAPTER II. POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION

### A. POLITICAL SYSTEM

Jamaica is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy based on the Westminster model. According to The Constitution the government is divided in three branches: executive, legislature, and judiciary.

#### 1. Executive Branch

The executive authority of Jamaica is vested in Her Majesty. The Governor General, an honorary appointment, represents the British monarch Queen Elizabeth II as the Head of State, and performs ceremonial functions.

The Cabinet is made up of a Prime Minister and not less than 11 Ministries. The constitution states that “the Cabinet shall be the principal instrument of policy and shall be charged with the general direction and control of the Government of Jamaica and shall be collectively responsible therefore to Parliament”<sup>7</sup>. The member of the House of Representatives who, in the Governor-General's best judgment, is best able to command the confidence of a majority of the members of that House, is appointed to be the Prime Minister. Ministers are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister from among members of Parliament, although not less than two or more than four ministers shall be members of the Senate.

#### 2. Legislative Branch

The Parliament of Jamaica consists of Her Majesty, an appointed Senate and an elected House of Representatives. The Governor-General represents the Queen in Parliament, and his role is a formal one. Once a year, at the official opening of Parliament, he delivers the “Throne Speech”.

The Senate consists of twenty-one persons appointed by the Governor-General in accordance with the Section 35 of the Constitution. Thirteen Senators are nominated on the advice of the Prime Minister, and the remaining eight Senators on the advice of the parliamentary Leader of the Opposition.

The House of Representatives consists of people who, being qualified for election as members in accordance with the Section 37 of the Constitution, have been elected by popular vote in a “first-past-the-post” general election and are known as Members of Parliament. Each Representative belongs to one of the constituencies in the country.

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<sup>7</sup> Constitution of Jamaica, Chapter VI, Executive Powers, Article 69.

Parliament makes laws for the Peace, Order and good government of Jamaica<sup>8</sup>. The maximum term of Parliament is five years, at the end of which Parliament must be dissolved and a general election should be held. Nevertheless, the Prime Minister may recommend to the Governor-General the dissolution of Parliament at any time within the five years and name a date for a general election. Furthermore, Parliament must be dissolved and a general election held, if a majority of all the members of the House of Representatives supports a no-confidence motion against the Government.

### **3. Judicial Branch**

The Jamaican Judicial System of Jamaica is based on the “Common Law”. The system is organized on five levels: the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, the Resident Magistrates’ Court and the Petty Sessions Court. The Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction in all cases, and sits as the Circuit Court to try criminal cases. The Resident's Magistrate's court in each parish hears both criminal and civil cases, excluding grave offences. The Petty Sessions Court is held under Justices of the Peace, with power to hear minor crimes.

#### **B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL BOUNDARIES**

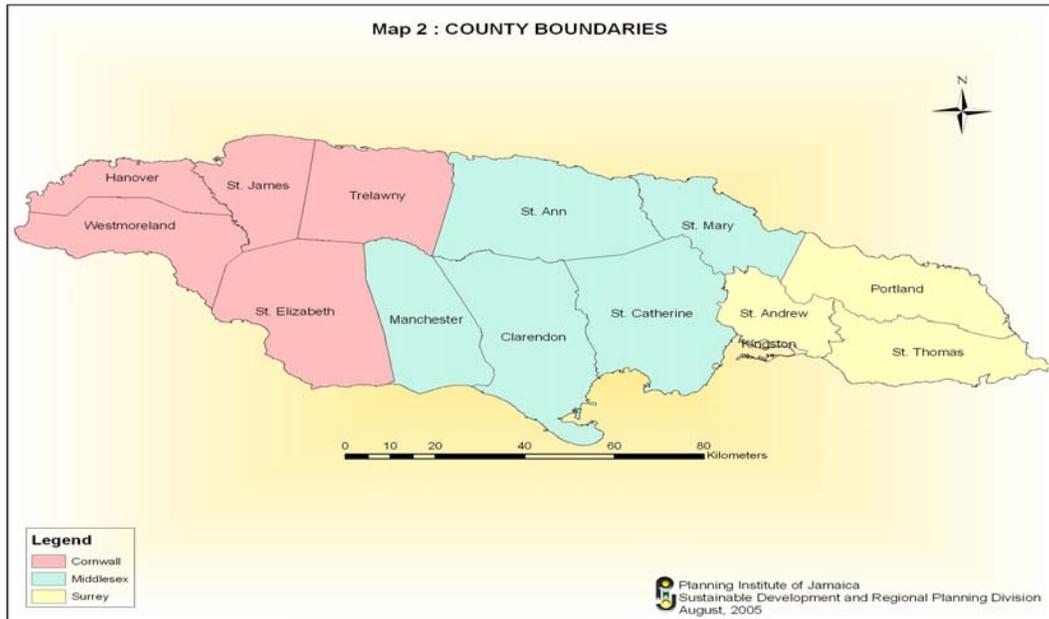
The Island of Jamaica is divided into three counties, Cornwall to the west, Surrey to the east and Middlesex centrally located and these are further divided into fourteen parishes for administrative purposes. Each Parish has a major town that is know as its capital.

The parishes contained in each county are as follows:

- **Cornwall County:** Trelawney, St. James, Hanover, Westmorland, St. Elizabeth.
- **Middlesex County:** St. Mary, St. Ann, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine.
- **Surrey County:** St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland, Kingston.

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<sup>8</sup> Constitution of Jamaica, Chapter V, Parliament, Article 48



Source: Planning Institute of Jamaica

After the general and local government elections of 2007, the Electoral Commission of Jamaica advised the Standing Committee of Boundaries of Parliament to conduct the realignment of boundaries of constituencies and the addition of three new constituencies. In March 2008, Parliament approved the necessary steps to be taken to amend the Constitution of Jamaica such that the number of constituencies would increase from 60 to 63.

These constituencies are further divided into polling divisions. The Polling Division is an essential component of the electoral organization in Jamaica which represents an administrative division of voters within a constituency. Polling Divisions and Constituency Boundaries are defined by a number of factors: geography, topography, demography, population, politics, and locational disadvantage. In metropolitan areas, the boundaries of a polling division may be defined by surrounding roads while in semi-rural districts they may be defined by imaginary lines, often defined several years ago by the location of a prominent landmark (tree, building, etc.)<sup>9</sup>. Each-polling division shall contain approximately two hundred and fifty qualified voters, however where the Chief Electoral Officer is satisfied that by reason of the congestion of population or other special circumstance, it is more convenient to do so, he may constitute a polling division including either more or less than two hundred and fifty qualified persons<sup>10</sup>. There were 6,241 Polling Divisions across the country for the General Elections in 2011.

**ELECTORAL AND POLLING DIVISIONS<sup>11</sup>**

<sup>9</sup> Planning Institute of Jamaica

<sup>10</sup> Representation of the People, Part I. Preliminary, 4. Polling divisions.

<sup>11</sup> Electoral Commission of Jamaica, <http://www.eoj.com.jm/content-69-137.htm>

CONSTITUENCY	ELECTORAL DIVISION	TOTAL PDs
<b><u>CLARENDON CENTRAL</u></b>	DENBIGH	24
	MAY PEN EAST	26
	MAY PEN NORTH	21
	MAY PEN WEST	26
		<b><u>97</u></b>
<b><u>CLARENDON NORTH</u></b>	AENON TOWN	24
	CROFTS HILL	32
	KELLITS	36
		<b><u>92</u></b>
<b><u>CLARENDON NORTH CENTRAL</u></b>	CHAPELTON	45
	MOCHO	23
	ROCK RIVER	31
		<b><u>99</u></b>
<b><u>CLARENDON NORTH WESTERN</u></b>	FRANKFIELD	28
	RITCHIES	25
	SPALDING	25
	THOMPSON TOWN	26
		<b><u>104</u></b>
<b><u>CLARENDON SOUTH EASTERN</u></b>	HAYES	23
	MINERAL HEIGHTS	26
	PALMERS CROSS	28
	ROCKY POINT	32
		<b><u>109</u></b>
<b><u>CLARENDON SOUTH WESTERN</u></b>	MILK RIVER	18
	RACE COURSE	21
	TOLL GATE	27
	YORK TOWN	21
		<b><u>87</u></b>
<b><u>HANOVER EASTERN</u></b>	CHESTER CASTLE	25
	HOPEWELL	32
	SANDY BAY	31
		<b><u>88</u></b>
<b><u>HANOVER WESTERN</u></b>	CAULDWELL	21
	GREEN ISLAND	29
	LUCEA	28
	RIVERSIDE	19
		<b><u>97</u></b>
<b><u>KINGSTON CENTRAL</u></b>	ALLMAN TOWN	36
	RAE TOWN	36
		<b><u>72</u></b>

<b><u>KINGSTON EAST &amp; PORT ROYAL</u></b>	NORMAN GARDENS	33
	SPRINGFIELD	32
	<b><u>65</u></b>	
<b><u>KINGSTON WESTERN</u></b>	DENHAM TOWN	36
	TIVOLI GARDENS	47
	<b><u>83</u></b>	
<b><u>MANCHESTER CENTRAL</u></b>	BELLEFIELD	22
	KNOCKPATRICK	28
	MANDEVILLE	30
	ROYAL FLAT	32
	<b><u>112</u></b>	
<b><u>MANCHESTER NORTH EASTERN</u></b>	CHRISTIANA	33
	CRAIGHEAD	33
	WALDERSTON	32
	<b><u>98</u></b>	
<b><u>MANCHESTER NORTH WESTERN</u></b>	JOHNS HALL	24
	MILE GULLY	25
	NEW GREEN	20
	SPUR TREE	21
	<b><u>90</u></b>	
<b><u>MANCHESTER SOUTHERN</u></b>	ALLIGATOR POND	27
	GROVE TOWN	30
	NEWPORT	30
	PORUS	23
	<b><u>110</u></b>	
<b><u>PORTLAND EASTERN</u></b>	FAIRYHILL	21
	FELLOWSHIP	25
	MANCHIONEAL	24
	PORT ANTONIO	26
	PROSPECT	26
	<b><u>122</u></b>	
<b><u>PORTLAND WESTERN</u></b>	BALACARRES	24
	BUFF BAY	27
	HOPE BAY	25
	ST MARGARET'S BAY	23
	<b><u>99</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. ANDREW EAST CENTRAL</u></b>	CASSIA PARK	40
	HAGLEY PARK	28
	MAXFIELD PARK	35
	<b><u>103</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. ANDREW EAST RURAL</u></b>	DALLAS	20

	GORDON TOWN	18
	HARBOUR VIEW	20
	KINTYRE	17
	MAVIS BANK	18
		<b>93</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW EASTERN</u></b>	MONA	60
	PAPINE	40
		<b>100</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW NORTH CENTRAL</u></b>	NORBROOK	42
	WHITEHALL	34
		<b>76</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW NORTH EASTERN</u></b>	BARBICAN	35
	WATERLOO	33
		<b>68</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW NORTH WESTERN</u></b>	CHANCERY HALL	29
	HAVENDALE	32
	HUGHENDEN	38
		<b>99</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW SOUTH EASTERN</u></b>	TRAFALGAR ROAD	39
	VINEYARD TOWN	48
		<b>87</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW SOUTH WESTERN</u></b>	GREENWICH TOWN	31
	PAYNE LANDS	22
	WHITFIELD TOWN	23
		<b>76</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW SOUTHERN</u></b>	ADMIRAL TOWN	44
	TRENCH TOWN	40
		<b>84</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW WEST CENTRAL</u></b>	MOLYNES GARDENS	34
	OLYMPIC GARDENS	30
	SEIVWRIGHT GARDENS	28
		<b>92</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW WEST RURAL</u></b>	BRANDON HILL	20
	LAWRENCE TAVERN	24
	RED HILLS	36
	STONY HILL	30
		<b>110</b>
<b><u>ST. ANDREW WESTERN</u></b>	DUHANEY PARK	40
	SEA VIEW GARDENS	39
	WATERHOUSE	38
		<b>117</b>

