

ELECTIONS 2018: AN ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE OF PTI IN SARGODHA

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the electoral politics of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the influential district of Sargodha, Punjab, during the 2018 general elections. Given its significance as a crucial electoral arena, the results of Sargodha reflected wider national patterns and voter attitudes. This research commences by providing a retrospective of the political environment in the district, emphasizing election results and the demographic changes that impacted voter conduct in 2018. Drawing on primary sources by using quantitative data obtained from election results, this article analyses the vote share of PTI in relation to its primary rivals, namely PML-N and PPP. While the secondary sources including newspapers and articles used for qualitative analysis. This analysis examines the elements that have contributed to the electoral politics of PTI, such as the party's campaign tactics, grassroots mobilization initiatives, and the influence of national leadership narratives advocated by Imran Khan. The results indicated a notable change in partisan affiliation, influenced by dissatisfaction with conventional political parties and a strong desire for transformation. The attraction of PTI was primarily driven by key concerns such as selections of candidates, low public support to candidates and strong footholds of other political parties which strongly resonated with the electorate's need. In addition, the internal party disputes and post-election governance expectations.

Keywords: Electoral Performance, PTI, PML-N, PPP, Sargodha.

INTRODUCTION

This research examines the performance of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf during the General Elections 2018 in Sargodha District. During the elections, numerous political parties vied for seats in both the National and Provincial Assemblies so the chapter elucidates the competition and animosity between several significant political parties, with a specific focus on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). The chapter provides crucial information about voting behavior of public of Sargodha as well as elucidates the level of voter engagement in elections.

It also examines the political campaigns, emerging political tendencies, affiliations, and demographic characteristics and other variables that significantly affected voters. The fluctuating trends in voter engagement which offered a comprehensive growth of PTI during the 2018 elections and fall of

PML-N is discussed. Despite facing challenges, the PML-N retained in multiple constituencies so this chapter overall presents the findings of the 2018 election.

An Outline of Elections 2018

Pakistan conducted General Elections for the National and Provincial Assemblies on July 25, 2018 just after completion of PML-N's Government. PML-N and PTI were the main rivalries since Tsunami March of PTI in 2014. The March, also known as the Azadi movement, took place from 14 August to 17 December 2014 in Islamabad. PTI orchestrated the march to express their opposition to Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif as there were allegations of systematic election manipulation by the PML-N during the 2013 general election. As a result, the election was ordered to be held again, but PTI managed to

secure one seat out of the four, so Imran Khan led a march from Lahore to Islamabad, which involved a group of demonstrators in Bahawalpur on June 27, 2014 (Masood, 2014). On December 16, Peshawar school massacre led the termination of the protest on 17 December (Dawn, 2014). The government of PML-N completed its five years term with two Prime Ministers, Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and ultimately announced new elections in 2018.

After 2018 General Elections, the PTI established a coalition government, with the help of AML (Independent, 2018), BAP (Jang, 2018), MQM (Tribune, 2018), BNP, (Mengal), GDA (Dawn, 2018), JWP (Dawn, 2018) and 9 independent candidates, in the National Assembly. In provinces, PPP maintained its control over Sindh, while PTI held majority in KP. The Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) emerged as the largest party in Balochistan while in Punjab, PML-N won the most number of seats, but the PTI became the largest party after independent members joined the PTI to form a government (Dawn, PTI, PML-N go head to head for control of Punjab–Pakistan, 2018).

Elections Results of National Assembly’s Seats

Before elections, the delineation of seats due to legislative changes and legal disputes was occurred. The Election Act 2017 was introduced for delimitation process in accordance with the Delimitation Act of 1974 (Qureshi, Shaikh, & Qureshi, 2022). The goal of these amendments was to modify the electoral constituency in response to demographic changes, but this policy faced revisions due to legal complications. In the meanwhile, Supreme Court intervened and provided guidance on the delimitation procedure (Khokhar, 2023) and Election Commission resolved the issue before elections.

These elections had significance as it were the country’s second successive democratic transition of power. The Sargodha city had 5 constituencies of National Assembly and none of them was proved advantageous for PTI, as PML-N had secured all seats. However, it is noteworthy that PTI was runner up in all constituencies and the winnings of PML-N were with lower margins. The election outcomes of the National Assembly in constituencies of Sargodha are discussed here.

