



Handbook

TO THE 2005 PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ELECTION

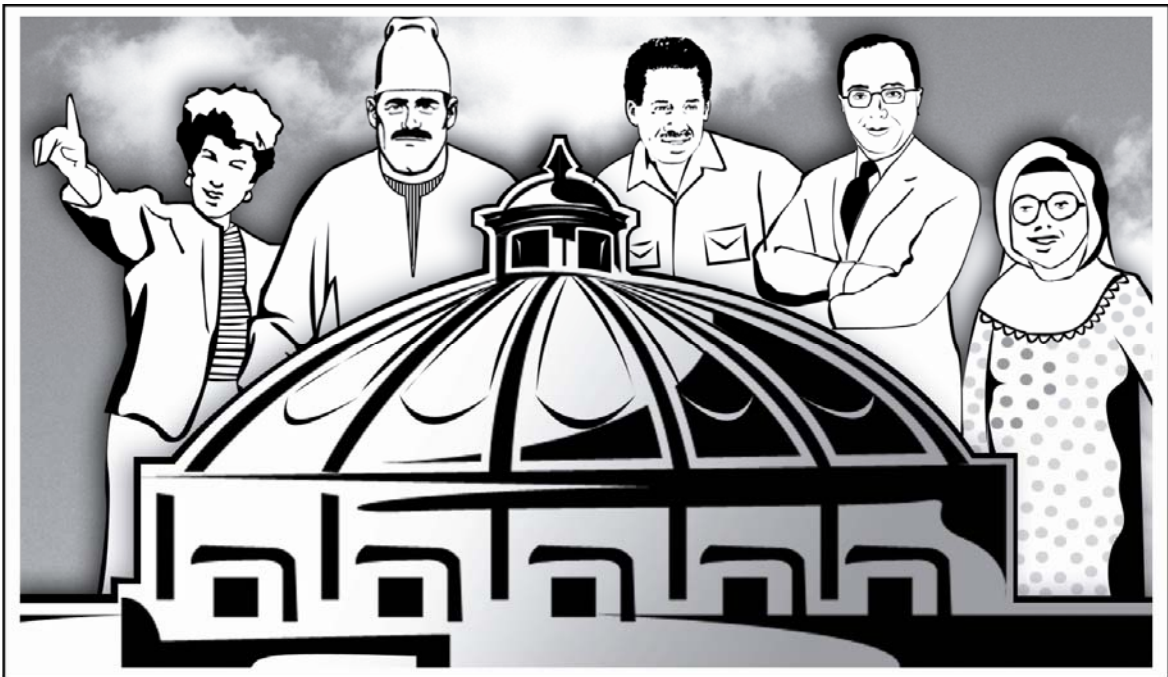


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Political Reform 2005

- The Government of Egypt is committed to furthering the process of reform of the Egyptian political system. The current phase of political reform in Egypt began with President Mubarak's February 27, 2005 speech to the nation, where he outlined a vision for a new era in Egypt's political history. Noting the government's achievements in the areas of socioeconomic and political development, the President announced his intention to seek a change to the electoral system whereby the Presidency would be elective via direct multi-candidate elections. President Mubarak submitted an amendment to that effect to Parliament which, after extensive debate, referred the proposal to the nation in a popular referendum. On May 25th, 2005, the Amendment was approved. In the following months Parliament passed a number of laws to initiate the political reform process including the:

1. **Presidential Elections Law**
2. **Amendments to the Regulation of the Exercise of Political Rights Law**
3. **Amendments to the Political Parties Law**
4. **Amendments to the Laws of the People's Assembly and Shura Council**

- This package of laws has instituted fundamental reforms to the Egyptian political system in the areas of:

1. **Direct Elections for the Office of the Presidency:** The most groundbreaking feature of these laws is the introduction of an amendment to the constitution that provides for **direct, multi-candidate presidential elections**. In September 2005 elections, nominees of registered political parties automatically qualify for official candidacy, while **independent nominees have seen the pool of valid endorsements increase by nearly 9 fold**, greatly increasing the chances of their success. In presidential elections beyond 2005 **political party nominees will only have to win 12% of the endorsements needed for official candidacy under the previous system**. Moreover, with elections scheduled for the People's Assembly and Shura Council in November 2005 and January 2006, respectively, parties have an opportunity to fundamentally change the balance of power within parliament.
2. **Management of the Electoral Process:** by virtue of these new laws and amendments the **presidential and parliamentary electoral processes, will be managed independently** by the Presidential Elections Commission and the High Elections Commission, respectively.
3. **Monitoring of the Electoral Process:** the rules enacted by this legislation and Government policy will permit **3 levels of election monitoring**: By the High Elections Commission, by independent judges, and by representatives of all the candidates. Moreover, the National Council for Human Rights and a

number of civil society organizations will also be monitoring the electoral process.