<b><u>ST. ANN NORTH EASTERN</u></b>	EXCHANGE	23
	LIME HALL	28
	OCHO RIOS	27
	ST ANN'S BAY	31
	<b><u>109</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. ANN NORTH WESTERN</u></b>	BAMBOO	26
	BROWN'S TOWN	25
	DRY HARBOUR	32
	STURGE TOWN	27
	<b><u>110</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. ANN SOUTH EASTERN</u></b>	BEECHER TOWN	24
	BENSONTON	28
	CLAREMONT	35
	MONEAGUE	34
	<b><u>121</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. ANN SOUTH WESTERN</u></b>	ALEXANDRIA	27
	BOROBRIDGE	29
	CALDERWOOD	15
	GIBRALTAR	30
	<b><u>101</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE CENTRAL</u></b>	ENSOM CITY	37
	HAMPTON GREEN	30
	SPANISH TOWN	23
	<b><u>90</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE EAST CENTRAL</u></b>	GREGORY PARK	27
	PORTMORE PINES	28
	SOUTHBORO	20
	<b><u>75</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE EASTERN</u></b>	DE LA VEGA CITY	23
	GREENDALE	31
	LAURISTON	24
	TWICKENHAM PARK	24
	<b><u>102</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE NORTH CENTRAL</u></b>	ABOVE ROCKS	16
	ANGELS	21
	BOG WALK	36
	SLIGOVILLE	18
	<b><u>91</u></b>	
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE NORTH EASTERN</u></b>	GUYS HILL	34
	MOUNT INDUSTRY	37
	TROJA	33

		<b><u>104</u></b>
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE NORTH WESTERN</u></b>	EWARTON	26
	LINSTEAD	27
	LLUIDAS VALE	25
	TREADWAYS	25
		<b><u>103</u></b>
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE SOUTH CENTRAL</u></b>	HOMESTEAD	31
	SYDENHAM	26
	HORIZON PARK	30
		<b><u>87</u></b>
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE SOUTH EASTERN</u></b>	BRIDGEPORT	18
	EDGEWATER	28
	INDEPENDENCE CITY	18
	WATERFORD	26
	WESTCHESTER	24
		<b><u>114</u></b>
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE SOUTH WESTERN</u></b>	CHURCH PEN	29
	OLD HARBOUR CENTRAL	27
	OLD HARBOUR NORTH	31
	OLD HARBOUR SOUTH	23
		<b><u>110</u></b>
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE SOUTHERN</u></b>	BRAETON	25
	GREATER PORTMORE EAST	33
	GREATER PORTMORE NORTH	30
	HELLSHIRE	34
		<b><u>122</u></b>
<b><u>ST. CATHERINE WEST CENTRAL</u></b>	BELLEVUE	19
	GINGER RIDGE	28
	POINT HILL	27
	RED HILL	29
		<b><u>103</u></b>
<b><u>ST. ELIZABETH NORTH EASTERN</u></b>	BALACLAVA	21
	BRAES RIVER	30
	SANTA CRUZ	40
	SILOAH	19
		<b><u>110</u></b>
<b><u>ST. ELIZABETH NORTH WESTERN</u></b>	IPSWICH	25
	LACOVIA	24
	NEWMARKET	34
		<b><u>83</u></b>
<b><u>ST. ELIZABETH SOUTH EASTERN</u></b>	JUNCTION	25

	MALVERN	20
	MYERSVILLE	30
	SOUTHFIELD	23
		<b>98</b>
<b><u>ST. ELIZABETH SOUTH WESTERN</u></b>	BLACK RIVER	21
	BROMPTON	23
	MOUNTAINSIDE	24
	PEDRO PLAINS	28
		<b>96</b>
<b><u>ST. JAMES CENTRAL</u></b>	MONTEGO BAY SOUTH	30
	MONTEGO BAY SOUTH EAST	25
	SALT SPRING	25
		<b>80</b>
<b><u>ST. JAMES EAST CENTRAL</u></b>	ROSE HALL	29
	SOMERTON	30
	SPRING MOUNT	30
		<b>89</b>
<b><u>ST. JAMES NORTH WESTERN</u></b>	MONTEGO BAY CENTRAL	31
	MONTEGO BAY NORTH	19
	MONTEGO BAY NORTH EASTERN	24
	MONTEGO BAY WEST	7
		<b>81</b>
<b><u>ST. JAMES SOUTHERN</u></b>	CAMBRIDGE	28
	CATADUPA	27
	MAROON TOWN	20
	WELCOME HALL	18
		<b>93</b>
<b><u>ST. JAMES WEST CENTRAL</u></b>	GRANVILLE	26
	MOUNT SALEM	25
	SPRING GARDEN	29
		<b>80</b>
<b><u>ST. MARY CENTRAL</u></b>	HAMPSTEAD	22
	HIGHGATE	23
	ISLINGTON	27
	PORT MARIA	25
		<b>97</b>
<b><u>ST. MARY SOUTH EASTERN</u></b>	ANNOTTO BAY	32
	BELFIELD	23
	CASTLETON	23
	RICHMOND	26
		<b>104</b>

<b><u>ST. MARY WESTERN</u></b>	BOSCOBEL	25
	CARRON HALL	23
	GAYLE	26
	ORACABESSA	24
	RETREAT	23
		<b><u>121</u></b>
<b><u>ST. THOMAS EASTERN</u></b>	BATH	27
	DALVEY	28
	MORANT BAY	34
	PORT MORANT	27
		<b><u>116</u></b>
<b><u>ST. THOMAS WESTERN</u></b>	CEDAR VALLEY	19
	LLANDEWEY	23
	SEAFORTH	24
	TRINITYVILLE	26
	WHITE HORSES	22
	YALLAHS	27
		<b><u>141</u></b>
<b><u>TRELAWNY NORTHERN</u></b>	DUNCANS	29
	FALMOUTH	20
	MARTHA BRAE	21
	SHERWOOD CONTENT	25
	WAKEFIELD	29
		<b><u>124</u></b>
<b><u>TRELAWNY SOUTHERN</u></b>	ALBERT TOWN	17
	LORRIMERS	23
	ULSTER SPRING	21
	WARSOP	20
		<b><u>81</u></b>
<b><u>WESTMORELAND CENTRAL</u></b>	CORNWALL MOUNTAIN	32
	FROME	26
	PETERSFIELD	34
	SAV-LA-MAR	27
	SAV-LA-MAR NORTH	31
		<b><u>150</u></b>
<b><u>WESTMORELAND EASTERN</u></b>	BETHEL TOWN	26
	DARLISTON	28
	LEAMINGTON	26
	WHITEHOUSE	35
		<b><u>115</u></b>
<b><u>WESTMORELAND WESTERN</u></b>	FRIENDSHIP	19

	GRANGE HILL	22
	LITTLE LONDON	25
	NEGRIL	22
	SHEFFIELD	23
		<b>111</b>
	<b>Total PDs in Jamaica:</b>	<b>6241</b>

According to the Representation of the People Act, within the polling divisions are polling stations. A “polling station” refers to any room secured by the returning officer for the taking of the vote of the electors on polling day and to which the whole or portion of the official list of electors for a polling division is allotted. Polling stations are staffed by workers who are trained citizens assigned to assist voters with voting guidelines. There were 6,629 Polling Stations across the country.

### **C. ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

Jamaica instituted the Universal Adult Suffrage in 1944 with the adaptation of the Constitution. The Constitution provides regulations regarding the timing of elections and qualifications for the general election. Guidelines governing the administration and procedure of General Elections are found in The Representation of the People Act, which includes franchise and registration of electors, electoral procedures, and procedures on polling day, procedures subsequent to polling day, financial provisions, administrative provisions, election offences, military and police voters, among others.

In accordance with the Constitution and the Electoral Laws of Jamaica, any citizen aged eighteen years of age and over who has been registered and whose name appears on the official voters list is eligible to vote. Citizenship is bestowed by birth, parentage (either parent) or marriage. Commonwealth citizens may also vote if they are eighteen years of age or older and have resided in Jamaica for at least twelve months prior to registration. Dual citizenship is recognized by Jamaica for the purpose of voting, but dual nationals do not qualify to be appointed to the Senate or elected to the House of Representatives. Election workers and members of the police and armed forces cast their ballots a few days before the general election, to allow them to manage and secure polling sites on Election Day. Jamaican citizens who reside overseas can not exercise the right to vote since the present law makes no provision for voting in any place other than the designated polling division.

#### ***Voters’ List***

The Voters’ List is a fundamental instrument of the electoral system. The national voters’ list of persons registered and eligible to vote is updated and released every six months: May 31<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. On November of 2011, 41,607 eligible electors were added to the voters’ list published by the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, reflecting the names of all persons who registered from the beginning of the registration phase on April 1 to the registration deadline on September 30. People who registered after the September 30 deadline were not included to vote in this election. The

names of 5,636 electors confirmed as dead were permanently removed from the list. By December 2011, the voters' list included 1,648,036 citizens registered to vote. The voters' list database was fully updated and citizens that wished to check their names could consult an online searching tool found under [www.ecj.com.jm](http://www.ecj.com.jm). Also, printed copies of the new Voter's List were placed at constituency offices, post offices and other selected public buildings. Citizen's registration to the electoral list and voting is voluntary.

## **D. ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES**

### **1. The Electoral Commission of Jamaica**

The Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ) was created in 2006, when the Senate passed the Electoral Commission Act. The objective of the ECJ is to safeguard the democratic foundations by enabling eligible electors to elect, through free and fair elections, the representatives to govern Jamaica<sup>12</sup>. The Commission comprises four selected members (from civil society), four appointed members (two nominated by the Prime Minister and two nominated by the Leader of the Opposition) and the Director of Elections, who is a non-acting member appointed unanimously by the eight commissioners. The new ECJ structure gives equal weight of voting numbers to political party and civil society members.

The functions of the ECJ in accordance with the Electoral Commission (Interim) Act, Section 6 are:

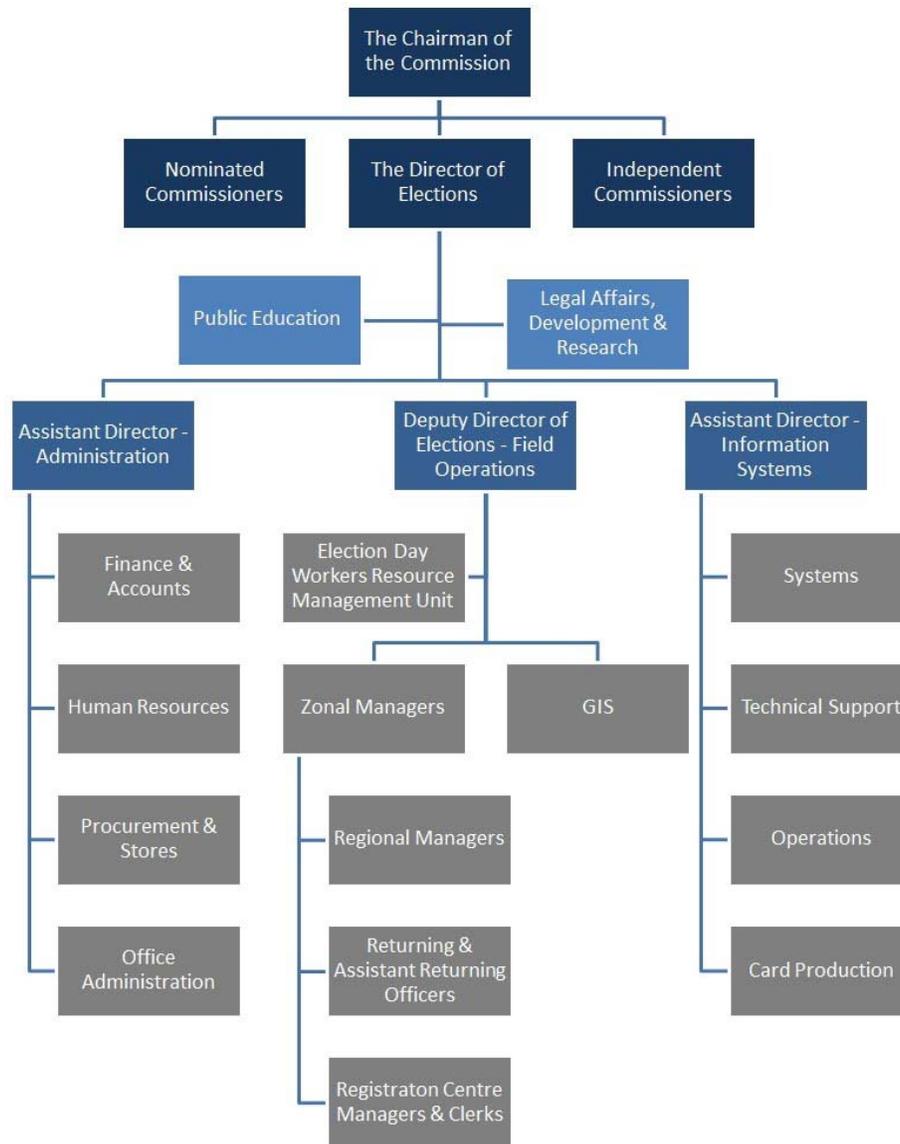
- Establish policies for governing the registration of electors in accordance with the provisions of section 37 of the Constitution of Jamaica;
- Give directions to the Director on the performance of his functions under the Representation of the People Act;
- Conduct general elections or by-elections, as the case may require, of members to serve in the House of Representatives, on the Council of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation or any Parish Council, or as mayor of a municipality and referenda;
- Compile and maintain the register of eligible electors;
- Verify the identity of every eligible elector;
- Prepare the official list of electors in accordance with the Representation of the People Act;
- Approve political parties eligible to receive state funding with respect to any or all aspects of the electoral process;
- Administer electoral funding and financial disclosure requirements;
- Monitor election expenditure by candidates or their official agents;
- Review the number of constituencies and boundaries thereof and make such recommendations to the Standing Committee of Parliament as are appropriate as provided for in section 67 of the Constitution of Jamaica;
- Determine polling divisions within constituencies;

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<sup>12</sup> The Electoral Commission (Interim) Act, Section 5.

