

慶北大学校

河 世憲

研究結果

研究テーマ：町村議会議員選挙の無投票当選増加と町村議会改革

町村議会議員選挙では、なり手不足による無投票当選が急増している。これら無投票当選の大挙発生は、議会制度の存廃危機をもたらし、さらには代議制民主主義の根幹をも揺るがす。そのため、なり手不足を解消し、競争選挙へと誘導しようとする議会改革が増加している。本研究では、そのような議会改革の具体的な内容と成果などを調べるため、4地域を選定し、現地調査を行った。最近、韓国の地方選挙においても無投票当選が多く発生しているため、本調査を通じて、韓国地方議会におけるなり手不足解消のためのヒントも得ようとした。

北海道浦幌町議会は「まちなかカフェDE議会」や「まちなかおじゃまDE議会」プロジェクトを通じて、議会に対する関心を高めようとし、また、議員報酬も大幅に引き上げた。長野県飯綱町議会は、議会活動や政策について町民の関心を高めるために「議会だよりモニター制度」と「政策サポーター制度」を運用した。議員報酬も大きく引き上げる一方で、政務活動費制度を新たに導入し、議員に月1万円ずつ支給した。高知県大川村は、かつて議会を廃止し、直接民主主義制度である「村民総会」を設置しようとした。議論のすえ、議会の存続は決定され、議会では住民が立候補しやすいように「兼業禁止規定」を大幅に緩和した。長野県喬木村議会はサラリーマンや養育過程にある女性たちの出馬を促進するため、休日と夜間に議会を開催する改革を実施した。これは住民の議会傍聴の増加にもつながった。

以上のように、町村議会改革の主なテーマは、議会に対する関心誘導と立候補しやすい環境づくりであった。これは、なり手不足解消のためには、新人候補の積極的な発掘と議員報酬の引き上げが重要であるという、既存の実証研究の研究結果と合致するものであった。

このような改革の結果、次の選挙では、4つの町村ともに定員を超える立候補者が出た。しかし、これらの町村は、すべて非常に小さな自治体であり、人口減少と高齢化が止まらない。今回のような成果が続くためには、既存の改革に加えて、地域社会意識の向上と女性および青年政治家の発掘のための新しい改革が推進されるべきであると思われる。

研究成果の公表について(予定も含む)

口頭発表 (題名・発表者名・会議名・日時・場所等)

－ 「日本地方選挙の無投票当選の実態」

河世憲, 〈地方自治研究会〉, 2023.1.6, 慶北大学校

論文 (題名・発表者名・論文掲載誌・掲載時期等)

－ 「日本町村議会議員選挙の無投票当選の増加と地方議会改革」

河世憲, 『The Korea Journal of Political Science』, 2023.5.31

書籍 (題名・著者名・出版社・発行時期等)

Completion Report

Kyungpook National University, college of Social Science
Ha Sehun

Uncontested elections due to lack of candidates are rapidly increasing in town and village assembly elections. The massive occurrence of an uncontested election leads to the collapse of the parliamentary system and undermines the foundation of representative democracy. As a result, parliamentary reforms aiming to address the shortage of election candidates, which can accomplish competitive elections are increasing. In this study, four regions are selected and field surveys are conducted to find out the specific contents and achievements of parliamentary reform. In recent local elections in Korea, there have been many uncontested elections. Through this survey, I also attempt to obtain implications for resolving the shortage of election candidates for local councils in Korea.

Hokkaido Urahoro Town Council tried two projects, *Village Café Assembly* and *Assembly Visit to the Village*, to raise interest towards the local assembly and, as a result, the members' remuneration was also significantly increased. Iizuna Town Council in Nagano Prefecture operated *the Assembly Newsletter Monitoring System* and *Policy Supporter System* to keep residents interested in parliamentary activities and policies. The remuneration of the members was greatly increased and the newly introduced political activity cost system allowed to pay 10,000 yen per month to the council members. Okawa village in Kochi Prefecture once tried to abolish the assembly and set up a *village assembly*, which is a system of direct democracy. The decision was made from the discussion to continue the assembly, and the assembly significantly lower the prohibition of concurrent employment condition to lift a burden for residents to run for office. The Takagi Village Assembly in Nagano Prefecture implemented reforms to hold assembly meetings on holidays and at night to promote the candidacy of salaried employees and women who are in the process of raising children. This has also led to an increase in the number of residents attending parliamentary meetings.

As described above, the reform of a town and a village assembly mainly aims to induce interest towards the assembly and to create an environment conducive to potential candidates. This is in line with the results of existing empirical studies, which reveal that it is important to proactively find new candidates and raise the salaries of members of parliament in order to resolve the shortage of candidates.

As a result of these reforms, all four towns and villages had candidates that exceeded their quota in the following elections. However, these towns and villages are all very small municipalities, and their populations are declining and aging. In order for these achievements to continue, new reforms should be promoted to enhance the sense of community and discover female and young politicians in addition to the existing reforms.

The results obtained from the field investigation and the implications for the Korean local council were shared with related researchers through the presentation at the study group. Furthermore, the reform of the Urahoro Council, which was the most faithfully investigated and obtained a lot of related data, was written as a research paper and published in an academic journal, *The Korea Journal of Political Science* (Vol.31, No.2, May 2023).

以上