4. **Indelible Ink:** In order to prevent multiple voting and elections fraud every voter, in every election will be required to dip their fingers in an indelible ink that will last at least 24 hours.
 5. **Access to Voter Registration Lists:** To ensure transparency and access to information, legislation was passed to allow all those with an interest to request copies of voter registration lists for the various electoral districts.
 6. **Campaigning Regulations Reform:** Regulations have been enacted to ensure that public property and funds are not utilized by ANY candidates and that campaign content will be limited to the issues at stake and not threaten national stability by promoting, religious, sectarian or class conflict.
 7. **Public Media Coverage of Presidential and Parliamentary Election Campaigns:** Laws and regulations have been enacted requiring all state media to strictly abide by neutrality and non-partisanship in their coverage of presidential and parliamentary campaigns.
 8. **Campaign Finance Reform:** By virtues of these laws **the integrity of the electoral process and the political system is guaranteed** by strict campaign budget limitations and the prevention of bribery and graft. On the other hand campaigns are authorized to seek campaign contributions and in the case of Presidential elections they qualify for state funds.
 9. **Political Parties:** Recent legislation has expanded the membership of the Political Parties Affairs committee of the Shura Council, a **2/3 majority of which will now be made up of judges and independent, non-partisan public figures**. Moreover, it is now easier for parties to qualify for state funds, in a transparent and equitable manner, to assist in the financing of their development and activities. Additionally, the amendments to the political parties law guarantees the right of access to state media to registered parties, in particular, during election periods. Moreover, the law also includes provision to ensure that state agencies operate in a strictly non-partisan fashion vis-à-vis citizens who are members, or are not members, of any particular political party.
- Parliaments' legislative actions were complemented by initiatives of the Ministry of Information including:
 1. Regulations developed by the **Board of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union** meant to ensure comprehensive and neutral coverage of presidential campaigns and transparent and equitable access for candidates to public airwaves.

2. Initiatives by the **Egypt State Information Service (SIS)** to collect and widely distribute, in a neutral manner, the biographical data and position statements of all registered presidential candidates and to provide daily press briefs on every candidate's presidential campaign. An information center was also established to serve the Arab and Western media by answering all their questions regarding candidates' election campaigns; moreover a website was launched, which served as an information source about the upcoming Presidential Elections. Additionally, SIS established an international press center to facilitate the accreditation of Egyptian, Arab and international journalists and the dissemination of election related information and updates.
- **Egyptian civil society organizations**, in cooperation with the **National Council for Human rights**, have initiated a program to monitor and evaluate the electoral process.
 - These legislative and policy changes culminated with the successful execution of Egypt's first multi-candidate presidential election on September 9th, 2005. On that day **7,305,036** Egyptian voters (23% of registered voters) cast their ballots at judge monitored and led polling stations around the country. H.E. President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak was reelected after winning 88.571% of valid votes cast.
 - Now Egypt begins the second stage of its march towards comprehensive political reform, with preparations underway for the 2005 People's Assembly Election. These elections, which will be held in 3 phases, will start on November 9th 2005, and under the supervision of the High Elections Commission (HEC).
 - **Additional initiatives have been announced by the High Elections Commission**
 1. **Judicial Monitoring:** In line with the constitution and relevant laws the High Elections Commission announced that a judge would preside over every polling station and a counselor, (a higher ranking judge in the Egyptian judicial system) would preside over every district's General Committee. Moreover, it was also decided that a representative of the HEC would be headquartered in every governorate's court of first instance in order to enable the Commission to better monitor the electoral process regionally.
 2. **Civil Society Election Observers:** Recognizing the need for maximum transparency in the electoral process, and the positive role played by Egyptian civil society observers in the presidential election, the HEC has announced that it would authorize representatives of Egyptian civil society to observe the balloting process, in coordination with the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), from the casting of votes, to ballot counting and the announcement of final results.

3. **Transparent Ballot Boxes:** In order to further increase voters', and the Egyptian public's confidence in the integrity of the balloting process, the HEC had decided that all ballot boxes will be made of a transparent material.
 4. **Polling Station Locations:** The HEC and the Ministry of Interior announced that the no polling station would be located at police stations or other security related buildings.
- **Media and public information initiatives announced by the Government of Egypt**
 1. **Ministry of Information Guidelines for State Media Coverage of the Parliamentary Elections:** The Ministry of Information has developed guidelines (see attached document) to ensure fair and transparent access for parties and candidates to state media coverage of their campaigns, activities and programs on national television and radio. Furthermore, the guidelines authorized parties and candidates to purchase airtime to broadcast political advertisements in support of their electoral campaigns. Moreover, in order to ensure state media, as well as candidates and parties, abide by these guidelines, the Ministry has established a sub-committee to monitor and rectify any breaches of these guidelines.
 2. **Egypt State Information Service (SIS):** In order to facilitate maximum public understanding to the electoral process underway SIS will publish in the national press a comprehensive **Voters' Guide to the 2005 People's Assembly Election** (see attached document). This guide includes all necessary information, presented in a manner suitable for the general public, for voters' to be able to participate in these elections in an informed manner. The guide includes information on the electoral process, procedures for determining registration status, receiving a voter card, casting a ballot and voter's rights and responsibilities under the Egyptian Constitution and laws. It will be published in the national press before the start of each phase of the election, in addition to being available in booklet form at SIS regional office, and in electronic form on the **SIS 2005 parliamentary elections webpage** (<http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Politics/Parliamentary/bulletin/>). Moreover, and building on the success of its Presidential Elections Press Center, SIS plans to establish **press centers** in Cairo and various regions, in order to accredit national, Arab and international correspondents to visit polling stations around the country and facilitate their coverage of the 2005 People's Assembly Election.

The People's Assembly

Q: What is the People's Assembly?

