

WHO IS INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE?

Relevant for: Indian Polity | Topic: Elections, Election Commission and the Electoral Reforms in India Incl. Political Parties

An independent candidate is one who contests polls without being affiliated to any political party. Independents often support policies that are different from major political parties. More and more independents have been contesting Lok Sabha elections since the first general election of 1951-52, but the number of winners has been decreasing. The vote percentage polled by them has also been decreasing. It is difficult for independent candidates to campaign and influence large numbers of voters in India with little money and influence. In its 255th report, the Law Commission of India sparked a debate when it recommended that independent candidates be barred from contesting elections as “they are either not serious or contest elections just to confuse the voters.”

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