



ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

**Report on the First Phase of the Fourth
Local Government Elections:
Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Elections, 2026**

Phuentshogling and Thimphu Thromde
Poll Day: 15 July 2026

FOREWORD

The First Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections: *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026, held in Phuentshogling and Thimphu *Thromdes* with polls on 15 July 2026, is an important milestone in Bhutan's democratic journey.

These elections were significant not only for ushering in the fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* in Thimphu, the nation's capital and Phuentshogling, the gateway and commercial hub, but also for introducing measures aimed at strengthening candidate readiness for office and advancing the automation of election administration. The five-year experience requirement for aspiring *Thrompon* candidates was applied for the first time, the revised Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Test (FLT) was introduced, and the review of manifestos and campaign pledges was extended to *Thrompon* candidates. The piloting of the *Election and Results Administration System* advanced the Commission's transition towards digital election and result management.

The value of this report lies not only in the electoral figures it records, but also in what those figures tell us. Women constituted the majority of those who voted. Of the 13 *Tshogpa* seats in the two *Thromdes*, women secured four of the 12 seats that were contested while the one remaining seat in Phuentshogling drew no nomination and remained vacant. A woman also contested the post of *Thrompon* in Thimphu for the first time. At the same time, participation among voters aged 18–24 was the lowest among the reported age groups. These observations remind us that the conduct of an election is only one part of our democratic responsibility; we must also continue to create conditions that encourage wider participation, nurture local leadership and enable more women and young people to engage meaningfully in the electoral process.

This report presents a consolidated account of the electoral process, from voter registration and candidate nomination to campaigning, polling, results, campaign expenditure and approved *Thrompon* pledges. It is intended to serve as an official record, a source of institutional learning and a reliable reference for those interested in Bhutan's electoral system and local democratic governance. Voter turnout stood at 49.82 percent in Phuentshogling and 31.81 percent in Thimphu, against 63 percent and 31 percent respectively in the Second Local Government Elections of 2016. The pandemic situation in 2021 renders comparison to it non-viable.

While voter turnout is an important indicator of electoral participation, it is not, in itself, the sole measure of a credible election. The credibility of an election rests equally on the principle of integrity, transparency, fairness with which the entire electoral process is administered. The ECB has comprehensive legal and

procedural measures to uphold these principles and ensure the integrity and transparency at every stage of the electoral process. These measures, supported by robust accountability mechanisms and effective oversights, collectively safeguard the credibility of elections and reinforce public confidence in the Bhutanese democratic process.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the officials on duty and everyone else whose participation, cooperation and commitment contributed to the peaceful, orderly and credible conduct of the *Thromde* Elections 2026. As we prepare for the Second Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections in early 2027, I look forward to the continued support and cooperation of all institutions, stakeholders, candidates and citizens as we work together to deepen democracy and strengthen local governance in Bhutan.

Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the decades, the Election Commission of Bhutan has received unwavering support from government and public institutions, election officials and citizens in the conduct of elections. Similarly, the successful conduct of the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026, was made possible through the support of the *Dzongkhag* Administrations of Thimphu and Chhukha, led by the respective *Dzongdags*, and the *Thromde* Administrations of Thimphu and Phuentshogling, led by their respective Executive Secretaries.

The Commission also acknowledges the support of the Royal Bhutan Police in both *Thromdes* in ensuring that the elections were conducted in a safe, peaceful and orderly manner. The Commission further extends its appreciation to key government agencies and public institutions, including the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority, Bhutan Post, Bhutan Broadcasting Service, Office of the Attorney General, media organizations, service providers and other stakeholders for their support and commitment before, during and after the elections.

The Commission gratefully acknowledges the participation of all candidates and the voters of Thimphu and Phuentshogling for exercising their democratic right and participating in the electoral process. Their confidence and participation remain fundamental to strengthening democracy and local governance in Bhutan.

The contributions of every individual and institution, whether direct or indirect, are deeply valued and gratefully acknowledged.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The First Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections for the *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogdes* of Phuentshogling and Thimphu *Thromdes* was conducted, with polls on 15 July 2026, following the completion of the five-year term of the Third *Thromde Tshogdes*. The elections were for two *Thrompon* and 13 *Tshogpa* posts.

A total of 10,370 voters were registered for the elections, 1,168 in Phuentshogling and 9,202 in Thimphu. Eighteen candidates contested the elections across 13 polling stations. A total of 3,426 votes were cast through the Electronic Voting Machines, while 92 were cast through postal ballot and Special Early Voting.

One *Thrompon* was elected in each *Thromde*, together with five *Tshogpas* in Phuentshogling and seven in Thimphu, bringing the total number of elected representatives to 14. The post of *Tshogpa* for Rinchhending Constituency in Phuentshogling remained vacant as no candidate filed a nomination. The elections concluded without any election disputes being filed, while two incidents were resolved administratively by the relevant authorities.

The elections introduced several new electoral initiatives aimed at strengthening candidate readiness for office and digitalization of election administration and consolidation of results:

1. Experience requirement for *Thrompon* candidates: For the first time in Local Government elections, aspiring *Thrompon* candidates were required to possess a minimum of five years of work experience.
2. Revised Functional Literacy Test: The Functional Literacy Test for aspiring *Thromde Tshogpa* candidates was revised to incorporate basic digital competency and a defined validity period. It comprised two separate components: a written functional competency assessment and a functional competency engagement assessment.
3. Election and Results Administration (ERA) System: The Commission piloted the new ERA System to facilitate the online management of candidate information, voter identification on poll day and election results.
4. Independent review of manifestos: The independent review process, first introduced for political party manifestos during the 2023–2024 Parliamentary Elections, was extended to the manifestos of aspiring *Thrompon* candidates.