A: The People's Assembly is the "lower house" of Egypt's bicameral legislature. It is vested with the main legislative authorities of the state. It is made up of 454 members, 444 of which are elected and 10 of which are appointed by the President of the Republic.

Q: What is the Mandate of the People's Assembly?

A: The people's Assembly has various competences stated in Chapter Five of the Constitution. According to article 86 the People's Assembly shall undertake:

- **Legislation**
 - Legislation is the main task of the People's Assembly. Article 109 of the Constitution stipulates that the President of the Republic as well as any member of the Assembly has the right to propose laws. Most laws are adopted by simple majority.
- **Financial Oversight**
 - The general budget draft is submitted to the People's Assembly at least two months before the beginning of the fiscal year, is voted upon item by item and approved by law.
 - The annual report of the Central Auditing Organization (CAO) and its remarks are submitted to the People's Assembly.
- **Monitoring the Executive**
 - The Council of Ministers is collectively accountable to the People's Assembly for the general policy of the State.
 - Every Minister is responsible for the performance of his Ministry. The People's Assembly may decide to withdraw its confidence from any of the ministers and/or under-secretaries. The Constitution also empowered the People's Assembly to take legal action against ministers for crimes they committed during their term of office or because of it with a motion of at least five members. A two-thirds majority adopts the charge decision.
 - A motion of no confidence should be proposed by ten Assembly's members.
 - All members of the People's Assembly are entitled to put questions to the Prime Minister.
 - The People's Assembly has the right to direct criminal charges against the President of the Republic with a motion supported by at least one third of its members, and a two-thirds majority adopts the charge.
- **Approving the State's Plan and Budget**
 - The People's Assembly approves the general plan for economic and social development

- **Ratifying international agreements and treaties**

- The Constitution stipulated the People's Assembly ratification of the following treaties in order to become enforced:
 - treaties of reconciliation
 - Alliance
 - Trade and navigation
 - State land transformations
 - Treaties related to sovereignty
 - Treaties related to expenditures unaccounted for in the state general budget.

Deliberation on the Presidential statement and the Cabinet program

- The President of the Republic inaugurates the ordinary session with a speech that phases out the State general policy. The Speaker of the Assembly summons the general committee, following the President's speech, to discuss whatever matters related to the People's Assembly plan and activities as referred to in the address. The People's Assembly may also elaborate on the President's speech if two thirds of the members agreed.
- The Prime minister upon a cabinet reshuffle presents the government's program of action. The program is studied and a report is written on it by an ad hoc committee. Then it is referred to the Assembly for debate and the recommendations are referred to the government to take whatever measures are required.

Amending the Constitution

- Both the president of the republic and the People's Assembly may demand the amendment of one or more articles of the Constitution. If it were the request of the Assembly, it should be adopted by at least two thirds of the members. In case the People's Assembly approves the amendment in principle, the articles to be amended are discussed for two months and if it is adopted by two thirds of MPS, the amendment is put to a public referendum. If approved, the amendment becomes effective as of the date of announcing the referendum result.

Declaring a state of war or emergency

- For the state of war, the People's Assembly approves the declaration of the state of war at the president of the republic's request.
- For the state of emergency, the Prime Minister notifies the People's Assembly Speaker of the decision to declare a state of emergency, supported by grounds and justifications.

The People's Assembly Electoral System

Q: What kind of electoral system applies to the People's Assembly?

A: Egypt is divided into 222 electoral districts, with each district electing 2 members by absolute majority of valid votes cast, one of which must be worker/farmer. Due to this requirement, there are special cases:

- a. **Two Candidate Race, One of which is a Worker/Farmer¹:** In this case, each candidate must win a number of votes equivalent to 10% of registered voters in the district in order to be elected.
- b. **One Candidate Race²:** In this case the one candidate is declared the winner of one of the districts seats if he/she wins a number of votes equivalent to 10% of registered voters in the district in order to be elected. A by-election is then called to elect either a worker/farmer candidate, or an other-category candidate, depending on the category of the winner.
- c. **Multi-Candidate Race, one of which is worker/farmer³:** In this case, the worker/farmer candidate is declared the winner of the one of the district's seats, so long as he/she wins a number of votes equivalent to 10% of registered voters in the district. The district's second seat is granted to the other-category winner of an absolute majority of the valid votes cast. If none of the other-category candidate wins an absolute majority, then a run-off election is called between the two other-category candidates that won the highest number of votes.

Q: How many districts are there in each Governorate?

A: The following table and graph provides data on the distribution of districts by governorate.

