

Battle for control of Iran's power structure

Conservatives and reformists confront one another again in a battle for control of the Islamic Republic's political institutions as Iranians prepare to go to the polls to elect municipal councils and, more significantly, the Assembly of Experts, the country's most powerful elected body

IRAN'S RULING STRUCTURE



Supreme Leader
Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
Top of Iran's political structure

➡ Elected or appointed ➡ Approved or vetted

Armed forces

Head of Judiciary

Council of Guardians
Influential body of 12 clerics, six appointed by Supreme Leader, six by head of judiciary. May veto Parliament if legislation deemed to conflict with Islamic law

Supreme National Security Council

Expediency Council

Assembly of Experts
Conservative body of 86 clerics elected for eight-year terms. Appoints, supervises and can dismiss Supreme Leader

Cabinet
21 ministers

Parliament
290 members elected for four-year terms

Electorate
47 million people eligible to vote

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
Head of executive branch of power, elected for four years. Ensures constitution is implemented