ELECTION FACT SHEET

Indicator	Phuentshogling	Thimphu	Total
<i>Thrompon</i> positions	1	1	2
<i>Tshogpa</i> positions	6	7	13
<i>Demkhongs</i>	6	7	13
Polling stations	6	7	13
Election officials and personnel			
Chief Election Coordinators	1	1	2
Deputy Chief Election Coordinators	3	3	6
Returning Officers	1	1	2
Assistant Returning Officers	1	0	1
National Observers	1	1	2
Presiding Officers	6	7	13
Polling officials	12	14	26
Office of the Media Arbitrator officials	4	4	8
<i>Thromde</i> Social Media Monitors	2	2	4
<i>Dzongkhag</i> Election Dispute Settlement Body members	10	10	20
Security personnel	18	28	46
Voters, candidates and results			
Registered voters	1,168	9,202	10,370
Contesting candidates	8	10	18
EVM votes cast	549	2,877	3,426
Postal ballots counted, including SEV	34	58	92
<i>Thrompons</i> elected	1	1	2
<i>Tshogpas</i> elected	5	7	12

Fourth Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Elections, 2026

Indicator	Phuentshogling	Thimphu	Total
Vacant <i>Tshogpa</i> positions	1	0	1
Key dates			
Qualifying date	1 April 2026	1 April 2026	—
<i>Dhamngoi Zomdu</i> and signature process	15–19 June 2026	15–19 June 2026	—
Filing of nominations	16–20 June 2026	16–20 June 2026	—
Poll Day and counting	15 July 2026	15 July 2026	—
Declaration of election results	16 July 2026	16 July 2026	—
Electoral areas and polling stations			
<i>Demkhongs</i>	Nyedrag; Pasakha; Pekarzhing; Phuentshogling Maed; Phuentshogling Toed; Rinchhending	Babesa; Changbangdu–Olakha; Changgangkha; Dechenchholing–Taba; Jungshina–Kawajangsa; Motithang; Norzin	13
Polling stations	Nyedrag; Pasakha; Pekarzhing; Phuentshogling MSS; Phuentshogling HSS; College of Science and Technology	Babesa PS; Loselling MSS; Changgangkha MSS; Dechenchholing HSS; Zilukha MSS; Motithang HSS; Jigme Losel PS	13

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Bhutan's democratic journey continues to evolve through the strengthening of democratic institutions and the active participation of citizens in local governance. The first Local Government elections under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan were held on 27 June 2011. The Second and Third Local Government elections followed on 27 September 2016 and 22 December 2021, respectively.

The Fourth Local Government Elections are being conducted in two phases. The First Phase comprised the *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections in Thimphu and Phuentshogling, with poll day held on 15 July 2026. The Second Phase, scheduled for early 2027, will elect Local Government representatives across the country.

Following the completion of the term of the Third *Thromde Tshogdes* on 6 June 2026, the Election Commission of Bhutan called the First Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections for Phuentshogling *Thromde* under Chhukha *Dzongkhag* and Thimphu *Thromde* under Thimphu *Dzongkhag*. The electoral process comprised candidate nomination and scrutiny, finalization of the electoral rolls, campaigning, public debates and Common Forums, postal and Special Early Voting, polling, counting and the declaration of results.

This report documents the conduct and outcome of the elections and provides a consolidated account of election preparedness, registered voters, candidates, voter engagement, polling arrangements, voter turnout, election results, campaign expenditure and the approved pledges of the *Thrompon* candidates. The information presented is based on official records, reports and observations submitted by Election Officials from the field and the Headquarter.

1.2 Legal Framework

The First Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections for the *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogdes*, 2026, was conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the relevant electoral laws, rules and guidelines. The principal legal instruments governing the elections were:

- The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, which establishes the Election Commission of Bhutan as an independent constitutional body responsible for ensuring free and fair elections;

- The Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, particularly Section 202, under which the Commission called the Local Government elections, and Section 457, under which the election results were declared;
- The Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, and the Guidelines for Monitoring Campaign Expenditures of Candidates for Elections to Local Government, 2021, which governed campaign financing and expenditure; and
- The Rules on Election Conduct in the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2026, and the applicable Election Code of Conduct, under which the pledges of the *Thrompon* candidates were reviewed.

2. PREPARATORY PHASE

The Election Commission undertook a series of legal, administrative, operational and technical preparations to ensure the effective conduct of the First Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections. These included the conduct of the Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Test, preparation of electoral rolls, deployment and training of election officials, nomination of candidates, voter education, logistical arrangements and testing of election systems.

2.1 Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Test

In accordance with Section 178(d) of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, the Election Commission of Bhutan issued a notification announcing the conduct of the Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Test (FLT) for registered voters intending to contest the 2026 *Thromde* Elections in Phuentshogling and Thimphu.

Registered voters intending to contest for the post of *Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa* were required to register online within the prescribed period. Those holding valid FLT certificates previously issued by the Commission were exempted from appearing for the test. However, they were required to obtain the newly issued FLT certificates from their respective *Dzongkhag* Election Offices after 26 May 2026.

FLT Schedule

The registration and assessment schedule for FLT was as follows:

Table 1: FLT Schedule

Activity	Date and time
Commencement of FLT registration	29 April 2026
Closing of FLT registration	19 May 2026, 5:00 p.m.
Written test and viva voce	22 May 2026

FLT Participation and Results

A total of five aspiring candidates appeared for the FLT: three from Phuentshogling *Thromde* and two from Thimphu *Thromde*. Of these, three candidates passed the test, resulting in an overall pass rate of 60 per cent. The remaining two candidates did not meet the minimum qualifying requirements.

The certificates of the successful candidates were issued on 14 June 2026. The participation and results are summarized below:

Table 2: FLT Participation and Results

Thromde	Appeared	Passed	Failed	Pass rate	Failure rate
Phuentshogling	3	2	1	66.7%	33.3%
Thimphu	2	1	1	50.0%	50.0%
Overall	5	3	2	60.0%	

2.2 Piloting of the Election Results and Administration System

As part of its efforts to modernize election administration, the Election Commission of Bhutan piloted the Election Results and Administration (ERA) System for the first time during the Fourth Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Elections, 2026. The initiative marked an important transition from manual processes to an integrated online platform for managing election-related information and results. The system was designed to secure timely and accurate entry, transmission, verification, consolidation and publication of election results.

To assess the operational readiness of the system before its deployment, the Election Operations Division, in collaboration with the ICT Division, conducted two simulation exercises. The exercises were intended to test the system's functionality and its coordinated use alongside Electronic Voting Machines, familiarize election officials with the online result-management process, identify technical and operational issues, and strengthen coordination among officials.

First Simulation Exercise

The first simulation exercise was conducted on 4 June 2026 at the ECB Headquarters. It served as an internal mock drill and replicated the complete election result-management process resembling an actual election.

During the exercise, officials carried out the different stages of result management, including polling station result entry, verification, online transmission, consolidation and system-based monitoring. This enabled the Commission to assess the functionality of the system, review operational procedures and identify technical or procedural issues requiring attention. It also familiarized officials with the system's workflow before its field deployment.

Second Simulation Exercise

Following the internal mock drill, a comprehensive field simulation was conducted on 9 June 2026 at selected polling stations across Thimphu *Thromde*. The exercise replicated poll day operations, with the Electronic Voting Machines and the ERA System operated simultaneously.