- Prepare and execute programs of public education with a view to informing the public about the electoral process and carry out media briefings on such occasions as may be necessary;
- Conduct research on electoral matters and publish materials to enhance the electoral process;
- Provide leadership and develop expertise in electoral matters and
- Establish entities or mechanisms to provide services and products necessary for the conduct of elections; the identification of persons; the verification of residence; and such other matters as may be required in relation to the functions of the Commission.

### **Organizational Structure of the ECJ**



Source: Electoral Commission of Jamaica

## 2. The Electoral Office of Jamaica

The Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ), headed by the Director of Elections, is responsible to the Commission for the day-to-day operation of the Electoral Office of Jamaica, including the training and promotion of staff, taking measures to reduce the risk of violations of confidentiality, the proper management and security of enumeration and related exercises and the taking of polls and the conduct of referenda<sup>13</sup>.

The mission of the Electoral Office of Jamaica is to ensure that the objective of one man one vote is met under the six stated principles of Universal Adult Suffrage. These principles are:

<sup>13</sup> The Electoral Commission (Interim) Act, Section 7.

- The Vote is Universal: All citizens who meet the qualifications established by law have the right to vote.
- The Vote is Free: The elector is entitled to vote free.
- The Vote is Secret: The process guarantees not to publicize the preference or will of any elector.
- The Vote is Direct: The citizen elects the Representative of his choice.
- The Vote is Personal: The Elector shall attend in person at his/her designated polling station.
- The Vote is Non-transferrable: The Elector cannot transfer to anyone his right to vote<sup>14</sup>.

#### **E. VOTING PROCEDURE<sup>15</sup>**

Each polling station is managed by a Presiding Officer and a Poll Clerk. These officials report to a Returning Officer, responsible for the electoral district. Members of the armed forces are present for the maintenance of law and order in the polling station during the Election Day. Party liaison agents, indoor agents and accredited national and international observers are permitted to be present to witness the conduct of the poll. The Presiding Officer will not allow more than one person acting for each candidate to be present at the same time in the polling station. No candidate and his agent should be in the same polling station for more than five consecutive minutes. No more than four observers are permitted to remain in any polling location at any one time where polling is being carried out. No cell phone, camera, or other video recording or electronic devices are allowed in the polling station.

The first official duty of the Presiding officer and Poll Clerk is to swear his oath of office. This should be done upon receipt of the official appointment and is sworn in before the Returning Officer.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. All polling officials should report for duty no later than 6 a.m. The Presiding Officer should, if possible, on the eve of the election see that the arrangements for the polling station are satisfactory. The direction to electors (form 7) should be posted up by the Presiding Officer in a conspicuous place outside the polling station before the opening of the poll. If agents of electors representing candidates are in attendance fifteen minutes before the opening of the poll they are entitled to inspect all papers in the possession of the Presiding Officer relating to the conduct of the poll and may have the ballot papers counted in their presence. The Presiding Officer must give to them copies of a certificate signed by the Returning Officer setting out the serial number of ballot papers issued at the polling station. At 7 a.m., when the voting should begin, the ballot should be opened and examined for all present, then be locked and the key kept by the Presiding Officer. The box must be placed on the table in full view of all present and must remain there until close of the poll. The electors should then be invited to vote one at a time.

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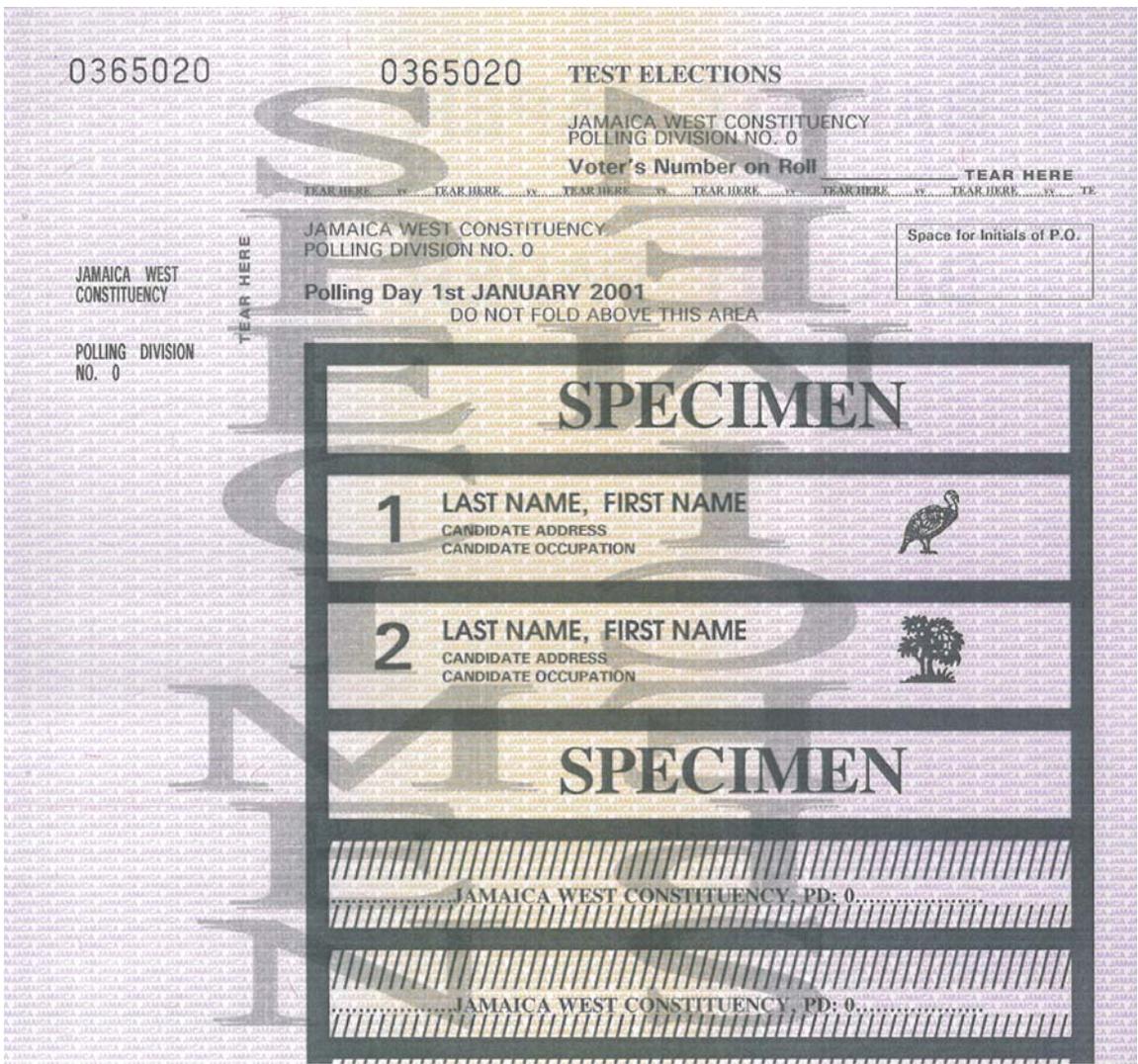
<sup>14</sup> <http://www.eoj.com.jm/content-26-138.htm>

<sup>15</sup> Training manual for Election Day Workers, Electoral Office, Jamaica

On entering the polling station the voter approaches the Presiding Officer/Poll Clerk, gives his name and produces his identification card. Poll Clerk checks the voters list and places a tick against the name of each elector. The Presiding Officer checks the electors I.D. card and inspects the elector's finger to ascertain if there is any stain of electoral ink. If the voter has problems with the name on the list due to incorrect spelling or other variance, the Presiding Officer ascertains the identity of the voter from the elector's ID card and Black Book and determines whether there is a mistake on the list. If the Presiding Officer decides that the variance is due to a mistake she/he will administer an Oath to the voter.

The voter who has no Identification Card can be identified by other means. The Presiding Officer asks proper questions establish to his/her satisfaction the identity of the elector. The demographic information in the Black Book is checked with questions regarding the elector's date of birth; his/her place of birth, the maiden name of his/her father, the place of birth of his/her mother, the name of the father, the place of birth of the brother, the name of wife or husband, among others. If the polling station is equipped with an Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS), the voter's fingerprint(s) can be electronically scanned, bringing his or her name up on a computer screen if s/he is eligible to vote.

The Presiding Officer once satisfied that the elector is entitled to vote issues a ballot. The elector's number on the roll and the initial of the Presiding Officer is recorded in the spaces provided on the ballot paper. The Poll Clerk shall record the pertinent information in the poll book. This information shall include the serial number of the ballot paper issued to the elector. The Presiding Officer detaches the ballot and gives the elector the necessary instructions on how to properly mark and fold the ballot. He directs the elector to the voting booth. The elector marks the ballot and returns it folded in such a way that the mark is not seen but showing the initials of the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer examines the top of the ballot and checks the serial number to make sure this was the ballot issued to that elector before removing the counterfoil. The serial number of the ballot returned must be recorded in the poll book. The right index finger of the elector is stained with electoral ink and then the ballot is deposited in the ballot box. The Poll Clerk then records in the Poll Book that the elector has voted.



Sample Ballot, General Election  
Source: EOJ

The Law provides for a blind voter to be assisted in casting the ballot with the assistance of a friend or with the assistance of the Presiding Officer.

The poll is scheduled to be closed at 5 p.m. If at that time, there are voters still waiting to vote, the Presiding Officer can either invite them into the polling station and close the door or ask the policemen to note the last person in the line and not to allow any other person to join the line. All eligible voters in line at 5 p.m. must be allowed to exercise their franchise.