NA-88 Sargodha-I

In NA-88, 284977 voters casted their ballots in which 277025 votes were counted as genuine, while 7952 votes were disqualified. This constituency witnessed the winning of Mukhtar Ahmad Malik of PML-N with 130302 votes. Malik Mukhtar was the winning candidate in elections 2002, 2008 and 2013 on Provincial Assembly’s Seat. He was the son of Dr. Ijaz Ahmad Bharath, who was the winning candidate on provincial Assembly’s seat in 1988 and 1996 elections.

Previously, in this constituency Pir Muhammad Amin Ul Hasnat Shah of PML-N was the winner. Mukhtar Ahmad got only 13882 more votes than PTI’s Nadeem Afzal Gondal as he got 116420 votes. Nadeem Afzal was the member of PPP in 2013 elections and he was at second number in the same constituency with a lot of difference of votes from the winner, Pir Muhammad Amin Ul Hasnat Shah. There was lead of Pir Amin with 90074 votes but this time the lead was only with 13882 votes. This factor was enough to understand that the tag of PTI had uplifted the candidate, Nadeem Afzal Gondal. Later on, Nadeem Afzal was appointed as spokesperson of Prime Minister Imran Khan (News, 2019) and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Coordination (Dawn, Gondal appointed Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Coordination, 2019). The elections results of this area were as follows:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Mukhtar Ahmad Malik	PML-N	130302
2	Nadeem Afzal Gondal	PTI	116420
3	Izhar Ul Hassan	PPP	12784
4	Asif Ali Chaudhary	TLP	11381
5	Muhammad Hanif	MMA	3838
6	Rao Tahir Musharaf Khan	Independent	2500

Source: ECP

NA-89 Sargodha-II

The outcomes of the NA-89 resulted in the victory of Mohsin Nawaz Ranjha, the candidate from PML-N, who got 116275 votes. He was

winner in 2013 elections from the same constituency and he got opportunity to serve as Minister for Parliamentary Affairs in Shahid Khaqan’s Cabinet (Secretariat). Mohsin Ranjha belonged to the famous Ranjha family of Sargodha and his father was also remained a member of Punjab Assembly after winning of elections 1985, 1990, and 1997.

The winning of Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha was not an easy task as he had a strong rival, Usama Ahmed Mela, from the famous Mela family of Sargodha. Usman ran for the elections on PTI seat and got 113975 votes. The winning margin was as low as Mohsin Ranjha got only 2300 more votes than Usama Mela. Usama Mela was the son of Ghias Ahmad Mela who had won this seat in elections 1997, 2002 and 2008.

In this region, 262333 persons actually participated in the election, but 255451 votes were accepted, while 6882 votes were rejected.

The overall results were:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Mohsin Nawaz Ranjha	PML-N	116275
2	Usama Ahmed Mela	PTI	113975
3	Muhammad Aslam	PPP	19313
4	Rakhshinda Nawaz	Independent	2540
5	Ali Nawaz Mela	Independent	2162
6	Ch. Altaf Hussain Ranjha	Independent	1186

Source: ECP

NA-90 Sargodha-III

The voters of NA-90 had casted 223620 votes with 220303 valid and 3317 invalid votes. In this constituency, PML-N’s, Chaudhary Muhammad Hamid Hameed got 94053 votes and won with only 8514 votes than the runner up, PTI’s Dr. Nadia Aziz, who got 85539 votes. Hamid Hameed was the winner in elections 2013 from the same constituency. Chaudhary Abdul Hameed, the father of Chaudhary Hamid Hameed, firstly won on Provincial Assembly’s seat in 1988. After that he had won in elections 1990 and 1993 as MPA, while in 1997 he ran for MNA’s election and won from Sargodha.

PTI had strengthened its foots in this constituency too, as in elections 2013 Barrister

Abdullah Mumtaz Kahloon of PTI was runner up and he got 36138 votes, which were 96530 votes less than the winner, Hamid Hameed. In elections 2018, Dr. Nadia Aziz lessened this gap to 8514 votes only. Nadia Aziz was elected as MPA in 2002 elections and 2013 elections. This constituency had also witnessed the winning of Tasneem Ahmad Quraishi in 2002 and 2008, which came at 3rd number in 2013 and 2018 elections. The details of votes of electable are given in the following table.