The simulation commenced at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 5:00 p.m. It covered the complete polling and result-management cycle, including polling, counting, result entry, online transmission, verification, consolidation and monitoring. Participants included Returning Officers, National Observers, *Dzongkhag* Electoral Officers, and ECB officials responsible for election operations and technical support. The Commission monitored the system's performance and coordination among field officials throughout the exercise.

Upon completion of the system testing and simulation exercise, structured feedback was collected from each participating in the polling station on the system's functionality, operational procedures, user experience, coordination mechanisms and technical challenges. The feedback enabled the Commission to refine the system and strengthen technical support arrangements before poll day. The successful completion of the exercises confirmed the operational readiness of the ERA System and was first deployed during the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections simultaneously with the manual process, marking an important step towards the digitalization of election administration in Bhutan.

2.3 Voter Education in the Two Thromdes

Alongside the administrative and technical preparations, the Commission conducted voter education programmes in Thimphu and Phuentshogling *Thromdes* before the formal calling of the elections. The early commencement of voter education enabled the Commission to engage voters, clarify possible questions and misconceptions, and prepare them for informed participation in the electoral process.

The programmes covered the electoral process, voting procedures, voters' rights and responsibilities, and other relevant information concerning the *Thromde* Elections. They were intended to promote informed participation, encourage eligible voters to exercise their right to vote and strengthen public confidence in the electoral process. The programmes also emphasized the importance of informed choice and citizen participation in strengthening democracy and local governance.

A total of 109 participants of which 74 men and 35 women attended the voter education programmes conducted at nine venues across the two *Thromdes*.

Table 3: Participation in Voter Education Programmes

Thromde	Venue and areas covered	Male	Female	Total
Phuentshogling	Nyedrag	8	5	13
	Pasakha Trade Office	22	8	30
	Phuentshogling HSS	6	2	8
	College of Science and Technology	6	4	10
	De-suung Conference Hall	8	5	13
	Pekarzhing	9	5	14
Thimphu	Zilukha MSS—Dechenchholing, Taba and Jungshina—Kawajangsa	7	5	12
	Dzongkhag DT Hall—Changgangkha, Norzin and Motithang	5	1	6
	Debsi HSS—Babesa and Changbangdu—Olakha	3	0	3
Total		74	35	109

2.4 Election Preparedness Sessions for Key Stakeholders

To strengthen coordination and the readiness of institutions involved in the elections, the Commission conducted two day Election Preparedness Sessions in Phuentshogling and Thimphu. Led by the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners, the sessions covered election dispute settlement, social media and media coverage, voter education, and the respective responsibilities of key stakeholders.

The first session was conducted in Phuentshogling from 1 to 2 June 2026. Participants included the *Dzongdag* and *Dzongrab* of Chhukha Dzongkhag, the *Dungpa* of Phuentshogling *Dungkhag*, the Executive Secretary of Phuentshogling *Thromde*, officers of the Royal Bhutan Police, and officials from the *Dzongkhag* and *Thromde* Administrations.

The second session was held in Thimphu from 7 to 8 June 2026. Participants included the *Dzongdag* and *Dzongrabs* of Thimphu *Dzongkhag*, the Executive Secretary of Thimphu *Thromde*, the Director of the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority, officers of the Royal Bhutan Police, and officials from the *Dzongkhag*, *Thromde* and BICMA.



Election Preparedness Session, Phuentshogling



Election Preparedness Session, Thimphu

Through presentations, practical exercises, case-based discussions and simulations, participants were familiarized with the legal and procedural aspects of election administration and the mechanisms for resolving election-related disputes. The sessions also provided a platform for participants to seek clarification, discuss operational challenges and coordinate their respective responsibilities. This strengthened institutional coordination and contributed to the overall preparedness for the elections.

2.5 Training of Returning Officers and National Observers

Following the issuance of the notification calling the elections on 11 June 2026, the Commission conducted training for the Returning Officers and National Observers. ECB officials were appointed to these roles for the elections, providing them with practical field experience in administering and observing the electoral process.

The training covered the legal, procedural and operational responsibilities of the two categories of officials, including candidate nomination and scrutiny, campaign monitoring, polling and counting procedures, result management, reporting and the handling of election-related issues. Particular attention was given to maintaining impartiality, ensuring compliance with electoral laws and procedures, and coordinating effectively with other election officials and stakeholders.

The training strengthened the knowledge and operational readiness of the Returning Officers and National Observers and prepared them to discharge their responsibilities effectively. It also contributed to the smooth, transparent and credible conduct of the Fourth Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Elections, 2026.

2.6 Refresher Training for Polling Officials

Refresher training for polling officials was conducted in Thimphu from 12 to 13 July 2026 and in Phuentshogling on 13 July 2026, immediately before poll day. The training was intended to ensure that officials were fully prepared to perform their assigned responsibilities at the respective polling stations.

The sessions covered the roles and responsibilities of polling officials, standards of conduct on poll day, polling and counting procedures, the proper completion and handling of electoral forms, and hands-on operation of Electronic Voting Machines. Officials were also trained in the use of the Election Results and Administration (ERA) System.

Practical exercises and procedural guidance were incorporated into the sessions to reinforce the participants' knowledge and familiarize them with poll-day operations. The training strengthened their operational readiness and confidence in carrying out their duties efficiently and in accordance with the prescribed electoral procedures.

2.7 International Election Visitors' Programme, 2026

The Election Commission of Bhutan hosted a three-member delegation from the Election Commission of India under the International Election Visitors' Programme, 2026. The four-day visit provided the delegation with an opportunity to observe the conduct of the First Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections in Thimphu and Phuentshogling *Thromdes*, while facilitating the exchange of electoral knowledge, experience and good practices between the two Election Management Bodies.

The delegation was led by Shri Maneesh Garg, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, and comprised Shri Krishna Kumar Tiwari, Director, and Shri Ajay Kumar Verma, Secretary. On 14 July 2026, the delegation met with the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners of Bhutan and exchanged views on election administration and bilateral electoral cooperation.

On poll day, 15 July 2026, the delegation visited polling stations and observed polling arrangements and procedures. It also observed the final consolidation of election results, providing the delegation with an overview of the process from polling through to result management.



ECI Delegation Call on with the CEC, ECB



ECI Delegation at the polling stations

The visit provided a valuable platform for sharing institutional experiences and strengthening mutual understanding of electoral practices. It also reinforced the longstanding cooperation between the Election Commission of Bhutan and the Election Commission of India and contributed to the continued exchange of electoral expertise between the two institutions.