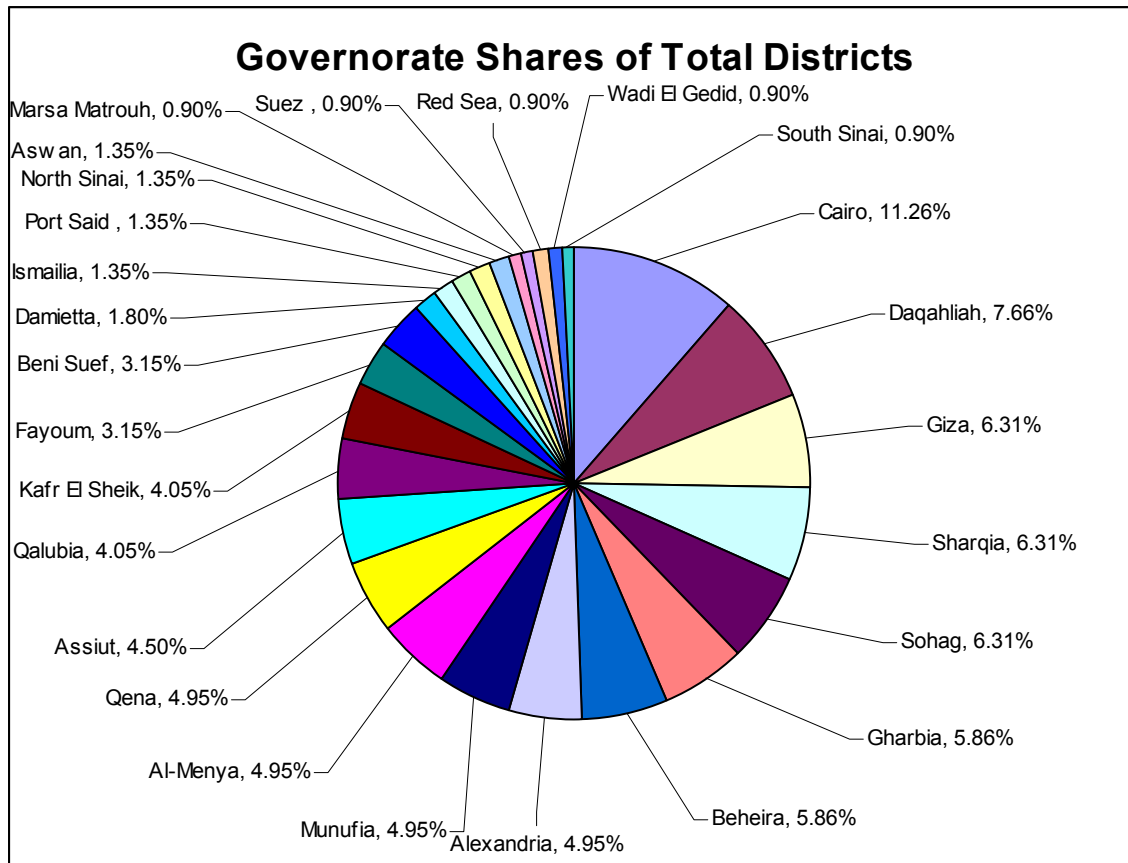
Governorate	# of Districts	Governorate	# of Districts
Cairo	25	Kafr El Sheik	9
Daqahliah	17	Fayoum	7
Giza	14	Beni Suef	7
Sharqia	14	Damietta	4
Sohag	14	Ismailia	3
Gharbia	13	Port Said	3
Beheira	13	North Sinai	3
Alexandria	11	Aswan	3

¹ Law 38 (1972), Article 17

² Law 38 (1972), Article 17

³ Law 38, (1972), Article 17

Munufia	11	Marsa Matrouh	2
Al-Menya	11	Suez	2
Qena	11	Red Sea	2
		Wadi El Gedid	2
Assiut	10	Gedid	2
Qalubia	9	South Sinai	2



Q: What is the average number of registered voters in each district?

A: The average number of registered voters per electoral district is 143,362

Q: What is the average number of registered voters in each district by governorate?

A: The following table provides data on the average number of registered voters per district.

Governorate	Avg. Voters /District	Governorate	Voters/District
Aswan	198329	Assiut	141832
Qalubia	189726	Sohag	135996

Daqahliah	185218	Giza	128439
Sharqia	183105	Alexandria	124466
Kafr El Sheik	164405	Ismailia	121507
Damietta	157674	Cairo	113462
Al-Menya	157323	Port Said	82023
Qena	154385	Suez	81776
Munufia	154011	Matrouh	70121
Beheira	153578	North Sinai	50467
Fayoum	150282	Red Sea	47915
Beni Sueif	148951	Wadi El Gadid	45839
Gharbia	148792	South Sinai	18678

Electoral Process Management

Q: Who is responsible for overseeing the electoral process?

A: The High Elections Commission to oversee the electoral process. The Commission is composed of 11 members (of which 6 are sitting or retired judges) including⁴:

- The Minister of Justice (Chairman)
- 3 sitting judges whose rank is equivalent to that of a Vice-President of the Court of Cassation chosen by the Supreme Judicial Council
- 3 retired and non-partisan judges chosen by parliament
- 3 public and non-partisan figures chosen by parliament
- 1 representative of the Ministry of Interior

Q: What is the mandate of the High Elections Commission?

A: The Commission is mandated to perform the following functions⁵:

- Establishing regulations governing voter lists, including additions, removals and updating.
- Recommending rules for defining electoral districts
- Establishing rules to regulate electoral campaigns
- Contributing to awareness efforts related to elections, and establishing guidelines for the electoral process
- Monitoring compliance with codes of ethics related to elections
- Announcing referendum and election results
- Expressing opinions on draft laws related to elections

Q: How does the High Elections Commission make its decisions?

A: Meetings of the HEC are valid only if they are called for and attended by its Chairman (the Minister of Justice) and attended by at least 7 members.