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Ch. Muhammad Hamid Hameed	PML-N	94053
2	Nadia Aziz	PTI	85539
3	Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi	PPP	21378
4	Muhammad Arshad Shahid	MMA	8076
5	Zubair Tariq	TLP	4254
6	Rai Muhammad Muneer Khral	AAT	1874
7	Ahmad Khan	Independent	1635
8	Jamal Din	Independent	1576
9	Sajjad Hussain	Independent	753
10	Erum Hamid	Independent	529
11	Muhammad Mumtaz Akhtar	Independent	271
12	Hamza Mateen Qureshi	Independent	178
13	Muhammad Aslam	Independent	85
14	Tahir Farooq	Independent	54
15	Aasiah Maqbool	PWP	48

Source: ECP

NA-91 Sargodha-IV

With 110654 votes, PML-N candidate Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti emerged victorious in NA-91. The results were one of the many contentious seats, caused a sensation when PTI’s Chaudhry Aamir Sultan Cheema came at second received 110567 votes, while 6643 ballots stood void. It was the most stunning constituency as the winning difference was only 87 votes (Dawn, Rejected votes exceed victory margin in many constituencies, 2018).

Interestingly, the constituency witnessed changes in results in 2019, when on 20 polling stations ECP ordered re-polling on petition of Aamir Sultan Cheema as he provided evidence of

ballot tampering (Islamabad, 2019). After re-polling, Cheema got 114662 votes, while Zulfiqar Bhatti got 107971 votes, so Aamir Sultan Cheema stood winner (Pakistan, 2019). After successful no confidence motion against Imran Khan in 2022 (Iqbal, Shahzad, Ali, Aslam, & Asif, 2023), several MNAs had resigned from National Assembly and Aamir Cheema was one of them.

Surprisingly, once again Zulfiqar Bhatti stood winner after winning case in Supreme Court. The case was filed by Zulfiqar Bhatti as he contended that the ECP had improperly used its authority to mandate re-elections in the constituency. A three-person bench led by CJP Umar Ata Bandial heard the case where Aamir Sultan Cheema's legal representative said that the results of 20 polling stations where there was evidence of vote fraud were reopened by the ECP, and his client won. However, after the hearing, Court ordered for declaration of Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti victory on Sargodha seat and rejected the ECP's request for re-polling (News, SC declares PMLN's Bhatti winner from NA-91 Sargodha, 2022).

Both candidates had strong footholds in the constituency as Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti was the winner in elections 2013 too. However, the legacy of Aamir Sultan Cheema was much stronger than Zulfiqar Bhatti. Aamir Sultan was the winner as MPA in elections 1988, 1990, 1997, 2002, 2008, and 2013, which shows his consecutive winnings. Aamir also remained Minister of Irrigation in Punjab Government during Musharraf rule (Rasul, 2006). His father, Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema, was also remained MNA in seven consecutive terms after elections 1985, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1997, 2002, 2008, and 2013. Before completion his 2013 term, he passed away due to cardiac arrest (Dawn, Seven-time MNA Anwar Cheema passes away, 2016). Aamir Ali's wife, Mrs. Tanzeela Aamir Cheema, was also elected in 2002 elections on Women's seat (Pakistan N. A.).

The candidates who ran in for elections 2018 in the said constituency were:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti	PML-N	110654
2	Chaudhary Aamir Sultan Cheema	PTI	110567
3	Hafiz Talha Saeed	AAT	11414
4	Tariq Mehmood	PPP	8047
5	Hafiz Farhan Ahmad	MMA	7464
6	Muhammad Ali	Independent	5198
7	Muhammad Shahzad	Independent	4122
8	Adil Rahman	Independent	2759
9	Nadeem Awan	TLI	2427
10	Khawar Javed	Independent	1336
11	Muhammad Sarwar Bhatti	Independent	822
12	Chaudhary Mubashir Ahmad	APML-J	756
13	Najaf Ali Bhatti	Independent	578