3. ELECTION PERIOD

3.1 Calling of Elections and Election Schedule

Pursuant to Section 202 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, the Election Commission of Bhutan issued the notification calling the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026, for *Phuentshogling Thromde* under *Chhukha Dzongkhag* and *Thimphu Thromde* under *Thimphu Dzongkhag*. The notification set out the election schedule and the principal arrangements governing the conduct of the elections.

The election period commenced with the issuance of the notification on 11 June 2026. Polling was conducted on 15 July 2026, followed by the declaration of results on 16 July 2026. The major electoral events and activities are presented chronologically in Table 1.

Table 4: Election Schedule for the Fourth Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Elections, 2026

Date	Event
11 June 2026	Issuance of the election notification; appointment of election officials
13 June 2026	Scheduling of Dhamngoi Zomdu by the Dzongkhag Election Authorities
14 June 2026	Freezing of the electoral rolls pursuant to Section 125 of the Election Act; finalization of the electoral rolls
15 June 2026	Commencement of the selection process through Dhamngoi Zomdu for aspiring Thrompon candidates; commencement of the signature process for aspiring Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa candidates
18 June 2026	Closing of postal ballot registration; finalization of the postal voters' list
20 June 2026	Last date for filing of nominations
21 June 2026	Scrutiny of nominations; commencement of the election campaign
23 June 2026	Last date for withdrawal of candidature at 5:00 p.m.; commencement of the dispatch of postal ballots to registered postal voters
25 June 2026	Public Debate for Thrompon candidates in Phuentshogling
27 June 2026	Public Debate for Thrompon candidates in Thimphu
7–8 July 2026	Operation of Special Early Voting

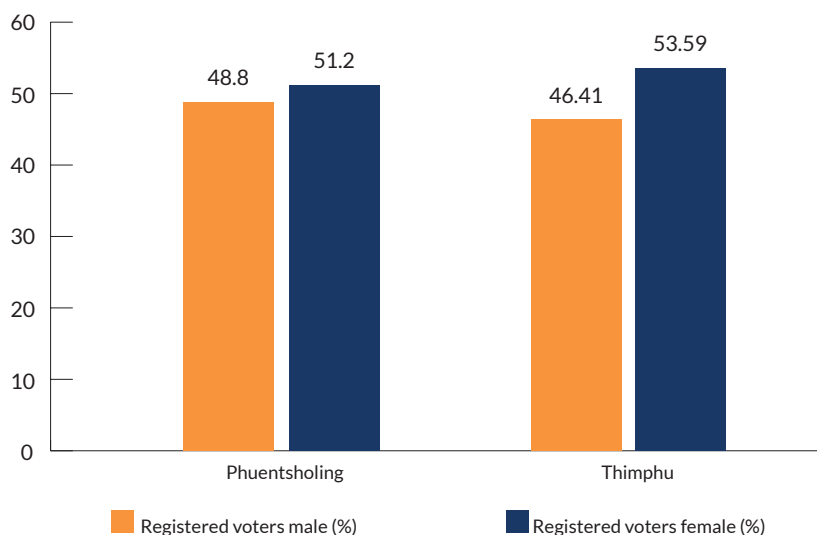
Date	Event
13 July 2026	Commencement of the No-Campaign Period
14 July 2026	Last date for receipt of postal ballots, until 5:00 p.m.
15 July 2026	Poll Day; counting of postal ballots; counting of EVM results following the close of polls
16 July 2026	Declaration of election results and submission of the results to His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo; commencement of the election petition period
20 July 2026	Issuance of election certificates to the elected candidates
29 July 2026	Conclusion of the election petition period

3.2 Voter Registration

Following the freezing and finalization of the electoral rolls, a total of 10,370 voters were registered for the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026. This comprised 4,841 male voters and 5,529 female voters. The final figures included voters added through the supplementary electoral roll issued by the Commission.

Phuentshogling *Thromde* had 1,168 registered voters, comprising 570 males and 598 females, while Thimphu *Thromde* had 9,202 registered voters, comprising 4,271 males and 4,931 females. Female voters constituted 53.32 per cent of the combined electorate, while male voters accounted for 46.68 per cent.

Table 5: Registered Voters by Thromde and Gender



Thromde	Male	Female	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)
Phuentshogling	570	598	1,168	48.80	51.20
Thimphu	4,271	4,931	9,202	46.41	53.59
Total	4,841	5,529	10,370	46.68	53.32

Registration by Voting Method

Registered voters were categorized as EVM voters and postal voters. The postal voter category included voters registered for Special Early Voting and Mobile Voting Booth services. Of the total voters registered, 10,265 voters were registered to vote through EVMs, while 105 were registered under the postal voting category.

Table 6: Registered Voters by Voting Method

Thromde	Postal			EVM		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Phuentshogling (Chhukha)	20	15	35	550	583	1,133
Thimphu (Thimphu)	56	14	70	4,215	4,917	9,132
Total	76	29	105	4,765	5,500	10,265

Constituency-wise Distribution

The registered voters were distributed across six *Demkhongs* in Phuentshogling and seven *Demkhongs* in Thimphu. The constituency-wise distribution is presented below.

Table 7: Constituency wise Distribution of Registered Voters

Thromde	Demkhong	Male	Female	Total
Phuentshogling	Nyedrag	58	63	121
	Pasakha	95	92	187
	Pekarzhing	132	126	258
	Phuentshogling Maed	109	122	231
	Phuentshogling Toed	106	134	240
	Rinchhending	70	61	131
Thimphu	Babesa	558	648	1,206
	Changgangkha	372	414	786
	Changbangdu–Olakha	1,167	1,320	2,487

Thromde	Demkhong	Male	Female	Total
	Dechenchholing–Taba	382	492	874
	Jungshina–Kawajangsa	764	902	1,666
	Motithang	276	326	602
	Norzin	753	828	1,581
Total		4,842	5,528	10,370

3.3 Candidate Nomination and Profile

A total of 18 candidates contested the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026. Eight candidates contested in *Phuentshogling Thromde*, comprising four men and four women, while 10 candidates contested in *Thimphu Thromde*, comprising seven men and three women. All 18 candidates submitted their nomination documents to their respective Returning Officers and were duly accepted following scrutiny. No candidate was disqualified during the scrutiny process.

Of the 13 *Tshogpa Demkhongs*, 12 had candidates contesting the election. The *Tshogpa* post for *Rinchhending Demkhong* in *Phuentshogling* remained vacant as no candidate filed a nomination. All seven *Tshogpa Demkhongs* in *Thimphu* had candidates.