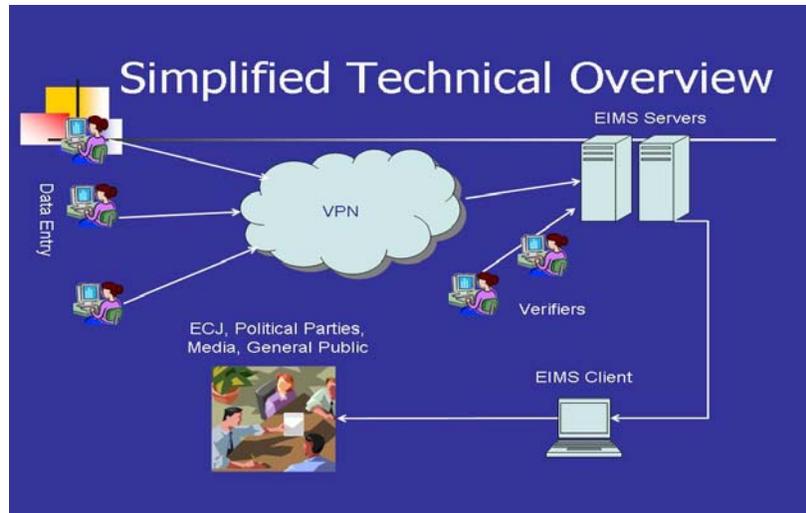
At the close of the poll, the Presiding Officer seals the slot on top of the ballot box and writes and signs a statement in the Poll Book below the last entry, declaring the number of persons who voted at that station. The Presiding Officer checks, packages and records the number of spoiled and unused ballots. Then she/he distributes tally sheets and opens the ballot box and counts the ballots. The Presiding Officer encases ballots in appropriate envelopes as marked for individual candidates; ensuring packages are signed

and sealed. Subsequently, prepares preliminary certificate and pastes a copy on the side of the ballot box. The Presiding Officer prepares the Statement of Poll and packages remaining election paper/documents as directed in special marked envelopes (pink, gold, fuchsia and yellow envelopes); then seals the ballot box, places the ballot key in an envelope, prepares the polling station accounts and delivers or dispatches the ballot box to the Returning Officer as directed.

### ***The Election Centre***

The Election Centre of the ECJ provides a secure and efficient environment for conflict resolution and direct access to information in the period between nomination day and Election Day, in which the parties and other stakeholders can raise complaints, address problems such as election-related violence, and see as immediate response on the issues. A member of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission was permitted to be in the Election Centre and observe how it works.

On Election Day, the information management system consisted of a central computerized results receiving center, where constituencies election results summary were periodically sent via telecommunication lines from the various districts across the country. Its design consisted of computer systems at the district level to gather, process, and transmit election results to and from the central office. The receiving center located in Kingston received and disseminated the information to government officials, media and the general public, via Intranet and Internet. There were 63 counting centers across the island; this represents one counting location for each constituency. The data entry clerks enter results from a cluster sheet indicating the number of votes for each candidate. Once the results have been entered to the system, the data entry clerk is no longer able to modify or change the information. In the event that an error is identified, the results entered can only be corrected at the Election Centre by the data entry team that monitors the proceeding at each counting centre. The connection to the election centre is via ADSL and then routed through a secure channel (Virtual Private Network or VPN) to access the local network. Some locations which do not have ADSL available have access to dialup lines to the central server. There are also some 3G devices that utilize cellular technology to provide an additional mode of connection. The security aspects of the electoral network are handled with firewalls that are configured for maximum protection against intruders. In addition, all systems have antivirus software to provide additional protection.



Source: Electoral Commission of Jamaica

## F. POLITICAL PARTIES

### 1. The People's National Party (PNP)

The People's National Party is a social democratic party, founded by Norman Manley at the Ward Theater on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1938. Its color is orange and the symbol a head. The conviction of the PNP is economic and social progress for the people, by ensuring equality opportunity for all<sup>16</sup>.

### 2. The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP)

The Jamaica Labour Party was founded in 1943 by Alexander Bustamante, as the political wing of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union. The JLP uses the liberty bell and the color green as electoral symbols. The JLP is committed to achieve a society where the rights of the citizens are guaranteed<sup>17</sup>.

### 3. The National Democratic Movement (NDM)

In October 1995 the National Democratic Movement (NDM) was formed by Brascoe Lee and Bobby Marsh. The NDM claims that Jamaica has suffered due to a stagnant economy and rapidly growing population and that constitutional and civic reform and investment are desperately needed to save the country from poverty and corruption. The party colors are yellow and green and the symbol a lighthouse.

### 4. Marcus Mosiah Garvey Peoples Political Party (MGPPP)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.pnpjamaica.com/index.php/who-we-are/the-party>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.jamaicalabourparty.com/files/JLP%20Manifesto%202011%20Final\\_0.pdf](http://www.jamaicalabourparty.com/files/JLP%20Manifesto%202011%20Final_0.pdf)

On September the 1929, Honorable Marcus Messiah Garvey founded the Peoples Political Party (PPP). The PPP held the first public meeting at Cross Roads Kingston Jamaica.

In 2002 PPP was prelaunched by Moses Emanuel Henriques, Byron Moore, Neville Henry, Miguel Lorne and more than 500 people who gathered at the Ward Theater in Kingston and declared that the party will go forward with the new name: Marcus Garvey Peoples Political Party. They also firmly asserted that the party would be influenced by the philosophy and opinion of Marcus Garvey.

### 5. The Jamaica Alliance Movement (JAM)

The JAM mission is to provide the people of Jamaica with high quality information and policy advisory services leading to the sound and timely public decisions which are effectively implemented to lead to a more efficient, effective, accountable governance.

### List of Candidates for the General Elections

The Electoral Office of Jamaica (ECJ) reported that 150 candidates were nominated to contest the December 29 polls. The two major political parties - Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and People's National Party (PNP) - each nominated 63 candidates. The Marcus Garvey People's Political Party nominated ten and the National Democratic Movement (NDM) seven candidates. The Jamaica Alliance Movement had one candidate and there were six independent candidates.

	Constituency	JLP	PNP	Other
1	Clarendon Central	Lester Michael HENRY	Richard WATSON	-
2	Clarendon Northern	Laurence BRODERICK	Horace DALLEY	Eton WILLIAMS (NDM)
3	Clarendon North Central	Pearnel CHARLES	Collington CAMPBELL	-
4	Clarendon North Western	Michael STERN	Richard AZAN	-
5	Clarendon South Eastern	Rudyard Conrad SPENCER	Derick Lloyd LAMBERT	-
6	Clarendon South Western	Joel Lawrence WILLIAMS	Noel George ARSCOTT	-
7	Hanover Eastern	Paula KERR-JARRETT	Donald K. DUNCAN	-
8	Hanover Western	Donovan HAMILTON	Ian HAYLES	-
9	Kingston Central	Rosalie Marie HAMILTON	Ronald THWAITES	Michael A LORNE (MGPPP)

10	Kingston East & Port Royal	Peter Curtis SANGSTER	Phillip PAULWELL	-
11	Kingston Western	Desmond McKENZIE	Carl DAWKINS	Arlington SEATON (MGPPP)
12	Manchester Central	Danville WALKER	Peter BUNTING	-
13	Manchester North Eastern	Audley Fitz Albert SHAW	Valenton Orlando WINT	-
14	Manchester North Western	Timothy SCARLETT	Mikael PHILLIPS	-
15	Manchester Southern	Collin VIRGO	Michael PEART	-
16	Portland Eastern	Patrick LEE	Lynvale BLOOMFIELD	-
17	Portland Western	Daryl VAZ	Rohan QUEST	Peter Anthony FLEMMINGS (NDM)
18	St. Andrew East Central	Beverly AnnMarie PRINCE	Peter David PHILLIPS	Allan MARTIN (MGPPP)
19	St. Andrew East Rural	Joan GORDON-WEBLEY	Damion CRAWFORD	Damion Omar CRAWFORD (IND)
20	St. Andrew Eastern	Saphire LONGMORE	Andre HYLTON	Earl DELISSER (NDM)
21	St. Andrew North Central	Karl SAMUDA	Leanne PHILLIPS	-
22	St. Andrew North Eastern	Delroy Hawmin CHUCK	John-Paul Alexander WHITE	Terence Arthur Jerome LINDO (NDM)
23	St. Andrew North Western	Derrick SMITH	Granville VALENTINE	Curtis C. CAMPBELL (NDM)
24	St. Andrew South Eastern	Dwight NELSON	Julian Jay ROBINSON	Horage Hugo MATTHEWS (MGPPP) Byron Sylvester PATTON (IND)
25	St. Andrew South Western	Victor HYDE	Portia SIMPSON-MILLER	Annmarie THOMAS (IND)
26	St. Andrew Southern	Dennis MESSIAS	Omar DAVIES	-
27	St. Andrew West Central	Andrew Michael HOLNESS	Patrick Leroy ROBERTS	-
28	St. Andrew West Rural	Andrew GALLIMORE	Paul Lennnox BUCHANAN	Joan PORTEOUS (NDM)
29	St. Andrew Western	George DUHANEY	George Anthony HYLTON	Aldith Mary GRANT-LEE (NDM)
30	St. Ann North Eastern	Shahine Elizabeth ROBINSON	Paul T.A. STEWART	-

31	St. Ann North Western	Othniel Damion LAWRENCE	Dayton Ricardo CAMPBELL	-
32	St. Ann South Eastern	Oneil Lorenzo ESTEEN	Lisa Rene HANNA	-
33	St. Ann South Western	Ernest A. SMITH	Keith Anthony WALFORD	Andrew Wayne WILLIS (IND)
34	St. Catherine Central	Olivia GRANGE	Maurice WESTNEY	-
35	St. Catherine East Central	Camille BUCHANAN	Arnaldo BROWN	-
36	St. Catherine Eastern	Sharon HAY-WEBSTER	Joyce Denise DALEY	-
37	St. Catherine North Central	Raymoth NOTICE	Natalie NEITA-HEADLEY	Barton GARTH (MGPPP)
38	St. Catherine North Eastern	Desmond Gregory MAIR	Abraham Joseph DABDOUB	-
39	St. Catherine North Western	Sandra Marie NESBETH	Robert PICKERSGILL	Guthrie GENE (IND)
40	St. Catherine South Central	Andrew Obrien WHEATLEY	Vincent MORRISON	-
41	St. Catherine South Eastern	Keith BLAKE	Colin FAGAN	Leon BURRELL (MGPPP)
42	St. Catherine South Western	Clifford Everaldo WARMINGTON	Anthony Lorenzo EWBANKS	Uppon Eric BLAKE (MGPPP)
43	St. Catherine Southern	Keith HINDS	Fitz JACKSON	-
44	St. Catherine West Central	Kenneth BAUGH	Clinton CLARKE	-
45	St. Elizabeth North Eastern	Corris SAMUELS	Raymond PRYCE	-
46	St. Elizabeth North Western	William J.C. HUTCHINSON	Richard Garfield ROWE	-
47	St. Elizabeth South Eastern	Franklyn WITTER	Richard PARCHMENT	-
48	St. Elizabeth South Western	Christopher TUFTON	Hugh BUCHANAN	-
49	St. James Central	Heroy CLARKE	Lloyd B. SMITH	-
50	St. James East Central	Edmund BARTLETT	Cedrick Stewart SOMERTON	Roystan RICHARDS (IND)
51	St. James North Western	Horace Anthony CHANG	Henry George McCURDY	-
52	St. James Southern	Homer Edward DAVIS	Derrick Flavius KELLIER	-

53	St. James West Central	Clive Arthur MULLINGS	Sharon Ffolkes-ABRAHAMS	Clifford BARNETT (MGPPP)
54	St. Mary Central	Lennon RICHARDS	Morais GUY	-
55	St. Mary South Eastern	Richard CREARY	Winston GREEN	-
56	St. Mary Western	Robert St. Aubyn MONTAGUE	Joylan SILVERA	-
57	St. Thomas Eastern	Patrece CHARLES	Fenton R.I. FERGUSON	Ian FLEMMINGS (MGPPP)
58	St. Thomas Western	James Rudolph ROBERTSON	Leonard Constantine GREEN	Robert COVE (MGPPP)
59	Trelawny Northern	Dennis MEADOWS	Patrick ATKINSON	Ras Astor Black (JAM)
60	Trelawny Southern	Marisa Coleen DALRYMPLE-PHILIBERT	Lyndel Lennox FRATER	-
61	Westmoreland Central	Marlene Malahoo FORTE	Roger CLARKE	-
62	Westmoreland Eastern	Donovan FOOTE	Luther BUCHANAN	-
63	Westmoreland Western	Carey Andrew Manley WALLACE	Kenneth Wykeham McNEILL	-

## G. POLITICAL FINANCING

In Jamaica, there is no direct or indirect public funding for electoral campaigns or political parties in Jamaica. There are also no legal prohibitions or limits on private donations. Consequently, election campaigns are financed primarily by private sources, without any regulation or control. The absence of rules for public financing, as well as the lack of limits and bans on private donations to electoral campaigns, has generated practices (some of which have resulted in scandals) that demonstrate the weaknesses in the independence of the political parties and the equity in the electoral competition. In fact, since 2002, the OAS has recommended the need to consider the establishment of public funding for political parties and limits for private contributions.