Source: ECP

NA-92 Sargodha-V

In NA-92, 264784 voters were appeared to cast their votes. The 255066 votes stood valid, while 9718 votes were rejected. The results showed PML-N's Syed Javed Hussain's wining with 97266 votes. This winning was meaningful as there was a strong hold of Pirs of Sial Sharif but Sahibzada Naeemuddin Sialvi, who contested on PTI seat, was a runner up with 65741 votes. A change from other constituencies was that the Independent candidate Zafar Ahmed also got a huge number of votes as 57064. The overall votes attained by electable were as follow:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Syed Javed Hussain	PML-N	97266
2	Sahibzada Naeemuddin Sialvi	PTI	65741
3	Zafar Ahmed	Independent	57064
4	Muhammad Jamshid	PPP	16851
5	Muhammad Azhar Abbas	TLP	7524

6	Syed Ahmad Mehdi Ali Shah	Independent	5031
7	Syed Muhammad Raza Ali Shah	Independent	3695
8	Gul Muhammad Shah	Independent	905
9	Shehnaz Bibi	MMA	621
10	Ansar Abbas Baloch	Independent	236
11	Muhammad Shafqat Hayat Khan	Independent	132

Source: ECP

Elections Results of Provincial Assembly's Seats

Sargodha, after delimitation lost 1 Provincial Assembly's seat as there were total 11 constituencies in 2013, but after delimitation, the city had 10 seats. The elections results showed the wining of PML-N on 5 seats and PTI on 5 too. The election results of Punjab Assembly's constituencies were as follows:

PP-72 Sargodha-I

In Bhera, PP-72 was existed in which 144115 individuals participated in election by casting their votes in which 140230 were accepted, with an additional 3885 votes being rejected. The results indicated the winning of PML-N candidate, Shoaib Ahmad Malik, garnering 64905 votes. Shoaib Malik was the winner in elections 2002, while the runner up Hassan Inam Piracha of PTI got 56989 votes. The difference was 11916 votes that were 25874 in elections 2013. The least difference indicated that the PTI had worked effectively in elections 2018. Hassan Inam Piracha is the son of Inam-ul-Haq Piracha, which was elected as MNA in 2002. The detail of votes casted in elections 2018 is as follow:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Sohaib Ahmad Malik	PML-N	64905
2	Hassan Inam Piracha	PTI	56989
3	Muhammad Rizwan	PPP	5123
4	Aqeel Ahmad	TLP	4071
5	Ghulam Mustafa	Independent	3198

6	Shafiq Ahmad	Independent	2200
7	Zubair Ahmad Gondal	MMA	2197
8	Shahid Imran	TLI	696
9	Gulraiz Afzal Gondal	Independent	345
10	Muhammad Hanif	Independent	215
11	Muhammad Nadeem	Independent	203
12	Jabir Hussain Shah	NP	69

Source: ECP

PP-73 Sargodha-II

The winner of PP-73, Bhalwal was PML-N's Yasir Zaffar Sandho, who won with 15691 votes by getting 45778 votes while Khaliq Dad of PTI got 30087 votes. Khaliq Dad was also runner up in elections 2013 as a candidate of PPPP while the winner was Ghulam Dastagir Lak. In 2018 elections, Ghulam Dastagir Lak ran as independent candidate and got only 6728 votes by securing 6th position in the constituency. The results of 2013 and 2018 elections indicated that the voters of constituency were in favor of PML-N. This indicated the party's strong footholds as PML-N got more than 35% of total 135030 casted valid votes. The details of votes are as follow:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Yasir Zaffar Sandho	PML-N	45778
2	Khaliq Dad	PTI	30087
3	Chaudhry Sohail Akhtar	Independent	17738
4	Ijaz Sherazi	PPP	11073
5	Zaffar Abbas	Independent	8330
6	Ghulam Dastagir Lak	Independent	6728
7	Moyassar Ahmad	MMA	4717
8	Muhammad Ijaz	TLP	3826
9	Sohail Mushtaq	Independent	3587
10	Muhammad Sarfraz	TLI	981
11	Saqib Hussain	Independent	836
12	Abdul Rehman Azam	Independent	390
13	Bilal Ahmed	AAT	334
14	Zahid Iqbal Ghauri	Independent	244

15	Mukhtar Ahmad Sialvi	Independent	185
16	Muhammad Ramzan	NP	111

Source: ECP

PP-74 Sargodha-III

The constituency of Kot-Momin, PP-74 had a total of 124762 persons who exercised their right to vote, resulting in 121378 legal ballots and 3384 invalid ballots. In this electoral region, Mian Manazar Hussain Ranjha of PML-N secured 51526 votes, winning with a margin of just 1144 votes over the runner-up, Muhammad Ansar Iqbal of PTI, who received 50382 votes. Manazar Hussain Ranjha was also winner in elections 2013 from Sargodha IV.