Candidates by Position and Gender

For the two *Thrompon* posts, there were four candidates of which three men and one-woman candidates for the first time. For the 13 *Tshogpa* posts, fourteen candidates of which eight men and six women filed their nomination.

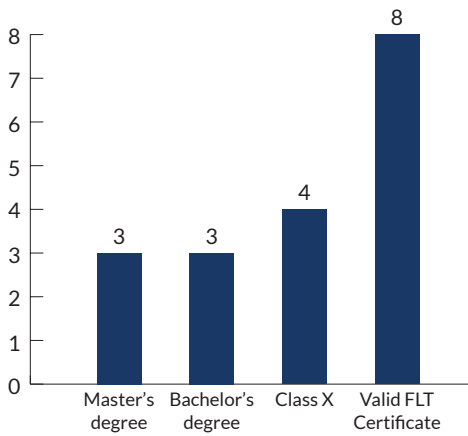
Table 8: Contesting Candidates by Position, Sex and Thromde

Thromde	Thrompon			Tshogpa		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Phuentshogling	2	0	2	2	4	6
Thimphu	1	1	2	6	2	8
Total	3	1	4	8	6	14

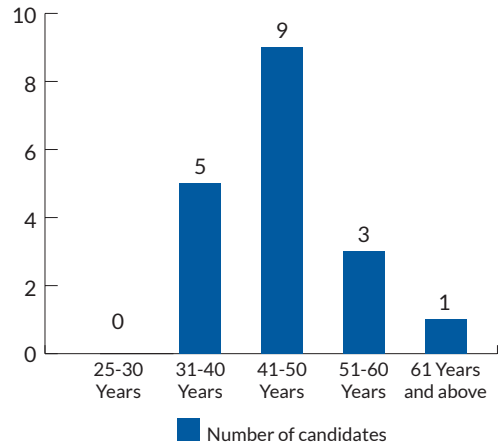
Age and Qualification Profile

The candidates ranged in age from 33 to 61 years. Most were between 41 and 50 years of age. Their educational and eligibility profiles ranged from Class X and valid FLT certification to bachelor's and master's degrees.

Number of Candidates by qualification



Number of Candidates by age group



Profiles of Contesting Candidates

Phuentshogling Thromde

Thrompon Candidates of Phuentshogling Thromde



Deepen Ghallay, Phuentshogling Toed



Tashi Wangchuk, Nyedrag

Tshogpa Candidates of Phuentshogling Thromde



Sangay Khandu
Nyedrag



Pompha Devi Ghalley
Pekarzhing



Ganesh Rai
Pasakha



Sharmila Limbu
Phuentshogling Toed



Chhungku Dawa,
Phuentshogling Maed



Karma Chen
Phuentshogling Maed

Thimphu Thromde

Thrompon Candidates of Thimphu Thromde



Ugyen Dorji, Jungshin
a_Kawajangsa



Sonam Choden, Changgangkha

Tshogpa Candidates of Thimphu Thromde



Dorji Gyeltshen
Age 33/Babesa



Sonam Tshering
Age 45/Chang Bangdu_
Olakha



Rinzin Dorji
Age 51/Chhangangkha



Ugyen
Age 61/Taba_
Dechenchhoeling



Pema Yangzom
Age 49/Motithang



Phub Tshering
Age 52/Norzin



Tandin Pem
Age 36/Jungshina_Kawajangsa



Ugyen Penjor
Age 48/Jungshina_Kawajangsa

3.4 Dhamngoi Zomdu, Common Forums and Public Debates

The Commission facilitated three principal platforms for voter participation and candidate engagement during the election period. The *Dhamngoi Zomdu* enabled voters to participate in selecting aspiring *Thrompon* candidates, while the Common Forums provided all contesting candidates with an opportunity to engage directly with voters. Public Debates were conducted specifically for the nominated *Thrompon* candidates to present their manifestos, pledges and priorities.

Dhamngoi Zomdu

The *Dhamngoi Zomdu* was conducted in the respective *Demkhongs* to enable registered voters to participate in the selection of aspiring candidates for the post of *Thrompon*. The process formed an important part of candidate selection and provided voters with an opportunity to support the aspiring candidate of their choice.

A total of 315 voters participated in the *Dhamngoi Zomdu* across the two *Thromdes*, comprising 162 men and 153 women. Phuentshogling recorded 169 participants, while Thimphu recorded 146.

Table 9: Participation in the Dhamngoi Zomdu

<i>Thromde</i>	<i>Demkhong</i>	Male	Female	Total
Phuentshogling	Nyedrag	25	23	48
	Pasakha	11	8	19
	Pekarzhing	10	3	13
	Phuentshogling Maed	15	8	23
	Phuentshogling Toed	25	33	58
	Rinchhending	5	3	8
Thimphu	Babesa	3	0	3
	Changgangkha	4	5	9
	Changbangdu–Olakha	3	0	3
	Dechenchholing–Taba	4	5	9
	Jungshina–Kawajangsa	50	58	108
	Motithang	5	5	10
	Norzin	2	2	4
Total		162	153	315

Common Forums

The Commission conducted 13 Common Forums, out of which six were in Phuentshogling and seven in Thimphu between 21 June and 12 July 2026. The forums provided a common platform for *Thrompon* and *Tshogpa* candidates to present their pledges and priorities and engage directly with voters in the respective *Demkhongs*.

The Common Forums promoted equal campaign opportunities to enable informed voter choice. To provide further opportunities for voter participation, one supplementary Common Forum was organized in each *Thromde*. Across the regular and supplementary Common Forums, a total attendance of 135 was recorded, comprising 93 men and 42 women.

Table 10: Participation in the Common Forums

<i>Thromde</i>	Common forum	Male	Female	Total
Phuentshogling	Nyedrag	2	2	4
	Pasakha	18	8	26
	Pekarzhing	11	6	17
	Phuentshogling Maed	0	1	1
	Phuentshogling Toed	0	0	0
	Rinchhending	8	1	9
	Supplementary Common Forum	11	6	17
Thimphu	Babesa	0	0	0
	Changgangkha	0	0	0
	Changbangdu–Olakha	14	6	20
	Dechenchholing–Taba	10	4	14
	Jungshina–Kawajangsa	0	0	0
	Motithang	4	2	6
	Norzin	6	4	10
	Supplementary Common Forum	9	2	11
Total		93	42	135

Public Debates

The Commission conducted Public Debates for the nominated *Thrompon* candidates with the support of the Bhutan Broadcasting Service. The debate for Phuentshogling was held on 25 June 2026, followed by the debate for Thimphu on 27 June 2026.