The Jamaica Representation of the People Act (ROPA) provides some regulations on spending in election campaigns focused exclusively on candidates, besides political parties. The costs incurred in relation to the candidacy of any person in any election may not exceed 3 million Jamaican dollars<sup>18</sup> (est. USD 33,502<sup>19</sup>). It also states that the only ones authorized to make expenditures related to the candidates in any election are the candidates, their agents or persons authorized in writing by them (ROPA, Article 56). Finally, the law establishes on article 57 that candidates may not make payments to any person, unless it is related to his agent and his candidacy, except for personal expenses

<sup>18</sup> ROPA, Section 55

<sup>19</sup> Bank of Jamaica. Live rate as at 31-Aug-2012. JMD \$89.8548 = US \$1.00

limited to 10 thousand Jamaican dollars (est. USD 111.67) and minor expenses limited to 2,000 Jamaican dollars (est. USD 22.33). There is no regulation that sets specific limits on expenditures for media.

According to the legal framework the total cost of spending varies with the number of people nominated by the political parties. In the event that a political party postulates candidates in the 63 districts, the total spending limit for the campaign would be 189 million Jamaican dollars (USD 2.11 million). Unfortunately, there is no data available to analyze spending in the 2012 elections.

Concerning the mechanisms of accountability and internal management of the campaigns' resources, the Representation of the People Act establishes that a statement or report should be given to the Returning Officer within six weeks after Election Day. The statement or report has some formal outline. First, each statement must contain a detailed report of all money, securities or the equivalent of money spent by the agent or candidate. Second, each statement must contain a full declaration of all expenses incurred in the election and all payments above four dollars supported by receipts. Third, each report should be supported on an affidavit by the agent and the candidate before a competent judge (ROPA, Article 60).

The receiving of the accountability reports is responsibility of district officials; then it is a decentralized mechanism that may offer advantages such as greater coverage in the processing and eventual verification of the information. It is also important to mention that the affidavit accompanying the report can be used as evidence that assists the sanction of any defaults. The Representation of the People Act of Jamaica establishes sanctions on campaign finance. No expenditure shall be incurred in respect of the candidature of any person at any election except by the candidate, or his agent, or some person authorized in writing by the agent. Any person who contravenes this subsection, shall be guilty of an offense and shall be punished by a Resident Magistrate to a fine not exceeding one hundred Jamaican dollars (USD 1.11) or be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six months (ROPA, Article 56). The same penalties may be applied by the same official to people authorized in writing by a staff member if the expenses go beyond the amounts specified in the authorization (ROPA, Article 58). Finally, the person who incurred the expenditure and the candidate in connection with the application in question to comply with campaign finance regulations (specifically those contained in Articles 55, 56, 57 and 58) will be presumed guilty of illegal practices.

Nevertheless, the system has weaknesses. First, the law refers only to the candidates, their agents and ombudsmen, but not to political parties. Another flaw is that accountability is made within six weeks after elections day<sup>20</sup>, making it more difficult to use information for purposes related to the results of the election process. Moreover, the regulatory framework does not establish mechanisms of control or supervision of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica or the District Officer to the candidates and political parties. In practice, the statements or reports derived from accountability are not inspected or audited.

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<sup>20</sup> ROPA, Art. 60, clause 1.

Lastly, the regulation provides some rules on transparency of campaign financing in Jamaica. The ROPA requires the District Officer to publish a summary of the statements given by the agents in a daily newspaper within ten days of receipt. The publication must be accompanied by a note with the time and place at which the supporting documents of the statements would be on display and may be inspected (ROPA, Article 60). The publication of summaries and the provision of supporting documents are positive. Unfortunately there is no data revealing the efficiency of the enforcement of these laws. First, if the documents are public, there is the obligation of the public body to publish and disseminate the information and to receive from the public requests for the information and the obligation to respond. Second, since the reports are made after the elections, it is impossible for citizens to use the published data to know and value their vote. The right to access to information is a key tool for transparency.

## **CHAPTER III. MISSION ACTIVITIES AND OBSERVATIONS**

### **1. PRE-ELECTION**

The General Secretariat of the OAS through the Department for Electoral Observation deployed a team of 24 specialists and international observers that visited the whole territory of Jamaica to observe the different periods of the electoral process. The mission met with local electoral authorities, the police, and members of social organizations to discuss the election.

During the pre-electoral period, the Mission observed the efforts by the Electoral Commission of Jamaica to undertake a civic education campaign to educate voters on the voting process. Regarding the technical preparations for the polls, the OAS mission noted the significant efforts made by the Electoral Commission of Jamaica and the office of the Director of Elections to improve procedures and execute in general a clean electoral process on Election Day

### **2. ELECTION DAY**

On Election Day, the observers were at the polling stations before the opening witnessing firsthand the preparations for the election, the voting process, the counting of ballots and the transmission of results. Throughout the day, observers visited 852 polling stations located in 253 polling centers.

Presiding officers and poll clerks were at their assigned sites on time and followed the proper procedures carefully. Observers reported that most polling stations opened on time. The EOJ reported that 2.4 % of the polling station opened late between the hours of 7:01 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. By 8:00 am, election was underway in all areas with only six polling stations opening between the hours of 7:31 am and 8:00 am. In 94% of the tables observed by the OAS polling stations had the electoral materials to start the vote.

The Mission observed a heavy turnout early in the morning with long lines of citizens peacefully waiting to exercise their right to vote. However, some electors had difficulties identifying their assigned polling site. At 11:00 am on Elections Day, the EOJ delivered a progress report containing the summary of the Voter Turnout indicating that 354,638 voters had cast their vote corresponding to 21.52 % of the voting population. The EOJ delivered a second progress report at 3:00 pm regarding the voter turnout; however, this report contained inconsistencies with regards to the previous report, EOJ's technicians explained that the source of the problem resides with processing delays at various counting offices.

Presiding officers, poll clerks and party agents were appropriately trained, followed procedures in accordance with Election Laws and instruction given to voters was impartial. The Mission noted the significant presence of women serving as electoral officials and party agents in the polling sites observed. Party agents representing the

Jamaica Labour Party and the Peoples National Party were present at all of the polling stations. Poll workers and party agents worked together harmoniously. The secrecy of the ballot was maintained as the layout of the polling stations afforded the degree of privacy required by electors.

The suitability of polling stations in terms of location, layout, and signage varied considerably. Many were fit for purpose and presented no problems for voters, but some were challenging in terms of access, especially for physically challenged and elderly voters. In many locations greater consideration could be given to the provision of ramps, seating, and facilities to expedite entry and exit for those citizens. Furthermore, observers noted several cases where voters could not easily identify their polling sites since there was not adequate signage to indicate exactly which polling stations are located within the center; also the voters' lists were not displayed at the entrance of the polling centers. There were some cases where the outdoor agents who had the unofficial list would direct people to an erroneous polling station. This was resolved through assistance from the electoral authorities.

In some instances, there was confusion regarding the role of OAS Observers as "international observers" and even domestic observers such as CAFFE; as opposed to polling agents or party agents. Observers were required on some occasions to abide by time limits in terms of their presence in the polling stations except for the opening and closing of the polls.

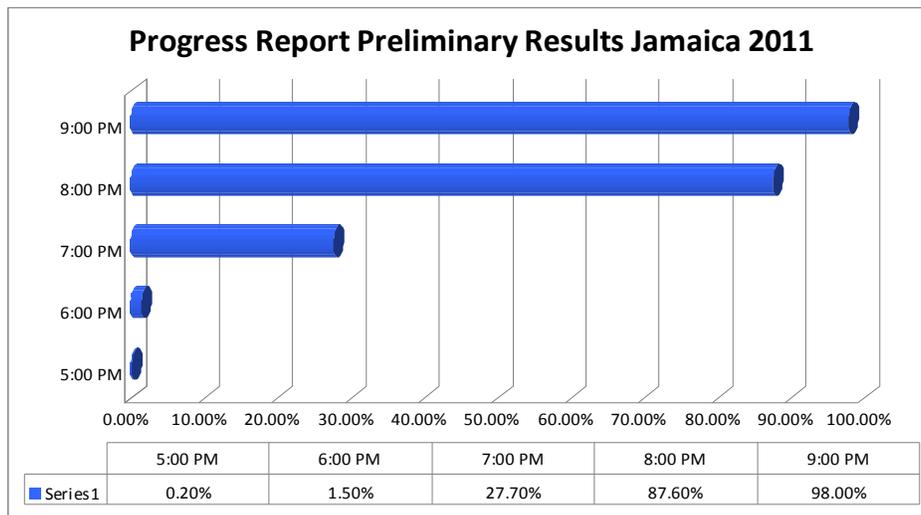
In 700 polling centers, the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) implemented the Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS), using fingerprints to verify voter identities. Reports from OAS observers indicated that this technology worked well; nonetheless, there were signs of inexperience by some of the users of the system. This caused a slow vote processing at first but by the end of the day they were moving relatively efficiently which expedited the voting process. There were several IT technicians available and they were very vigilant in ensuring that the system was functional. In some cases the old manual search system was used and this created a backlog as the poll workers would look for names even before they used the system to verify the voter. Observers also noted the need for a cooling system in some areas given the high temperatures causing computer systems to shut down specifically at Edith Dalton High.

Polls closed promptly at 5:00 p.m. and those in line at that time were permitted to vote. Procedures for the close of the poll and counting of ballots were correctly followed and preliminary results were made publicly available on the evening of the elections.

The mission was pleased in the peaceful manner of the Jamaican citizens exercised their franchise demonstrating the commitment and respect for democracy. Despite some allegations of politically-motivated altercations in the days preceding the election, on December 29<sup>th</sup>, there were no reported instances of violence, disturbance or intimidation of voters at polling sites. Police officers were extensively present at all of the observed polling sites and effectively maintained order.

Upon the close of the polls on Election Day, election results were processed, tallied and transmitted from each of the 63 counting centers. The Elections Center received and disseminated the information to government official, media and the general public. The centralized vote tally and results transmission system achieved its primary goal, which was to conduct and election process timely and effectively publicizing the elections results information within a reasonable time frame. Access to the preliminary election results was available at the Election Center and also available over the Internet. Election results were uploaded directly onto a SQL database and posted instantaneously to a global audience using the Internet and private Intranet through the Election Information Management System (EIMS).

The Result Receiving Center released periodic updates of the information to the press and general public. Preliminary election results started to arrive shortly after 5:30 p.m. By 7:00 p.m. approximately 27.70 % of the votes were received and by 9:00 p.m. 98.00 % of the votes were published.



*Source: Electoral Centre*

Although it was a close race, the unofficial preliminary results gave PNP a dominating 42-21 seat advantage in the House of Representatives. A little more than half of the eligible 1.6 million voters cast ballots awarding PNP with 463,232 of the Votes (53.28 % of the voters) to the JLP with 405,234 of the Votes (46.61 % of the voters) a difference of 57,998 votes or less than 6.8 percent. The third-party candidates were not able to win a single seat in Parliament. The Electoral results reflected an even closer race, in 9 constituencies, the winning candidate came first with less than a 1,000-vote margin of victory, and in 14 of these the difference was less than 500 votes.

The use of information and communication technology in the Jamaican electoral system comprises the voter registry; the electronic voter identification and ballot issuing system, the incorporation of the preliminary and final election results; and the presentation of results. The inclusion of technologies into the process of voting in

Jamaica has contributed, among other things, to the improvement and enhancement of the electoral process in the country, with the remaining increase in agility, transparency, reliability, security and confidence with respect to the fairness of election.

### 3. POST ELECTION

On election night, all the parties accepted the overall results as reflecting the will of the voters. Official results were published on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 giving 42 seats in the parliamentary to the People’s National Party (PNP) and 21 seats to the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), as the graphics below show.