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Mian Manazar Hussain Ranjha	PML-N	51526
2	Muhammad Ansar Iqbal	PTI	50382
3	Mian Mazhar Ali Ranjha	PPP	11860
4	Sikandar Hayat Ranjha	TLP	5251
5	Muntaha Afzaal	Independent	1804
6	Tasleem Akhter	MMA	291
7	Sardar Shokat Ali Safdar	Independent	223

Source: ECP

PP-75 Sargodha-IV

The candidate from PTI, Muhammad Muneeb Sultan Cheema, received 63356 votes, resulting in the victory for the party. Muhammad Umar Kalyar of PML-N collected a total of 50477 votes. The demarcation of constituencies changed Sargodha V to Sargodha IV. The said constituency was the fortress of Cheema family as previously Aamir Sultan Cheema, the father of Muneeb Sultan Cheema was won frequently in elections in elections 1988, 1990, 1997, 2002, 2008, and 2013. His grandfather, Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema, was also remained MNA in seven consecutive terms, while his mother, Mrs. Tanzeela Aamir Cheema, was also elected in 2002 elections on Women's seat. Muhammad Umar Kalyar of PML-N was the new name in

electoral race of Sargodha, but he had attained a lot of votes, which was no doubt the result of party affiliation. Another positive aspect of this area was that the independent member also got a big number of votes, which determined the tough competition between the electable. There were only five candidates in this constituency, and the total number votes were 137319 votes. In these votes, 3364 votes were rejected, while 133955 votes were considered valid.

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Muhammad Muneeb Sultan Cheema	PTI	63356
2	Muhammad Umar Kalyar	PML-N	50477
3	Ikraam Ul Haq	Independent	19371
4	Khawar Javed	Independent	531
5	Moazam Ali Goraiya	AAT	219

Source: ECP

PP-76 Sargodha-V

In PP-76 Sargodha V, previously Sargodha VIII, the results were again in favor of PTI as Chaudhary Faisal Farooq Cheema won by taking 60707 votes against the PML-N's Kamil Shameel, who got 53463 votes. In the same constituency, Faisal Farooq Cheema won in elections 2013 as an independent candidate from PML-N's Kamil Shameel. Faisal Farooq Cheema was also winner of elections 2002 as an MPA Punjab. A total of 140341 votes were recorded with 2998 void votes.

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Chaudhary Faisal Farooq Cheema	PTI	60707
2	Kamil Shameel	PML-N	53463
3	Rana Muhammad Abbas	PPP	9546
4	Ilyas Mehmood	MMA	4692
5	Qasim Ali Sayyed	TLI	2278
6	Muhammad Sarwar Bhatti	Independent	2250
7	Muhammad Rafique	TLP	2065
8	Moazzam Ali Goraya	AAT	1727

9	Muhammad Ali	Independent	193
10	Chaudhari Amjad Pervaiz Gujjar	Independent	178
11	Sajjad Haider	Independent	139
12	Tariq Mahmood Warraich	Independent	95