The debates provided a common platform for the candidates to present their manifestos, pledges, priorities and proposed plans, and to address matters concerning their respective *Thromdes*. They enabled voters to hear directly from the candidates, compare their proposals and make informed electoral choices.

4. POLL DAY

Polling for the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026, was conducted on 15 July 2026 across 13 polling stations in Phuentshogling and Thimphu *Thromdes*. Polling was followed by the counting of postal ballots and EVM results in accordance with the prescribed electoral procedures.

4.1 Overall Voter Turnout

Of the 10,370 registered voters, 3518 exercised their right to vote, resulting in an overall voter turnout of 33.92 per cent. The voters comprised 1571 men and 1937 women, representing 44.65 per cent and 55.05 per cent of the total votes cast, respectively.

Of the total votes cast, 3426 were recorded in person through Electronic Voting Machines, 82 were cast through conventional postal ballots and 10 through Special Early Voting. The Special Early Votes were counted together with the postal ballots.

Overall Voter Turnout

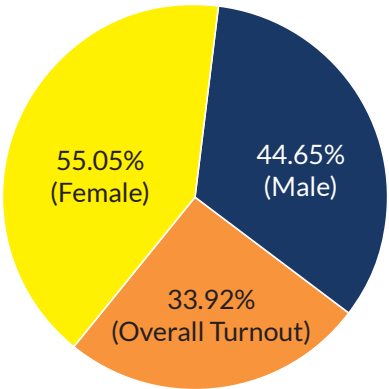


Table 11: Registered Voters and Overall Voter Turnout

Category	Male	Female	Total
Registered voters	4,841	5,529	10,370
Votes cast	1571	1937	3518
Voter turnout rate	32.45%	35.03%	33.92%
Share of votes cast	44.65%	55.05%	100.00%

4.2 EVM Voter Participation by Age Group

Voters between 25 and 45 years constituted the largest share of those who voted, with 1,252 voters or 36.54 per cent of the total votes cast. This was followed by voters between 46 and 60 years, numbering 1,087 or 31.73 per cent.

Voters aged 61 years and above accounted for 807 votes or 23.55 per cent, while those between 18 and 24 years recorded the lowest participation, with 280 votes or 8.17 per cent of the total votes cast.

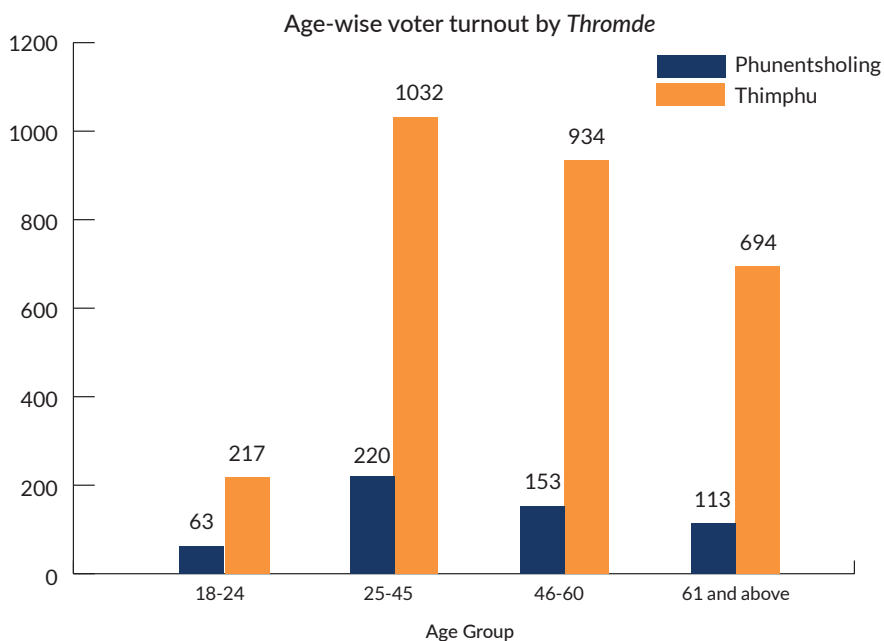


Table 12: Distribution of Votes Cast by Age Group

4.3 Polling Station-wise Voter Participation by Age and Sex

Phuentshogling Thromde												
Polling station	18-24		18-24		25-45		25-45		25-45		46-60	
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	M	F	T	T
College of Science and Technology	3	6	9	11	9	20	6	8			14	13
Nyedrag	3	2	5	13	11	24	6	9			15	12
Pasakha	10	3	13	27	27	54	11	19			30	21
Pekarzhing	15	9	24	36	33	69	13	16			29	18
Phuentshogling HSS	3	4	7	16	19	35	13	16			29	31
Phuentshogling MSS	3	2	5	8	10	18	21	15			36	18
Thimphu Thromde												
Babesa PS	8	19	27	51	74	125	46	75			121	81
Changgangkha MSS	10	12	22	41	54	95	32	49			81	47
Dechenchholing HSS	12	9	21	32	62	94	30	75			105	68
Jigme Losel PS	13	14	27	79	86	165	57	73			130	107
Loselling MSS	29	20	49	120	163	283	82	137			219	209
Motithang HSS	3	3	6	25	37	62	28	38			66	49
Zilukha MSS	36	29	65	76	132	208	84	128			212	133
Total	148	132	280	535	717	1,252	429	658			1,087	807

4.4 Special Early Voting for Persons with Disabilities

Special Early Voting was conducted for Persons with Disabilities on 7 July 2026 in Thimphu and 8 July 2026 in Phuentshogling. The facility was provided to enable eligible voters with disabilities to exercise their right to vote in a convenient, accessible and inclusive manner.

The polling teams followed the prescribed electoral procedures, including verification of voter identity, maintenance of ballot secrecy and compliance with the established polling protocols.

A total of 10 voters with disabilities availed themselves of the Special Early Voting facility. In Phuentshogling, eight voters comprising six men and two women cast their votes through the facility, while two women availed themselves of the facility in Thimphu.

Table 14: Special Early Voting Turnout by Thromde and Sex

Thromde	Male	Female	Total
Phuentshogling	6	2	8
Thimphu	0	2	2
Total	6	4	10

4.5 Postal Ballots Received and Scrutinized

A total of 95 voters were registered under the conventional postal ballot category, of whom 82 returned their postal ballots within the prescribed period. During the scrutiny of Envelope A, 74 were found valid, while eight were rejected for not meeting the prescribed requirements.