⁴ Law 173 (2005), Article 1, Adding "Chapter 1 (Repeated)", Article 3 (repeated) to Law 73 (1956)

⁵ Law 173 (2005), Article 1, Adding "Chapter 1 (Repeated)", Article 3 (repeated) (c) to Law 73 (1956)

Decisions of the Commission are made by the concurring votes of at least 8 of its members.⁶

Q: Who are the members of the High Elections Commission?

A: The members of the High Elections Commission are⁷:

1. H.E Judge Mahmoud Abu Leil (Chairman)
Minister of Justice
2. The Honorable Judge Abd El-Mageed Mahmoud Abd El-Mageed
Deputy Attorney-General
3. The Honorable Judge Wahid Ibrahim Mana'a Fawzi,
President of the Cairo Court of Appeals
4. The Honorable Judge Mohamed Eid Salem Hassan
Vice-President of the Court of Cassation and Secretary-General of the
Supreme Judicial Council
5. The Honorable Judge Dr. Wahid Mahmoud Ibrahim
Retired President of the Cairo Court of Appeals
6. The Honorable Judge Hishmet Aziz Boutrus
Retired President of the Cairo Court of Cassation
7. Dr. Mohamed Saeed Abd El-Fatah
Former President of the University of Alexandria
8. Dr. Samiha Mustafa Aly Al-Qaluby
Professor of Commercial Law, College of Law, Cairo University
9. The Honorable Judge Dr. Mohamed Hassan Abd El Wahab Al-Afifi
Retired Vice-President of the Court of Cassation
10. Professor Omar Helmy Fahmy Mohamed
Dean of the College of Law, Ain Shams University
11. General Mahrous Mohamed Shabayik, (Representative of the Ministry of
Interior)
Director of the General Department for Elections, Ministry of Interior

Voter Registration and Voter Rolls

Q: Who is eligible to vote?

A: Every Egyptian, who has reached the age of 18 has the right and obligation to vote. Officers and members of the Armed Forces and police forces are exempted from this obligation during their service.⁸

Q: Are there any exceptions?

A: Yes, the law determines that individuals who have committed crimes which bring them into disrepute are stripped of their right to vote. The list of these crimes is available in Article 2 of Law 73 (1956) on the Exercise of Political rights.

⁶ Law 173 (2005), Article 1, Adding "Chapter 1 (Repeated)", Article 3 (repeated) (b) to Law 73 (1956)

⁷ Presidential Directive # 266 (2005), Article 1

⁸ Law 73 (1956), Article 1

Additionally, naturalized Egyptians do not gain the right to vote until 5 years from the date of acquiring citizenship.⁹

Q: Who is responsible for voter registration?

A: Voter registration is undertaken by committees established by the Ministry of Interior¹⁰, under guidelines established by the High Elections Commission¹¹. **Voters must register themselves** in these rolls from the 1st of November of each year until the 31st of January the following year. **Exceptions to this rule are voters who were born from 1982 onwards, who are automatically registered in the district where they were born.** After this period, the rolls are publicized from the first to the last day of February.¹² **Changes to the voter rolls (e.g. new registrations, amendments, removals...etc) may not take place after the President of the Republic has called for a general election or a referendum.** In the case where an election has been called during the regular registration period, the 3 month allotted for registration starts from the day after the announcement of the election or referendum results.¹³

Q: Can voters register to vote now?

A: No, because the President of the Republic has called for an election therefore no changes can be made to the voter lists. Persons who are not already registered to vote will not be able to vote in the November/December People's Assembly elections.

Q: What if voters wish to register to vote in future elections?

A: As noted above, the law requires that the 3 months voter registration period, which should have begun in November, will begin after the announcement of the results of the November/December People's Assembly Election.

Q: What are the procedures for voter registration?

A: In order to register, voters must visit the local police station with which they are listed. This police station is determined by checking the voter's birth certificate or national ID card. The registration request, along with identification proving age and nationality, is submitted to the local registration committee, at the police station where the voter is listed, for inclusion in the voter rolls.

Q: What is a voter's home district?

A: The law stipulates that voters in People's Assembly elections must vote in their home district. There is no out-of-district voting. According to the law, a voter's home district is the area where he/she normally resides.¹⁴ **Voters born**

⁹ Law 73 (1956), Article 4

¹⁰ Law 73 (1956), Article 6

¹¹ Law 173 (2005), Article 1, Adding "Chapter 1 (Repeated)", Article 3 (repeated) (c) to Law 73 (1956)

¹² Law 73 (1956), Article 5

¹³ Law 73 (1956), Article 10

¹⁴ Law 73 (1956), Article 11

on or after 1982 are registered automatically in the district listed on their birth certificates. The home district of **Egyptian expatriates**, is the last area of their residence in Egypt prior to their departure.¹⁵

Q: Can voters change their home district?

A: The law does permit a voter to change his/her home district to the area where he/she has a considerable interest, or the location of his employment, or the residence of his family, even if he/she does not reside there.¹⁶

Q: Can the voter's lists be accessed?

A: Yes, the law allows all those with an interest to request copies of voter registration lists for the various electoral districts (upon payment of a EGP 100/USD 18 administrative fee) and to receive these lists within a maximum of 3 days¹⁷.

Q: How many registered voters are there currently?

A: Currently there are 31,890,106 voters.

Q: How many registered voters are there currently in each governorate?