Source: ECP

PP-77 Sargodha-VI

This precinct belonged to Sargodha city where PML-N had strong footings. The elections 2013 and 2018 witnessed the victory of PML-N's candidates, while the Sargodha VI was same constituency in both elections. Dr. Liaqat Ali Khan, PML-N's representative, received the highest number of votes, 58405 from the runner up. The PTI candidate Muhammad Iqbal got 37878 votes. The number of votes shows the high difference of votes between both candidates. However, in these elections PTI's candidate got much votes than the Chaudhary Asif Ali Bagga, who was candidate in elections 2013. In this constituency, 115541 ballots stood right and 1544 ballots stood wrong. The overall candidates were 20 and their secured votes are shown in the table:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	<u>Liaqat Ali Khan</u>	<u>PML N</u>	58405
2	<u>Muhammad Iqbal</u>	<u>PTI</u>	37878
3	<u>Mateen Ahmad Qureshi</u>	<u>PPPP</u>	8168
4	<u>Hafiz Abdul Rauf</u>	<u>Independent</u>	4338
5	<u>Shabbir Hussain</u>	<u>AATPK</u>	2191
6	<u>Sohail Zafar Bajwa</u>	<u>TLP</u>	2073
7	<u>Muhammad Aslam</u>	<u>Independent</u>	612
8	<u>Hamza Mateen Qureshi</u>	<u>Independent</u>	476
9	<u>Zulfiqar Ali Baig</u>	<u>Independent</u>	390
10	<u>Noor Ilahi</u>	<u>GDA</u>	276
11	<u>Abdul Rasheed</u>	<u>Independent</u>	191
12	<u>Hassan Saleem Dhillon</u>	<u>TJP</u>	181
13	<u>Muhammad Afzal</u>	<u>Independent</u>	120
14	<u>Shahzad Afzal</u>	<u>Independent</u>	58
15	<u>Zulfiqar Ali</u>	<u>Independent</u>	50
16	<u>Tayyab Hussain</u>	<u>Independent</u>	45

17	<u>Iftikhar Ahmad Chatha</u>	<u>Independent</u>	31
18	<u>Muhammad Islam</u>	<u>Independent</u>	24
19	<u>Rao Mudassar Ahmad Khan</u>	<u>Independent</u>	17
20	<u>Muhammad Imran Baig</u>	<u>Independent</u>	17

Source: ECP

PP-78 Sargodha-VII

PP-78 witnessed change as this area was also considered the fort of PML-N but the winner, Ansar Majeed Khan Niazi was from PTI. In 104921 valid votes, he had attained 46146 votes, which were approximately 44% of total votes. The results showed Ammara Rizwan Gill, PML-N candidate remained runner up by bagging up 43135 votes. In the same constituency, PML-N's Dr. Nadia Aziz was winner in elections 2013, but in elections 2018, she joined PTI and ran for the elections of MNA. The overall votes attained by electable were as follow:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Ansar Majeed Khan Niazi	PTI	46146
2	Ammara Rizwan Gill	PML-N	43135
3	Safdar Hussain	PPP	10804
4	Muhammad Muneer	TLP	3013
5	Hafiz Farhan Ahmad	Independent	622
6	Hafiz Abdur Rahman Saki	Independent	500
7	Akhtar Mehmood	Independent	246
8	Shahbaz Ahmed Bajwa	Independent	163
9	Muhammad Aslam S/O Muhammad Ibrahim	Independent	84
10	Arbab Sikandar	Independent	70
11	Abdullah Mumtaz Kahloon	Independent	58
12	Tahir Farooq	Independent	42
13	Muhammad Aslam S/O Moeen Ud Din	Independent	38

Source: ECP

PP-79 Sargodha-VIII

The results of PP-79 determined PML-N’s wining as Rana Munawar Hussain garnered 54323 votes while Faisal Javed from PTI got 39075 votes. Muhammad Akbar Sandhu, independent contestant, secured 16456 votes, while all other candidates acquired less than 8000 votes. In this constituency Rana Munawar Hussain had strong hold as he won in elections 2008 and 2013 from the same area. The number of electable was 22, in which 16 candidates ran as independent candidates. Although 132190 ballots were filled by registered voters in this constituency, but 3538 were disqualified by the returning authorities.