Phuentshogling received 26 postal ballots, of which 25 passed the scrutiny of Envelope A and one was rejected. Thimphu received 56 postal ballots, of which 49 were found valid and seven were rejected.

Table 13: Receipt and Scrutiny of Postal Ballots

Thromde	Registered (M/F/T)	Received (M/F/T)	Valid Envelope A (M/F/T)	Invalid Envelope A (M/F/T)
Phuentshogling	14/13/27	13/13/26	13/12/25	0/1/1
Thimphu	56/12/68	45/11/56	39/10/53	6/1/7
Total	70/25/95	58/24/82	52/22/74	6/2/8

Note: M = Male, F = Female and T = Total.

4.6 Election-Related Incidents

The Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026, concluded without any formal election disputes. Two election-related incidents that surfaced were addressed administratively by the relevant election authorities without developing into formal election disputes.

In Chhukha *Dzongkhag*, the *Dzongkhag* Election Dispute Settlement Body directed an incumbent Member of the National Assembly to discontinue and postpone a constituency visit and issued a notice in relation to the matter. In a separate incident in Thimphu *Thromde*, the Returning Officer sought an explanation from a *Tshogpa* candidate for failing to participate in the supplementary Common Forum.

5. ELECTION RESULTS

Following the completion of polling, counting and result consolidation, the Election Commission of Bhutan declared the results of the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections on 16 July 2026, in accordance with Section 457 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

Deepen Ghallay was elected as the *Thrompon* of Phuentshogling, while Ugyen Dorji was elected as the *Thrompon* of Thimphu. Twelve *Tshogpas* which includes five from Phuentshogling and seven from Thimphu were also elected. The *Tshogpa* post for Rinchhending *Demkhong* in Phuentshogling remained vacant as no candidate had filed a nomination.

5.1 Results for Phuentshogling Thromde

Eight candidates contested the elections in Phuentshogling *Thromde*: two for the post of *Thrompon* and six for the posts of *Tshogpa*. Deepen Ghallay was elected as *Thrompon*, while five *Tshogpas* were elected from Nyedrag, Pasakha, Pekarzhing, Phuentshogling Maed and Phuentshogling Toed *Demkhongs*.

Table 15: Election Results for Phuentshogling Thromde

Candidate	Post	Demkhong	EVM votes	Postal ballot votes	Total votes	Result
Deepen Ghallay	<i>Thrompon</i>	Phuentshogling	348	17	365	Elected
Tashi Wangchuk	<i>Thrompon</i>	Phuentshogling	201	16	217	Not elected
Chhungku Dawa	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Phuentshogling Maed	37	8	45	Not elected
Karma Chen	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Phuentshogling Maed	40	12	52	Elected
Ganesh Rai	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Pasakha	112	4	116	Elected
Pompha Devi Ghalley	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Pekarzhing	90	0	90	Elected
Sangay Khandu	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Nyedrag	54	2	56	Elected
Sharmila Limbu	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Phuentshogling Toed	96	4	100	Elected

5.2 Results for Thimphu Thromde

Ten candidates contested the elections in Thimphu Thromde: two for the post of *Thrompon* and eight for the post of *Tshogpa*. Ugyen Dorji was elected as *Thrompon*, while seven *Tshogpas* were elected from the seven *Demkhongs*.

Table 16: Election Results for Thimphu Thromde

Candidate	Post	Demkhong	EVM votes	Postal ballot votes	Total votes	Result
Sonam Choden	<i>Thrompon</i>	Thimphu	1,058	24	1,082	Not elected
Ugyen Dorji	<i>Thrompon</i>	Thimphu	1,819	27	1,846	Elected
Dorji Gyeltshen	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Babesa	318	5	323	Elected
Pema Yangzom	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Motithang	165	1	166	Elected
Phub Tshering	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Norzin	399	3	402	Elected
Sonam Tshering	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Changbangdu–Olakha	722	22	744	Elected
Rinzin Dorji	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Changgangkha	231	3	234	Elected
Tandin Pem	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Jungshina–Kawajangsa	183	5	188	Not elected
Ugyen Penjor	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Jungshina–Kawajangsa	435	8	443	Elected
Ugyen	<i>Tshogpa</i>	Dechenchhoeling_Taba	271	4	275	Elected

6. CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE AND *THROMPON* MANIFESTOS

Campaign expenditure for the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026, was regulated in accordance with the Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, the Guidelines for Monitoring Campaign Expenditures of Candidates for Elections to Local Government, 2021, and the relevant provisions of the election notification. These instruments prescribed the permissible areas of expenditure, reporting and disclosure requirements, monitoring and audit procedures, and the maximum expenditure ceiling applicable to candidates.

6.1 Campaign Expenditure

In accordance with Section 59 of the Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, and subsequent notification for the Fourth *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* Elections, 2026, the campaign expenditure of a candidate was subject to a maximum ceiling of Nu. 75,000. Candidates intending to incur campaign expenditure were required to operate a dedicated campaign bank account, maintain supporting records and submit their election returns within the prescribed period. Candidates who did not intend to incur any expenditure were required to submit an undertaking through Public Election Fund Form No. 13C.

Permissible expenditure included approved expenses relating to campaign materials, transportation, vehicle hire, subsistence allowances, venues and communication. Candidates were required to maintain itemized records and supporting bills, as well as logbooks for vehicles hired for campaign purposes.

The National Observers also served as Expenditure Observers and monitored candidate expenditure during the campaign period. They reviewed expenditure records and reconciled periodic reports with the final election returns submitted by the candidates. The final returns were subsequently scrutinized and audited by the Commission.

6.2 Election Returns by Candidates

Candidates who incurred campaign expenditure were required to submit their Election Returns, while those who did not intend to incur expenditure were required to submit signed undertakings to that effect. The returns and undertakings submitted by the 18 candidates were reviewed by the Commission against the permissible campaign expenditure ceiling of Nu. 75,000 per candidate.

Of the 18 candidates, two candidates, both of whom contested for the post of *Thrompon* in Phuentshogling, reported campaign expenditure. The remaining 16 candidates, representing approximately 89 per cent of all candidates, submitted

signed undertakings declaring that they would not incur campaign expenditure.

Deepen Ghallay reported an expenditure of Nu. 8,750, representing approximately 12 per cent of the permissible ceiling, while Tashi Wangchuk reported Nu. 6,650, representing approximately 9 per cent. The average expenditure reported by the two candidates was Nu. 7,700.

In Phuentshogling, six of the eight candidates submitted undertakings declaring that they would not incur campaign expenditure. In Thimphu, all 10 candidates, including both *Thrompon* and *Tshogpa* candidates, submitted such undertakings. Accordingly, all *Tshogpa* candidates across the two *Thromdes* reported nil campaign expenditure.