Ms. Portia Simpson-Miller, PNP candidate for the constituency of St. Andrew South Western and leader of the People’s National Party (PNP) was sworn in as Prime Minister of Jamaica on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

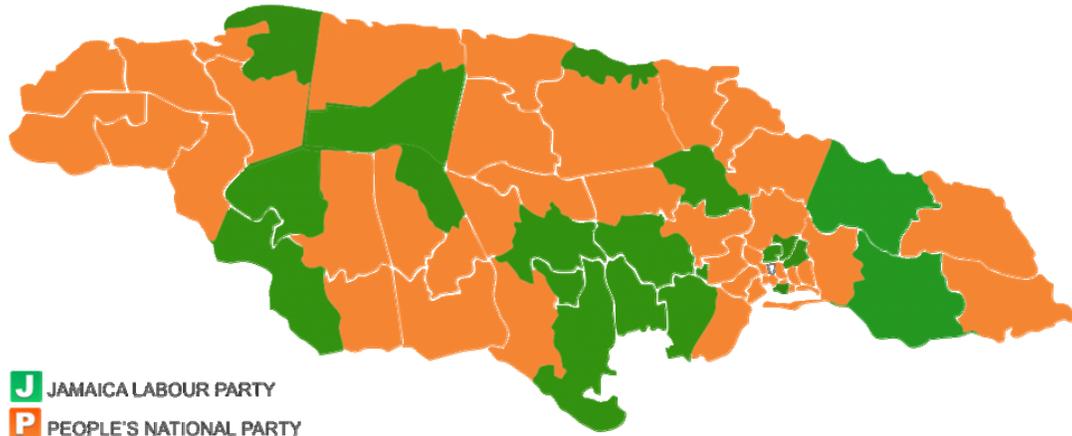
<b>2011 Election by the Numbers</b>	
Counties	3
Regions	8
Parishes	14
Electoral Constituencies	63
Polling Division	6,241
Polling Stations	6,629
Register Voters	1,648,036
Voters Turnout	53.17 %
Total Rejects	5,358
Total Votes including Rejects	876,310

Source: <http://www.eoj.com.jm/cms/uploads/2011GeneralElectionSummary.pdf>

<b>Official Results by Party</b>			
<b>Party</b>	<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>Total Percentage</b>	<b>Seats</b>
PNP	464,064	53%	42
JLP	405,920	46.30%	21
MGPPP	420	0.0%	0
NDM	263	0.0%	0
IND	228	0.0%	0
JAM	57	0.0%	0
Totals	876,310	100%	63

Source: <http://www.eoj.com.jm/cms/uploads/2011GeneralElectionSummary.pdf>

## JAMAICA ELECTORAL MAP - 2011 GENERAL ELECTIONS



Source: [http://www.caribbeanelections.com/blog/?attachment\\_id=353](http://www.caribbeanelections.com/blog/?attachment_id=353)

## CHAPTER IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The OAS Electoral Observation Mission would like to recognize the professional work of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, the Electoral Office of Jamaica and their staff, which effectively organized the General Elections in Jamaica. Likewise, it congratulates the efforts of the presiding officers, poll clerks, party agents, police officers, and finally the citizens of Jamaica, who made their preferences known in a peaceful manner.

In an effort to improve the electoral system, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission would like to offer some recommendations for the consideration of the political and electoral authorities.

1. The Mission took note of the agreements negotiated by the Electoral Commission with political parties on media and advertising protocols, as well as on campaign financing. These agreements improve the democratic process and increase its transparency. In this regard, the EOM welcomed the publication of the list of companies that have made substantial contributions to the two main political parties. The mission was also particularly impressed by the undertaking of the political parties to cease all campaigning, campaign ads and polls as of midnight on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. It noted, however, that this did not prevent the publication of opinion pieces by some for the newspapers the next day. Campaign financing represents an important priority of the Organization of American States and it has embarked on a number of initiatives on this issue. The OAS/EOM sees as a priority advancing forward on the discussion and approval of legislation on political parties and campaign financing.
2. Throughout the country, the OAS observers noticed that a majority of those working the polls were women. However, the number of women running for office<sup>21</sup>, and particularly those who won seats<sup>22</sup>, fell significantly low. Although the elections of Ms. Portia Simpson-Miller as Prime Minister is an important advancement, every effort should be made to encourage women to become more active in political parties and run for office, and it is the key to urge party leaders, to include a greater number of women as candidates in their parties.
3. Poll workers were generally well trained and the vote proceeded smoothly. However, the inconsistent application of the procedures generated delays in some polling stations. The observers noted some variation in instructing and processing voters across stations. Some Presiding Officers took a single voter through the entire process before inviting another voter into the station, while others proceeded to instruct the next voter in line, while the previous voter was marking his/her ballot. Some other officers instructed voters to form one lane to access multiple polling stations, creating confusion and long lines. A uniform procedure that is shared with all clerks would contribute to increase the efficiency of the process.

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21 The Jamaica Labor Party had 13 female candidates while the People's National Party and the National Democratic Movement had six and three female candidates, respectively.

22 <http://www.jis.gov.jm/electionday2011/>. House of representative female composition: 8 (12.70%)

4. Some polling sites contained multiple polling stations in relatively cramped areas. There were other centers in which more than 6 polling stations were located in one room, potentially compromising the secrecy of voting. The nature of some polling sites also presented difficulties for access by the physically challenged and the elderly. The Mission recommends greater attention to be put on the location and layout of polling sites to allow for improved access by the physically challenged and elderly and identifying locations that have both an entrance and exit to facilitate the flow of voters.
5. It is important to note that the inclusion of new technologies in the voter verification process requires careful handling for it to function correctly, even if the system will be used only to verify voter's identity. Quality control needs to be incorporated into the verification process including the proper implementation of procedures to avoid delays caused by any residue, oils or other materials on the surface of the fingerprint reader. It is recommended to use dampen and lint-free cloth or cotton swab with alcohol to gently rub the voter's finger and the sensor surface to clean residues from the surface of the fingerprint scanner.

## **APPENDIX**

## APPENDIX I: LETTER OF INVITATION



# ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF JAMAICA

#### COMMISSIONERS

#### SELECTED COMMISSIONERS

Prof. The Hon. Errol Miller O.J. CD  
**CHAIRMAN**

The Hon. Mrs. Dorothy Pine-  
McLarty OJ

Dr. Herbert Thompson CD

The Hon. Justice Clarence  
Walker CD

#### NOMINATED COMMISSIONERS

Senator Andre Franklin

Mr. Peter Bunting

Senator Tom Tavares-Finson

Dr. Donald Keith Duncan MP.

#### DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

Mr. Orrette Fisher

October 24, 2011

Mr Pablo Gutierrez  
Director  
Organisation of American States  
17th St. & Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr Gutierrez,

#### Re: Invitation to Send Observers

As you are aware Jamaica has a record of holding elections that meet international standards. Observation of Elections by international and local observers has contributed significantly to the country having this record. We, therefore, intend to continue this practice for our next General Parliamentary Elections.

We are inviting you to send an Observer Team to observe the next General Parliamentary Elections to be held in Jamaica. While the next General Elections could be held as late as September 2012 constitutionally, the Honourable Prime Minister of Jamaica could call General Elections at any time. Hopefully, this invitation will allow you to set in motion the process for putting together any Observer Team to work along with our local observer group Citizens Action for Free and Fair Elections, CAFFE.

We will notify you of the date as soon as it is announced.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Errol Miller', written over a horizontal line.

Prof. The Hon. Errol Miller OJ, CD

**CHAIRMAN**  
**ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF JAMAICA**

16 Red Hills Road, KINGSTON 10. TEL: (876) 929-5298; 754 -4415 Fax#: (876) 968-3426

## APPENDIX II: LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
United States of America

Organization of American States

P. 202.458.3000  
[www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

Antigua and Barbuda  
Argentina  
The Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Cuba  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Suriname  
Trinidad and Tobago  
United States of America  
Uruguay  
Venezuela

November 11, 2011

Professor Errol Miller  
Chairman, Electoral Commission of Jamaica  
Kingston, Jamaica

Dear Professor Miller,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 24, 2011 in which the Electoral Commission of Jamaica requests the Organization of American States (OAS) observe the General Parliamentary Election, constitutionally due by September 2012.

Through its observation and technical assistance efforts, the OAS remains committed to strengthening the electoral processes in the Americas and I am pleased to respond positively to this request.

I have instructed the Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the OAS Secretariat of Political Affairs to prepare a proposal and budget that contemplates the observation of the different facets of this important exercise and maximizes coverage of the polling stations on the date of the elections. As is customary, the size and scope of this mission will ultimately depend on the voluntary contributions received from the OAS members and Observers States.

Should you have any questions regarding the preparation of this mission, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Maria T Mellenkamp, Chief of DECO's Technical Cooperation Section, who has been tasked with preparation of this mission.

Sincerely,

José Miguel Insulza  
Secretary General

## **APPENDIX III: AGREEMENT ON PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA  
AND  
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
REGARDING  
THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OAS  
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION  
FOR THE 2011 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN  
JAMAICA**

The Parties to this Agreement, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the “GS/OAS” or the “Organization”) and the Government of Jamaica (hereinafter referred to as the “Government”),

**WHEREAS:**

On October 24, 2011 the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (hereinafter referred to as the “Electoral Commission”) invited GS/OAS to observe the General Elections to be held in December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Jamaica.

The Secretary General of the OAS, in a letter dated November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, informed the Electoral Commission that he accepted the invitation to establish an Observer Mission (hereinafter referred to as the “OAS Mission” or the “Mission”) for the General Elections in Jamaica subject to obtaining the necessary resources to finance the establishment of the OAS Observer Mission in Jamaica;

The OAS Observer Mission will be comprised of officials of the GS/OAS and other persons contracted at GS/OAS headquarters, as well as any other international observers specifically under contract to the GS/OAS for the OAS Observer Mission (hereinafter referred to as the “Members of the OAS Observer Mission” or the “Members”); and

The basic privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OAS, the GS/OAS, and its staff in Jamaica are set out in the Charter of the Organization of American States, and in the Agreement Between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

and the Government of Jamaica on the Functioning in Kingston of the Office of the Secretariat in Jamaica , signed by the Parties on March 12, 1971,

NOW, THEREFORE THE PARTIES HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I  
PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION

ARTICLE I

The privileges and immunities of the OAS Observer Mission shall be those accorded to the OAS, to its organs, and to its Staff pursuant to this agreement, which shall be interpreted in accordance with Articles 133, 134, 135 and 136 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which was signed and ratified by the Government of Jamaica, and ultimately deposited by the Government of Jamaica on August 20, 1969; the Agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Government of Jamaica on the functioning in Kingston of the Office of the Secretariat in Jamaica, signed by the Parties on March 12, 1971; and in accordance with concepts of international law..

ARTICLE II

2.1. The property and effects of the OAS Observer Mission, located in any part of the territory of Jamaica and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against any type of judicial proceeding; save in those specific cases for which said immunity is expressly waived in writing by the Secretary General of the OAS.

2.2 However, it is understood that said waiver of immunity by the Secretary General of the OAS shall not have the effect of subjecting any such property and effects to any type of measure of execution.

ARTICLE III

3.1 The premises occupied by the OAS Observer Mission shall be inviolable.

3.2 Moreover, the property and effects of the OAS Observer Mission, in any part of the territory of Jamaica and in possession of any person or entity, shall enjoy immunity against search and seizure, confiscation, expropriation and against any form of intervention, be it executive, administrative, judicial or legislative.

#### ARTICLE IV

The files of the OAS Observer Mission and all of the documents pertaining thereto or in the possession of any person or entity shall be inviolable wherever they are located.

#### ARTICLE V

5.1 The OAS Observer Mission shall be:

a) exempt from any internal taxation, it being understood, however, that it may not claim any type of tax exemption that is in fact remuneration for public services;

b) exempt from any type of customs duty, prohibition and restriction in respect of articles and publications that it may import or export for its official use. It is understood, however, that any articles imported duty-free may be sold within Jamaica only in accordance with conditions expressly agreed upon by the Parties; and

c) exempt from ordinances, regulations or moratoria of any kind. Moreover, it may have currency of any type, carry accounts in any foreign currency and transfer funds in foreign currency.

#### ARTICLE VI

The OAS Observer Mission may establish and operate in the territory of Jamaica an independent radio communication system to provide an on-going communications link



between the Members and the vehicles used by the Members with Mission offices and regional headquarters, such as the central office in Castries and between the latter and the headquarters of the GS/OAS in Washington, D.C., United States of America. The Government shall provide all the technical and administrative support necessary for this to be achieved.