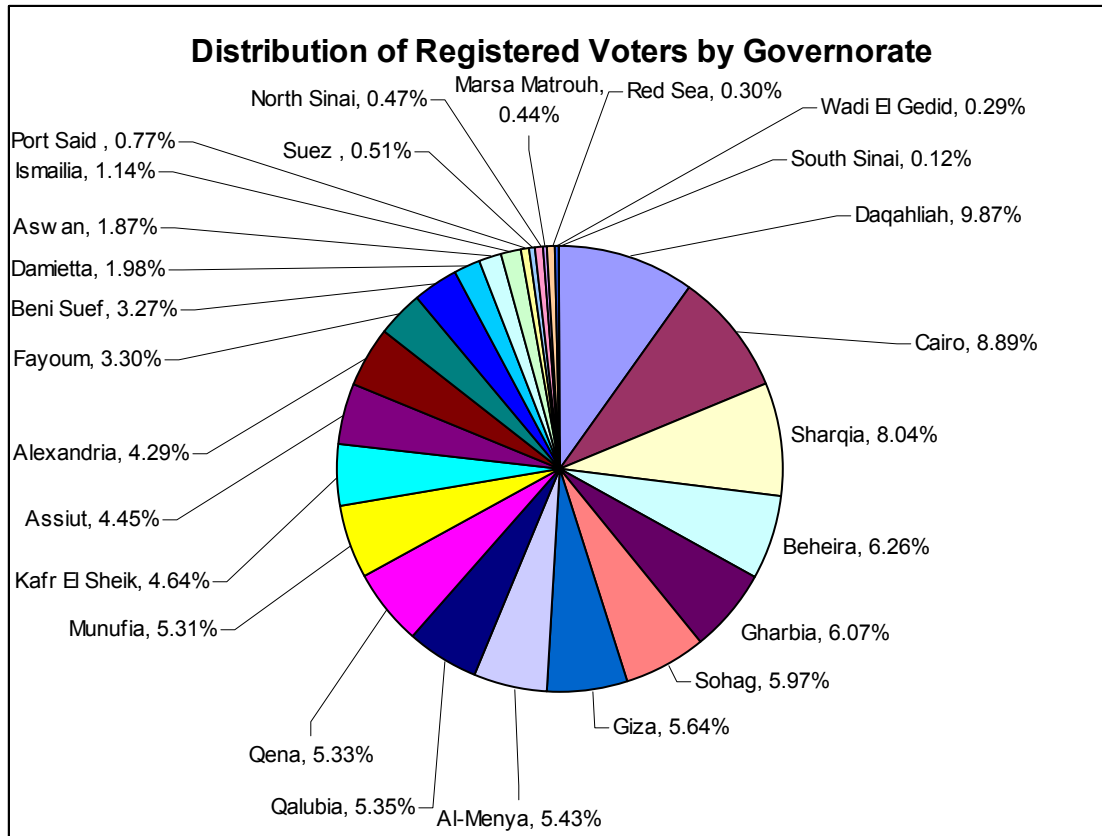
A: The following table and graph provide data on the distribution of registered voters by governorate.

Governorate	Registered Voters	Governorate	Registered Voters
Daqahlia	3,148,699	Fayoum	1,051,972
Cairo	2,836,545	Beni Suef	1,042,659
Sharqia	2,563,471	Damietta	603,696
Beheira	1,996,510	Aswan	594,987
Gharbia	1,934,299	Ismailia	364,521
Sohag	1,903,940	Port Said	246,070
Giza	1,798,149	Suez	163,552
Al-Menya	1,730,552	North Sinai	151,400
Qalubia	1,707,538	Matrouh	140,241
Qena	1,698,231	Red Sea	95,830
Munufia	1,694,116	Wadi El Gedid	91,677
Kafr El-Sheik	1,479,649	South Sinai	37,356
Assiut	1,418,319		
Alexandria	1,369,127	Total	31,890,106

¹⁵ Law 73 (1956), Article 12

¹⁶ Law 73 (1956), Article 11

¹⁷ Law 175 (2005), Article 1 Amending Article 10 of Law 38 (1972)



Candidature

Q: Who is eligible to stand as a candidate in the People's Assembly?

A: In order to qualify as a candidate for the seat in the People's Assembly a person must meet the following criteria:¹⁸

- Hold Egyptian citizenship and whose father holds Egyptian citizenship;
- Be legally registered in one of the voter rolls
- Be literate if born before 1970 or hold a primary education certificate, or its equivalent, if born on or after 1970;
- Be 30 years of age by election day;
- Have completed his mandatory military service, or have been relieved of that duty in accordance to the law; and
- Have not been stripped of his membership in the People's Assembly or the Shura Council.

¹⁸ Law 38 (1972), Article 5

Q: Who is eligible to stand for election as a worker/farmer?

A: In order to qualify to stand for election to the People's Assembly as a worker/farmer candidate person must meet a number of criteria. To be eligible to stand as a farmer a person must meet the following definition: ¹⁹

- His/Her sole occupation is agriculture;
- His/Her main source of income is from that occupation;
- He/She lives in a rural area; and
- His/Her land holdings or rentals, and that of his/her spouse and children, is not more than 10 feddans.

To be eligible to stand as a worker a person must meet the following definition: ²⁰

- He/She performs manual or intellectual labor in the agricultural, industrial or service sectors;
- His/Her main income depends on that occupation;
- He/She is not registered in professional syndicate whose members hold university degrees
- He/She is not registered in the commercial registrar
- He/She does not hold a university degree, or did not hold a university degree at the beginning of his/her work life.