Based on the submitted election returns, none of the candidates exceeded the permissible campaign expenditure ceiling. The highest utilization was approximately 12 per cent of the ceiling, and no action relating to excess campaign expenditure was required.

The election returns and undertaking reported by the candidates is presented in the following tables.

Table 17: Campaign Returns of Phuentshogling Candidates

Sl. No.	Candidate	Post	Demkhong	Declared expenditure (Nu.)	Ceiling utilized	Remarks
1	Deepen Ghallay	Thrompon	Phuentshogling Toed	8,750.00	12%	Election Return submitted on 15 July 2026
2	Tashi Wangchuk	Thrompon	Nyedrag	6,650.00	9%	Election Return submitted on 16 July 2026
3	Chhungku Dawa	Tshogpa	Phuentshogling Maed	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
4	Sangay Khandu	Tshogpa	Nyedrag	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
5	Ganesh Rai	Tshogpa	Pasakha	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
6	Pompha Devi Ghalley	Tshogpa	Pekarzhing	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
7	Karma Chen	Tshogpa	Phuentshogling Maed	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
8	Sharmila Limbu	Tshogpa	Phuentshogling Toed	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026

Table 18: Campaign Returns of Thimphu Candidates

Sl. No.	Candidate	Post	Demkhong	Declared expenditure (Nu.)	Ceiling utilized	Remarks
1	Sonam Choden	Thrompon	Changgangkha	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
2	Ugyen Dorji	Thrompon	Jungshina–Kawajangsa	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
3	Sonam Tshering	Tshogpa	Changbangdu–Olakha	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
4	Tandin Pem	Tshogpa	Jungshina–Kawajangsa	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
5	Ugyen Penjor	Tshogpa	Jungshina–Kawajangsa	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
6	Pema Yangzom	Tshogpa	Motithang	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
7	Ugyen	Tshogpa	Dechencholing–Taba	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
8	Dorji Gyeltshen	Tshogpa	Babesa	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
9	Rinzin Dorji	Tshogpa	Changgangkha	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026
10	Phub Tshering	Tshogpa	Norzin	0.00	0%	Undertaking not to incur campaign expenditure submitted on 22 June 2026

6.3 Compliance and Observations

The Public Election Fund Division scrutinized the Election Returns and undertakings submitted by all *Thrompon* and *Tshogpa* candidates. The returns were cross-checked against the fortnightly expenditure reports submitted by the National Observers serving as Expenditure Observers, in accordance with the Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, and the Guidelines for Monitoring Campaign Expenditures of Candidates for Elections to Local Government, 2021.

The review confirmed that all candidates submitted the required returns or undertakings within the stipulated timeframe. The two candidates who reported campaign expenditure remained within the permissible ceiling of Nu. 75,000, with the highest utilization being approximately 12 per cent. Accordingly, no action relating to excess campaign expenditure was required.

6.4 Review of *Thrompon* Manifestos and Campaign Pledges

In accordance with Section 6.1 of the Rules on Election Conduct in the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2026, the Commission constituted an Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC) to review the manifestos and campaign pledges submitted by candidates contesting for the post of *Thrompon* from 19th to 21st June 2026. The Committee assessed whether the pledges were realistic, lawful, consistent with the mandate of a *Thromde*, aligned with national policies and supported by appropriate financial and institutional considerations. The Committee upon completion of the review presented their findings to the Commission for review and endorsement.

Following the approval, the candidates were permitted to campaign on their approved pledges during Common Forums, Public Debates, media interviews and other authorized campaign activities. The approved manifestos are available on the ECB website www.ecb.bt.

7. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The First Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections marked an important milestone in Bhutan's continuing democratic journey. The elections in Phuentshogling and Thimphu *Thromdes* were conducted in a peaceful, orderly and credible manner, resulting in the election of two *Thrompons* and 12 *Tshogpas*. The absence of formal election disputes, together with the administrative resolution of two election-related incidents, reflected the effectiveness of the established electoral mechanisms.

The elections also introduced several important measures aimed at strengthening candidate readiness for office and digitalization of election administration and results compilation. These included the five-year work-experience requirement for aspiring *Thrompon* candidates, the revised Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Test, the review of *Thrompon* manifestos and campaign pledges, and the first operational deployment of the Election Results and Administration System. The monitoring and scrutiny of Election Returns further confirmed compliance with the prescribed campaign expenditure requirements.

Voter education programmes, *Dhamngoi Zomdus*, Common Forums and Public Debates provided opportunities for voters to participate in candidate selection, engage with contesting candidates and make informed electoral choices. The provision of Special Early Voting for Persons with Disabilities also reinforced the Commission's commitment to making the electoral process more accessible and inclusive.

The introduction of the ERA System marked a significant step towards the digitalization of election and result administration. The simulations, training programmes and field experience generated through its initial deployment enabled the Commission to assess its performance, address operational challenges and identify areas for further refinement. The experience underscored the importance of institutional coordination, timely communication, trained election personnel and reliable election technology.

The observations and feedback received from election officials, candidates, voters and stakeholders will inform preparations for the Second Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections, scheduled for early 2027. Particular attention will continue to be given to strengthening voter education and participation, improving accessibility, refining the ERA System, enhancing the capacity of election officials and ensuring the accuracy and consistency of electoral data.

Released to coincide with National Voters' Day on 15 September 2026, this report serves both as an official record of the elections and as an expression of the Commission's continuing commitment to transparency, informed citizenship and the strengthening of democracy and local governance in Bhutan.

8. GLOSSARY & ACRONYMS

8.1 Glossary

Term/abbreviation	Meaning
<i>Chiwog</i>	Sub-block
<i>Dhamngoi Zomdu</i>	Nomination meeting
<i>Demkhong</i>	Electoral constituency
<i>Dzongkhag</i>	District
<i>Throm</i>	Town
<i>Thromde</i>	Municipality
<i>Thrompon</i>	Mayor
<i>Tshogpa</i>	Elected representative

8.2 Acronyms

ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
BICMA	Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority
DzEO	<i>Dzongkhag</i> Electoral Officer
ECB	Election Commission of Bhutan
EOD	Election Operations Division
ERA System	Election Results and Administration System
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
FLT	Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Test
IEVP	International Election Visitors' Programme
NO	National Observer
PB	Postal Ballot
PwD	Person with Disability
PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
RO	Returning Officer
SEV	Special Early Voting
VPIC	Voter Photo Identity Card