## CHAPTER II MEMBERS OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION

### ARTICLE VII

The Members of the OAS Observer Mission shall be those persons who have been designated by the GS/OAS and accredited with the Jamaican authorities.

### ARTICLE VIII

8.1 For the period during which the Members of the OAS Observer Mission exercise their functions and during their trips to and from Jamaica, they shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

- a) Immunity from personal detention or arrest as well as immunity from any type of legal proceeding in respect of their actions and statements be they oral or written, done in the performance of their functions;
- b) The inviolability of all papers and documents;
- c) The right to communicate with the GS/OAS via radio, telephone, telegraph, email, satellite or other means, and to receive documents and correspondence through messengers or in sealed pouches, enjoying for that purpose the same privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic mail, messages, and pouches;
- d) The right to utilize for their movements throughout the national territory, any means of transportation, be it by air, by water or over land;



e) Exemption in respect of their persons and that of their spouses and children, from any type of immigration restriction and registration of aliens and any type of national service in Jamaica.

f) The same privileges accorded to the representatives of foreign governments on official mission in respect to foreign-currency restrictions;

g) The same immunities and privileges in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and

h) Such other privileges, immunities and facilities as are compatible with the foregoing, and enjoyed by diplomatic envoys, with the exception that they shall not enjoy any exemption from customs duties on imported merchandise (that is not part of their personal effects) or sales taxes or consumer taxes.

#### ARTICLE IX

The provisions contained in the preceding Article do not apply to nationals of Jamaica working as local contract staff in the OAS Observer Mission, except in respect of official acts performed or statements issued in the exercise of their functions.

#### CHAPTER III

#### COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES

#### ARTICLE X

The OAS Observer Mission shall cooperate with the relevant authorities of Jamaica to prevent any occurrence of abuse in respect of the specified privileges and immunities. Similarly, the relevant authorities shall do whatever is possible to provide the cooperation requested of them by the OAS Observer Mission.

#### ARTICLE XI

Without prejudice to the immunities and privileges accorded, the Members of the OAS Observer Mission shall respect the laws and regulations existing in Jamaica.

#### ARTICLE XII

12.1 The Parties shall take any measures necessary to procure an amicable arrangement in the proper settlement of:

- a) Any disputes that may arise in contracts or other questions of private law; and
- b) Any disputes to which the OAS Observer Mission and/or any of its Members may be parties with respect to matters in which they enjoy immunity.

#### CHAPTER IV NATURE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

##### ARTICLE XIII

13.1 The privileges and immunities are granted to the Members of the OAS Observer Mission in order to safeguard their independence in the exercise of their functions of observing the General Elections of Jamaica, and not for personal gain or to perform activities of a political nature within the territory of Jamaica.

13.2 The Secretary General of the OAS may waive the privileges and immunities of any of the Members of the OAS Observer Mission in the event that he determines, in his sole discretion, that the exercise of those privileges and immunities may obstruct the course of justice and so long as the Secretary General determines that such waiver does not prejudice the interests of the OAS or of the GS/OAS.



CHAPTER V  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XIV

14.1 The Government recognizes the “Official Travel Document” issued by the GS/OAS as a valid and sufficient document for purposes of travel by the Members of the OAS Observer Mission who possess this document.

14.2 The Government shall issue to each Member of the OAS Observer Mission a visa to enter the country and to remain therein until the end of the OAS Observer Mission.

ARTICLE XV

The Government agrees to extend the privileges and immunities of the present Agreement to Members of the OAS Observer Mission designated by the GS/OAS, who have been accredited by the Jamaican authorities.

ARTICLE XVI

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

ARTICLE XVII

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall cease to have effect once the Members of the OAS Observer Mission have completed their mission, in accordance with the terms of the request made by the Government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized, do hereby sign this Agreement, in duplicate, on the date and locations indicated below.

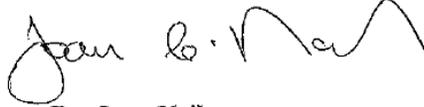
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
JAMAICA:



**Ambassador Evadne Coye**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade  
Place: Kingston, Jamaica

Date: 23-12-2011.....

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES:



**Dr. Joan Neil**  
Permanent Representative in Jamaica  
General Secretariat of the OAS  
Place: Kingston, Jamaica

Date: 23/12/2011.....

## APPENDIX IV: AGREEMENT ON ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS

**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
AND  
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF JAMAICA  
ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS OF THE  
2011 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

The Parties, the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (hereinafter referred to as the “Electoral Commission”) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the “General Secretariat”);

**CONSIDERING:**

THAT on the 24th day of October 2011, the Electoral Commission, through its Chairman, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary General”) to send an Electoral Observation Mission (hereinafter referred to as “the Mission”) to Jamaica for the purpose of witnessing the General Elections to be held on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the “General Elections”);

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. 991 (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly of the OAS recommended to the Secretary General that “when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, missions should be organized and sent to said state to monitor the development, if possible at all stages, of each of its electoral processes;”

THAT Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states in pertinent part as follows:

*The electoral observation missions shall be carried out at the request of the member state concerned. To that end, the government of that state and the Secretary General shall enter into an agreement establishing the scope and coverage of the electoral observation mission in question. The*

*member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission.*

*Electoral observation missions shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and norms of the OAS. The Organization shall ensure that these missions are effective and independent and shall provide them with the necessary resources for that purpose. They shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with the appropriate technical expertise; and*

THAT the Secretary General responded affirmatively to the Electoral Commission's request to send the Mission with the objective of observing the General Elections of 2011;

**WHEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**First:            Guarantees**

a)        The Electoral Commission guarantees the Mission access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 until conclusion of the electoral process in Jamaica, in conformity with the laws and standards of Jamaica and the terms of this Agreement.

b)        The Electoral Commission, on the day of and after the day of the elections, shall guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other locations and facilities related to the election until the official count is tabulated nationally and the General Elections process is concluded.

c)        The Electoral Commission shall guarantee the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of counting and tabulating votes will take place both before and during this process.

d)        The Electoral Commission shall guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, the Electoral Commission shall permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations deemed necessary by the Mission of the voting system and of the communications utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the Electoral Commission shall guarantee the Mission complete

access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the electoral process that are of interest to the Mission.

e) The Electoral Commission further guarantees the Mission access to all polling stations and other bodies throughout territory of Jamaica. Upon request of the Mission, the Electoral Commission guarantees to make available by the end of the voting process and, before the closing of the polling stations, copies of all documents printed electronically.

**Second: Information**

a) The Electoral Commission will furnish the Mission with all information referring to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission may request of the Electoral Commission such additional information as is necessary for the exercise of the Mission's functions, and the Electoral Commission shall promptly furnish all such information.

b) The Mission may inform the Electoral Commission about any irregularities and/or interference, which the Mission might observe or of which the Mission might learn. Similarly, the Mission may request that the Electoral Commission provide any information regarding the measures which the Electoral Commission will take in relation to such irregularities, and the Electoral Commission shall promptly furnish all such information.

c) The Electoral Commission shall provide the Mission with information related to the electoral list and other electoral data referring to the same. Similarly, the Electoral Commission shall provide all other information relative to the computer systems used on Election Day, and shall offer demonstrations of the systems' operation to the Mission.

**Third: General Provisions**

a) The Secretary General will designate a Chief of Mission, to represent the Mission and its members before the Electoral Commission and before the Government.

b) The General Secretariat will communicate to the Chair of the Electoral Commission the names of the persons who will comprise the Mission, who will be duly identified.

c) The Mission will act impartially, objectively and independently in the fulfillment of its mandate.

d) The General Secretariat will send to the leadership of the Electoral Commission a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission following the General Elections.

e) The Electoral Commission will make known and disseminate the contents of this Agreement among all electoral bodies and among all personnel involved in the electoral process.

**Fourth: Privileges and Immunities**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS, its Organs, its personnel and its assets under the Charter of the Organization; under the Agreement Between the Government of Jamaica and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States on the Functioning of the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and Recognition of its Privileges and Immunities, signed by the Parties on September 26, 1986 ; and under the Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States Regarding the Privileges and Immunities of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission for the 2011 General Elections in Jamaica, signed by the Parties on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011; or under international law.

**Fifth: Resolution of controversies**

The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If the negotiations do not result in the resolution of the dispute, the matter shall be submitted to

a dispute resolution procedure mutually agreed to by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

**Sixth:        Amendments**

Amendments to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and attached hereto.

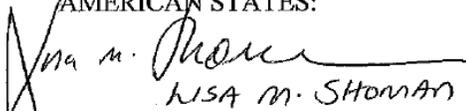
**Seventh:      Entry into Force and Termination**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date and upon the signature of then duly authorized representatives of the Parties. This Agreement shall remain in force until the Mission has concluded its observation mission of the 2011 General Elections.

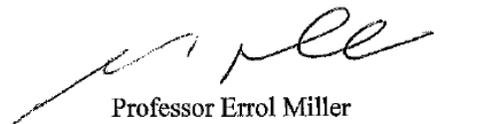
This Agreement may be terminated by either Party with or without cause. Termination must be effected by means of no less than five days' written notice to the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in duplicate on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES:

  
Lisa M. Stoman  
Chief of Mission  
OAS General Secretariat  
Date: DECEMBER 19, 2011

FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION:  
OF JAMAICA:

  
Professor Errol Miller  
Chairman  
Electoral Commission of Jamaica  
Date: ...19...Dec...2011

**APPENDIX V: LIST OF OBSERVERS**

Mission Total	Total per Group	<b>Electoral Observation Mission - Jamaica General Elections - December 29, 2011</b>			
<b>CORE GROUP</b>					
1	1	Lisa Shoman	Belize	Chief of Mission	F
2	2	Rosa Serpa	Colombia	Deputy Chief of Mission	F
3	3	Paul Spencer	Antigua	Advisor	M
4	4	Paloma Temiño	Spain	General Coordinator	F
5	5	Ruben Rudolph	USA	Legal Specialist	M
6	6	Rafael D'Armas	Venezuela	Political Financing Specialist	M
7	7	Alex Bravo	USA	Electoral Organization Specialist	M
8	8	John Enright	Canada	Press Specialist	M
<b>REGIONAL COORDINATORS</b>					
9	1	Juliette Maughan	Barbados		F
10	2	Olaf Fontanelle	Saint Lucia		M
11	3	Constance Almquist	USA		F
12	4	Alan Andrade	Mexico		M
13	5	Liesl Harewood	Guyana		F
14	6	Denis G. Antoine	Grenada		M
15	7	Kelly Marie Fay	USA		F
<b>INTERNACIONAL OBSERVERS</b>					
16	1	Maryam Pandor	Barbados		F
17	2	Shavar Maloney	St. Vincent		M
18	3	Mark Kirton	Guyana		M
19	4	Cherry-Ann Smart	Trinidad		F
20	5	Cynthia Barrow-Giles	Saint Lucia		F
21	6	Maria Fernanda Story	Colombia		F
22	7	Giuliana Carducci	Venezuela		F
23	8	Ignacio Nazif	Chile		M
24	9	Sophia Paz	Belize		F