Q: How do persons register for candidacy?

A: Candidates register for election by filing a registration request with the Directorate of Security of the governorate in which the electoral districts he/she seeks to be a candidate is located. Requests are filed in the order of their receipt. ²¹

Q: When does candidate registration take place?

A: The candidate registration period is established by a directive of the Minister of Interior. ²² This year candidate registration took place from October 15th to October 19th, 2005.

Q: Who reviews candidate registration requests?

A: Registration requests are reviewed, to ensure that they meet the criteria of the law, by registration review committees. Each governorate is assigned one or more committees. These committees are composed of 3 members, 2/3^{rds} of which are judges, and include ²³:

- A member of a judicial agency whose rank is equivalent to a president of a court (chairman) chosen by the Minister of Justice.
- A member of a judicial agency whose rank is equivalent to that of a judge, chosen by the Minister of Justice.
- A representative of the Ministry of Interior chosen by the Minister of Interior.

¹⁹ Law 38 (1972), Article 2

²⁰ Law 38 (1972), Article 2

²¹ Law 38 (1972), Article 6

²² Law 38 (1972), Article 6

²³ Law 38 (1972), Article 8

Q: Are the official candidate lists publicized?

A: Yes, after the completion of the registration period and review of applications for candidature, the law requires that candidate lists be publicized by the Ministry of Interior in every electoral district. Candidate lists must be posted for at least 5 days and published in 2 high-circulation daily newspapers.²⁴

Q: Can decisions regarding candidature be challenged?

A: Yes, every person who has applied for candidature may challenge the official candidate list if he/she filed a candidature application and was not included in the official list of candidates or against the inclusion of another person in the list. He/She must do so within the 5 day period when the list is officially publicized.²⁵

Q: How are challenges to the official candidate list resolved?

A: Complaints filed by applicants are resolved by a committee established for that purpose. Decisions on suits must be resolved within 10 days of the end of the official candidate registration period²⁶. These committees are composed of 3 members including:

- A member of a judicial agency whose rank is equivalent to a president of a court (chairman) chosen by the Minister of Justice.
- A member of a judicial agency whose rank is equivalent to that of a judge, chosen by the Minister of Justice.
- A representative of the Ministry of Interior chosen by the Minister.

Campaigning

Q: When is the start of the official campaigning period?

A: The official campaign period begins on October 27th, 2005.

Q: Are there any rules regarding the content of campaigns?

A: Yes, a series of regulations are included in Egyptian law that govern candidate campaigning with a view to ensuring fairness and democratic principles. Accordingly the following regulations apply to the content of electoral campaigns must²⁷:

- Abide by the principles of the constitutions and the law
- Not trespass on the sanctity of the private lives of any of the candidates
- Not threaten national unity
- Not utilize religious slogans in a manner that threatens religion or brings it into disrepute.
- Not engage in violence or threaten the use of violence,

²⁴ Law 38 (1972), Article 9

²⁵ Law 38 (1972), Article 9

²⁶ Law 38 (1972), Article 9

²⁷ Law 175 (2005), Article 1, amending Article 11 of Law 38 (1972) and Law 173 (2005), Article 3, amending Article 48 of Law 73 (1956)

- Not offer or promise voters or third parties incentives, financial or in kind, in return for support or to prevent support for others, or to force a voter to cast his ballot for a particular candidate
- Not knowingly publicize false information about the election or the character of a candidate

Q: Are there any campaign finance regulations?

A: Yes, the law and the High Elections Commission stipulate a number of protective campaign finance regulations²⁸:

- Campaign budgets for People's Assembly elections may not exceed EGP 70,000 and EGP 30,000 for run-off elections;²⁹
- Campaigns may not utilize state or public-sector buildings, institutions, vehicles or other means of transport;³⁰
- Campaigns may not utilize public utilities, places of worship, schools, university and/or other public or private educational institutions;³¹
- Campaigns may not utilize public funds or the funds of public sector firms; and
- Campaigns may not accept contributions from abroad, or from a foreign³² person, or a foreign entity, or an international entity, or from its domestic representative for the purpose of campaign advertising or to be given to voters to prevent them from voting or voter in a particular manner.

Election Dates

Q: When will the elections take place?

A: General elections are called for, and dates established for them, by a decree of the President of the Republic. People's Assembly elections must take place within the 60 days prior to the expiry of the Assembly's term.³³ On October 10th the President of the Republic Mohamed Hosni Mubarak called for a 3 phase general election for the People's Assembly to take place according to the following dates:

	GOVERNORATE	ELECTIONS
Phase 1	Cairo, Giza, Menoufiyya, Beni Suef, Al Minya, Asyut, Mutruh, Wadi Gedid.	9 November 2005
Phase 2	Alexandria, Baheyra, Ismailiyya, Port Said, Suez, Qalubiyya, Gharbiyya, Al Fayyoun, Qena	20 November 2005
Phase 3	Daqahliyya, Sharqiyya, Kafr Al Shayhk, Damietta,	1 December

²⁸ Law 175 (2005), Article 1, amending Article 11 of Law 38 (1972)

²⁹ Decision of the High Elections Commission

³⁰ Law 175 (2005), Article 1, amending Article 11 of Law 38 (1972)

³¹ Law 175 (2005), Article 1, amending Article 11 of Law 38 (1972)

³² Law 175 (2005), Article 1, amending Article 11 of Law 38 (1972)

³³ Law 38 (1972), Article 4

	Sohaq, Aswan, Red Sea, North Sinai, South Sinai	2005
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The Balloting Process

Q: Who oversees the balloting process?