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Rana Munawar Hussain	PML-N	54323
2	Faisal Javed	PTI	39075
3	Muhammad Akbar Sandhu	Independent	16456
4	Hamid Raza	Independent	7783
5	Hassan Raza Bhatti	PPP	2360
6	Muhammad Mumtaz	Independent	1395
7	Muhammad Shahid Saleem	Independent	1075
8	Malik Zulqarnain	TLI	973
9	Atif Mehmood	TLP	971
10	Waqar Anwar	Independent	843
11	Muhammad Ajmal Hussain	Independent	756
12	Ch. Al Mustansar Ahmad Cheema	APML-J	553
13	Farhat Hussain	Independent	537
14	Hafeez Ullah	Independent	321
15	Zulfiqar Ahmed	Independent	282
16	Bashir Ahmad Rana	Independent	248
17	Sarfraz	Independent	246
18	Muhammad Riaz	Independent	149
19	Muhammad Tariq	Independent	113
20	Munir Ahmad	Independent	82
21	Nazir Ahmed	Independent	52
22	Nadeem Ahmed	Independent	48

Source: ECP

PP-80 Sargodha-IX

There were 126344 valid votes in PP-80-Sahiwal, in which 60726 were got by winner, Ghulam Ali Asghar Khan Lahry of PTI while

39711 were bagged by PML-N’s Taimur Ali Khan. This constituency had witnessed change as PML-N was winning party in 2013 elections while Ghulam Ali Asghar Khan Lahry of PTI was runner up with 31608 votes. The votes of Asghar Khan were almost doubled in elections 2018. However, a difference between both elections was that in 2013 Pirs of Sial Sharif were contesting from PML-N side but in 2018, Pirs were the contestants of PTI on National Assembly’s seat. The details of candidates and their votes are as follow:

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Ghulam Ali Asghar Khan Lahry	PTI	60723
2	Taimur Ali Khan	PML-N	39711
3	Taimur Ameer Khan	PPP	11759
4	Zulfiqar Ali	Independent	5218
5	Zain Abbas	TLP	4314
6	Iftikhar Ahmad	AAT	1387
7	Muhammad Ali Khan	Independent	911
8	Syed Ahmed Mahdi Ali Shah	Independent	620
9	Muhamamd Aslam Hayat	Independent	562
10	Noor Hayat	Independent	343
11	Ansar Abbas Baloch	Independent	148
12	Ali Abbas	Independent	120

Source: ECP

PP-81 Sargodha-X

The precinct of Shahpur, Sargodha X was previously Sargodha XI where an independent candidate Sardar Bahadar Khan Maikan was winner in elections 2013, while PTI’s Chaudhary Iftikhar Hussain Gondal was at third number. In elections 2018, Iftikhar Gondal performed extraordinary and confirmed his victory by attaining 41633 votes. Though he had won the elections but with very low margin as PML-N’s candidate Syed Javed Hasnain received 40752 votes. The difference between the votes of both candidates

was just 881 votes. The results indicated that PML-N also improved itself in the constituency as in 2013 elections their candidate was defeated with 12000 votes lead. In elections 2018, 133903 voters voted, and 126868 voted rightly and 5217 voted wrongly.

Sr.#	Candidate Name	Political Affiliation	Votes
1	Chaudhary Iftikhar Hussain	PTI	41633
2	Syed Javed Hasnain	PML-N	40752
3	Muhammad Asif Hayat	Independent	29702
4	Sardar Muhammad Atif	PPP	8398
5	Muhammad Bilal Nawaz	TLP	3796
6	Muhammad Amir	Independent	2278
7	Muhammad Bashir	MMA	1285
8	Shafiq Ur Rehman Shaad	Independent	682
9	Saif Ur Rehman	Independent	160

Source: ECP

Conclusion

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf emerged victorious in Elections 2018, securing the formation of the government National Assembly and established its provincial governments in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Imran Khan got so much popularity from 2014's March in political arena of Pakistan as he portrayed strong political narratives and its leadership qualities persuaded people. Sargodha had considerable political importance for the PML-N party as it can be witnessed from previous elections and even in the 2018 elections; the party secured all seats of National Assembly and half of provincial Assembly. The PTI also secured five seats of Provincial Assembly that was changing pattern of Sargodha's politics as the party was unseen before elections 2018. The PTI's triumph in the elections demonstrated its strong and well entrenched support base, and party's influence, which solidified its position in Sargodha. In some constituencies, the winnings were witnessed at party basis while in some areas it was based on

Biradarism and ancestry politics. The rise of a varied political culture, with the victory of PTI and PML-N in provincial constituencies caused complexity in city's politics as during PTI Government (2018-2022) PTI electable worked for their constituency while during PML-N Government (2022-2023) their electable worked for their areas. However, the change in government had badly impacted on democratic process.

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