## APPENDIX VI: OFFICIAL RESULTS

### GENERAL ELECTION 2011 ELECTION DAY: December 29, 2011

CONSTITUENCY	IND		JAM		JLP		MGPPP		NDM		PNP		TOTAL REJECTS	TOTAL VOTES including REJECTS		TOTAL ELECTORS
	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%		VOTES	%	
(1) KINGSTON WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,073	82.1	31	0.3	0	0.0	1,828	16.5	118	11,050	54.69	20,205
(2) KINGSTON CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	3,790	38.5	56	0.6	0	0.0	5,898	59.9	105	9,849	50.98	19,318
(3) KINGSTON EAST & PORT ROYAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,530	15.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,050	83.0	119	9,699	44.69	21,702
(4) ST. ANDREW WEST RURAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,479	48.8	0	0.0	43	0.3	7,716	50.3	89	15,327	46.48	32,976
(5) ST. ANDREW WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,229	30.8	0	0.0	39	0.3	9,379	68.3	88	13,735	45.19	30,394
(6) ST. ANDREW WEST CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,799	53.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,760	46.1	118	14,677	55.75	26,326
(7) ST. ANDREW EAST CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,016	36.0	41	0.4	0	0.0	6,941	62.3	146	11,144	41.81	26,653
(8) ST. ANDREW SOUTH WESTERN	26	0.2	0	0.0	553	4.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	10,973	94.0	120	11,672	52.51	22,227
(9) ST. ANDREW SOUTHERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	860	8.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,810	91.2	82	10,752	52.56	20,458
(10) ST. ANDREW SOUTH EASTERN	12	0.1	0	0.0	4,260	41.0	28	0.3	0	0.0	6,004	57.9	74	10,378	53.17	19,520
(11) ST. ANDREW EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,352	48.5	0	0.0	46	0.4	6,606	50.5	80	13,084	56.89	23,000
(12) ST. ANDREW NORTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,396	60.0	0	0.0	48	0.5	3,514	39.1	35	8,993	50.81	17,698
(13) ST. ANDREW NORTH CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,206	61.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3,901	38.4	51	10,158	48.26	21,048
(14) ST. ANDREW NORTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,789	56.7	0	0.0	49	0.4	5,100	42.6	34	11,972	45.99	26,034
(15) ST. ANDREW EAST RURAL	58	0.3	0	0.0	9,375	48.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,634	50.3	96	19,163	58.31	32,864
(16) ST. THOMAS WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,969	50.4	66	0.4	0	0.0	8,652	48.6	103	17,790	50.96	34,913
(17) ST. THOMAS EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,545	48.1	39	0.2	0	0.0	8,018	51.1	84	15,686	55.30	28,364
(18) PORTLAND EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,070	46.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,316	53.3	83	17,469	54.92	31,810
(19) PORTLAND WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,422	52.7	0	0.0	18	0.1	6,593	46.9	39	14,072	67.34	20,896
(20) ST. MARY SOUTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,134	48.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,554	51.3	51	14,739	64.44	22,873
(21) ST. MARY CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,800	40.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,585	59.4	56	14,441	60.40	23,908
(22) ST. MARY WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,466	49.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,693	50.4	74	19,233	59.54	32,305
(23) ST. ANN SOUTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,751	34.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,996	65.0	98	13,845	51.22	27,029
(24) ST. ANN NORTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,501	52.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,373	46.3	229	18,103	52.70	34,353
(25) ST. ANN NORTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,831	47.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,674	52.3	78	16,583	53.07	31,248
(26) ST. ANN SOUTH WESTERN	84	0.7	0	0.0	5,703	46.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,525	52.7	69	12,381	54.24	22,828
(27) TRELAWNY NORTHERN	0	0.0	57	0.3	8,548	43.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	10,869	55.6	63	19,537	59.15	33,029
(28) TRELAWNY SOUTHERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,260	56.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,735	42.9	48	11,043	61.51	17,953
(29) ST. JAMES EAST CENTRAL	22	0.2	0	0.0	6,382	49.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,208	48.3	236	12,848	51.75	24,826
(30) ST. JAMES NORTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,077	54.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,977	44.8	59	11,113	45.02	24,687

CONSTITUENCY	IND		JAM		JLP		MGPPP		NDM		PNP		TOTAL REJECTS	TOTAL VOTES		TOTAL ELECTORS
	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%		including REJECTS	%	
(31) ST. JAMES CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,585	49.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,683	50.1	69	11,337	45.36	24,991
(32) ST. JAMES WEST CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,535	46.8	21	0.2	0	0.0	6,208	52.5	60	11,824	48.94	24,159
(33) ST. JAMES SOUTHERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,125	45.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,197	53.7	78	13,400	57.39	23,350
(34) HANOVER EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,602	48.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,853	50.7	58	13,513	62.27	21,699
(35) HANOVER WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,905	44.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,583	55.1	96	15,584	55.69	27,983
(36) WESTMORELAND WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,260	36.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,940	62.7	52	14,252	47.70	29,879
(37) WESTMORELAND CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,522	42.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	11,564	57.2	130	20,216	53.85	37,543
(38) WESTMORELAND EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	3,071	27.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,066	72.0	63	11,200	45.11	24,830
(39) ST. ELIZABETH NORTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,689	53.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,823	45.7	52	10,564	52.14	20,260
(40) ST. ELIZABETH NORTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,498	36.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,566	63.1	85	15,149	52.38	28,919
(41) ST. ELIZABETH SOUTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,440	49.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,453	49.9	63	18,956	68.41	27,710
(42) ST. ELIZABETH SOUTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,932	47.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,902	52.1	158	18,992	68.77	27,617
(43) MANCHESTER SOUTHERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,036	42.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,563	57.3	78	16,677	58.52	28,499
(44) MANCHESTER CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	10,067	48.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	10,606	50.9	154	20,827	62.04	33,572
(45) MANCHESTER NORTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,445	43.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,384	56.4	47	14,876	60.91	24,422
(46) MANCHESTER NORTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,363	51.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,790	48.0	61	16,214	62.86	25,794
(47) CLARENDON NORTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,310	46.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,209	52.7	72	15,591	63.65	24,495
(48) CLARENDON NORTHERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,958	43.5	0	0.0	20	0.1	7,663	55.9	57	13,698	64.60	21,204
(49) CLARENDON NORTH CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,661	57.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,825	41.8	54	11,540	55.93	20,632
(50) CLARENDON CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,146	63.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,121	36.5	27	11,294	41.87	26,972
(51) CLARENDON SOUTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,555	41.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,711	57.9	60	13,326	54.97	24,244
(52) CLARENDON SOUTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,843	50.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,736	49.5	86	17,665	50.33	35,097
(53) ST. CATHERINE NORTH WESTERN	26	0.2	0	0.0	4,607	37.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,682	62.1	54	12,369	41.64	29,706
(54) ST. CATHERINE SOUTH WESTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	9,124	52.3	40	0.2	0	0.0	8,208	47.0	87	17,459	54.40	32,095
(55) ST. CATHERINE SOUTHERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,582	38.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,856	61.0	91	14,529	47.23	30,765
(56) ST. CATHERINE CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,735	75.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2,252	22.0	228	10,215	40.64	25,137
(57) ST. CATHERINE SOUTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,589	43.9	61	0.4	0	0.0	8,260	55.0	104	15,014	46.78	32,092
(58) ST. CATHERINE NORTH CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,622	40.6	37	0.3	0	0.0	6,673	58.7	43	11,375	45.24	25,142
(59) ST. CATHERINE WEST CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,431	58.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	4,575	41.3	59	11,065	45.49	24,323
(60) ST. CATHERINE NORTH EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,786	52.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,168	47.0	42	10,996	50.07	21,961

CONSTITUENCY	IND		JAM		JLP		MGPPP		NDM		PNP		TOTAL REJECTS	TOTAL VOTES		TOTAL ELECTORS		
	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%	VOTES	%		including REJECTS	%			
(61) ST. CATHERINE EASTERN	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,721	39.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	8,762	60.0	122	14,605	52.73	27,698		
(62) ST. CATHERINE SOUTH CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	6,833	65.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	3,566	34.2	30	10,429	46.63	22,365		
(63) ST. CATHERINE EAST CENTRAL	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,176	47.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5,734	52.0	113	11,023	51.42	21,436		
<b>TOTALS :</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>405,920</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>464,064</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>876,310</b>	<b>53.17</b>	<b>1,648,036</b>

## APPENDIX VII: PRESS RELEASE

# Press Release



Organization of  
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Department of Press | 17th & Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006 | Ph. (202) 458-3379 | Fax. (202) 458-6421 | [www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

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(Kingston - December 27, 2011) Ambassador Lisa Shoman, Chief of Mission for the OAS\EOM Jamaica is pleased to announce that the international team of OAS\EOM Jamaica election observers will be receiving their training today Tuesday December 27, 2011 in preparation for deployment throughout Jamaica in view of the Thursday December 29, 2011 general election.

"I am delighted that the OAS\EOM Jamaica is fielding the largest number of international observers at this election," said Ambassador Shoman. "Some 25 election Observers from 16 countries will begin to be deployed tomorrow and will be present throughout Jamaica in the period leading to Election Day. The observers will be present across Jamaica on election day from the opening of the polls until the last ballot is cast", she added.

The OAS\EOM Jamaica is represented by observers from the following countries:

Antigua; Barbados; Belize; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Mexico; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent; Spain; Trinidad; USA and Venezuela

# Press Release



Organization of  
American States

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(Kingston - December 30, 2011) For the General Elections of December 29, 2011, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission fielded 25 observers from 16 countries in all 8 of the country's administrative regions. A total of 852 of the country's polling stations were visited by the OAS team on Election Day. The following preliminary observations are based on the direct observations of the OAS team, and on meetings with electoral authorities, a cross-section of government, political parties, media, and civil society organizations.

## Observations:

### *Pre-electoral period*

The OAS mission notes the significant preparations made by the Electoral Commission to generate voter confidence and to ensure an inclusive and clean electoral process.

The continued use of the Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS) has strengthened efforts by the Electoral Commission to improve the integrity and access to the voting process. The EOM observed the use of this system in all of the constituencies where it was utilized and wishes to commend the authorities for its introduction.

The Mission took note of the agreements negotiated by the Electoral Commission with political parties on media and advertising protocols, as well as on campaign financing. These agreements have, in our estimation, improved the democratic process and have increased its transparency. In this regard, the EOM welcomed the publication of the list of companies that have made substantial contributions to the two main political parties. The mission was also particularly struck by the undertaking of the political parties to cease all campaigning, campaign ads and polls as of midnight on Tuesday, December 27. It noted however that this did not prevent the publication of opinion pieces by some of the newspapers on December 28.

### *Election Day procedures*

On Election Day, the OAS observers noted that the polls opened on time in nearly all the observed locations, all essential materials had arrived, and that the poll workers worked diligently to ensure an efficient casting of the vote. For the most part, these officials seem to be well trained and knowledgeable about the procedures. In addition, electors, security forces and party agents were engaged in almost all locations observed by the OAS, demonstrating their commitment to the exercise of the process.

The OAS mission noted a steady, albeit slow, stream of voters from the commencement of voting but observed that several voters seemed uncertain as to how to locate their specific polling station within the polling center. In the majority of these cases, the elector did in fact eventually locate their polling station within the center. In this regard, the Election Day Supervisors attached to clusters of polling stations played a significant

role in helping to resolve any issues that arose.

In some polling centers, polling stations were placed in uncomfortably small spaces next to each other, affording both workers and electors very little privacy and insufficient work space. At several of these stations, this situation also contributed to delays by creating a bottleneck effect on the queue to access the polling area.

#### *Tabulation and processing of results*

After the close of the polls, the vote counting and transmission process moved expeditiously, with results coming into the Election Center as early as 5:30 pm- half an hour after the close polls. The Election Commission must be commended for providing work space for the media at the Electoral Center to access raw data in real time in order to immediately feed their broadcasts.

#### Recommendations:

Based on the information gathered by the OAS Electoral Observation Mission during its time in Jamaica, the mission would like to offer the following recommendations to further strengthen the electoral process in the future:

- 1) Making provision for the allocation of adequate space for polling stations and identifying wherever possible locations that have both an entrance and exit to facilitate the flow of electors;
- 2) Clarifying the role, duties and responsibilities of the political liaison officer at the polling station;
- 4) Providing adequate signage at the entrance of the polling station to indicate exactly which polling stations are located within that center;
- 5) Providing copies of the voter's list at each polling station in a place it can be easily accessed by voters.
- 6) Continued efforts by the Electoral Commission of Jamaica and other branches of government in seeking the enactment of campaign finance regulations.

A more detailed verbal report on the observations and recommendations of the OAS EOM will be presented to the OAS Permanent Council in Washington D.C. in early 2012. This report will be shared with all stakeholders in Jamaica and will be available through the OAS website at [www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org).

The OAS mission wishes to express its thanks to both the Government and Electoral Commission of Jamaica for the invitation to observe this process and the facilitation of information during the mission's stay in the country. In addition, the mission thanks the governments of Bolivia, Canada, Chile and the United States, as well as Elections Canada for their contributions which made this mission possible.