A: The balloting process is overseen by a series of judge-led committees established and overseen by the High Elections Commission. Each electoral district is assigned a **General Committee**, and a series of **sub-committees** are established, that act as polling stations. The number and location of these committees is established by a directive of the Minister of Interior in coordination with the High Elections Commission. All committees must be made up of a chairman, a secretary and at least 2 other members.³⁴

Q: What is the composition of the General Committees?

A: The composition of the committee is specified by a decision of the chairman of the High Elections commission, in coordination with the Minister of Interior, from a list of available officials drawn up by each judicial agency³⁵. The committee must include:

- A member of a judicial agency to act as chairman
- A secretary who is a state or public sector employee
- No less than 2 members who are state or public sector employees

Q: What is the mandate of the General Committees?

A: General Elections Committees are mandated to:

- oversee the balloting process to ensure that it is in compliance with the law³⁶
- announce the results for their respective districts³⁷
- Registering official candidate representatives

Q: Can candidates be represented at their district's General Committee?

A: Yes, in order to ensure the interests of candidates are protected, each candidate has the right to appoint a representative and an agent to the General-Committee. These representatives must be voters registered in the voter rolls of the district. Candidates must inform the chairman of the General-Committee of the identity of their representatives on the day prior to the election.³⁸

Q: What is the composition of the Sub-Committees/Polling Stations?

A: Sub-committees act as polling stations. The composition of the committee is specified by a decision of the chairman of the High Elections commission, in

³⁴ Law 73 (1956), Article 24

³⁵ Law 173 (2005), Article 2, amending paragraph 4 of Article 24 Law 73 (1956)

³⁶ Law 73 (1956), Article 24

³⁷ Law 73 (1956), Article 36

³⁸ Law 73 (1956), Article 24

coordination with the Minister of Interior, from a list of available officials drawn up by each judicial agency³⁹. While the law does not require that the chairmen of sub-committees be judges, **the High Elections Commission has established a policy whereby each sub-committee will be chaired by a judge**. As with the case of General-Committees, the composition of these committees includes:

- A judge to act as chairman
- A secretary who is a state or public sector employee
- No less than 2 members who are state or public sector employees

Q: What is the mandate of the Sub-Committees?

A: As noted above, Sub-Committees manage all aspects of the balloting process⁴⁰, in addition to:

- Registering official candidate representatives and agents⁴¹
- Maintaining security via its chairman who may call on members of the armed forces or police forces (who may not enter the polling station except with the permission of the chairman)⁴²
- Establishing the area around the polling station over which the sub-committee's authority extends via its chairman⁴³

Q: Are Candidates allowed to monitor the balloting process?

A: Yes,⁴⁴ as with the general committees, each candidate has the right to appoint a representative and an agent to the sub-committee to monitor the balloting process. These representatives must be voters registered in the voter rolls of the sub-committee. Candidates must inform the chairman of the sub-committee of the identity of their representatives on the day prior to the election. Candidate agents must be registered voters in the district and must carry notarized credentials. These agents can request that the chairman of the sub-committee enter an observation into the records of the sub-committee. Candidate agents may not be mayors or local executive officials.

Q: How many voters are assigned to each sub-committee/polling station?

A: On average, every polling station will be assigned 1200 voters.

Q: What time does the balloting process begin?

A: The balloting process begins at 8am on the specified day of the election and continues until 7pm.

³⁹ Law 173 (2005), Article 2, amending paragraph 4 of Article 24 Law 73 (1956)

⁴⁰ Law 73 (1956), Article 24

⁴¹ Law 73, (1956), Article 24

⁴² Law 73 (1956), Article 26

⁴³ Law 73 (1956), Article 26

⁴⁴ Law 73 (1956), Article 24

Q: Will voters be allowed to cast their ballots after 7pm?

A: No, but If voters are still present at the polling station after that hour, then the committee will create a list of these voters and balloting will continue until each of them has cast their ballot.⁴⁵

Q: What are the procedures for casting a ballot?

A: Balloting procedures are similar to those that are used in elections around the world. The following are the steps to cast a ballot according to Egyptian law:

- a. Each voter must present to the sub-committee his voter card, or his/her identity card⁴⁶
- b. The sub-committee checks the identity of the voter against the registration list.⁴⁷
- c. The voter is handed by the Chairman of the sub-committee an open, unmarked ballot, stamped on its back with the seal of the sub-committee.⁴⁸
- d. The voter moves to the specified marking area, in the balloting hall, and marks his/her ballot⁴⁹
- e. The voter returns the ballot, folded, to the chairman of the sub-committee⁵⁰
- f. The chairman deposits the ballot in the ballot box⁵¹
- g. The voter dips his/her finger in an indelible ink, which cannot be washed out before 24 hrs.⁵²**
- h. The voter signs his name or makes his mark on the voter registrar⁵³
- i. The chairman of the sub-committee marks the voter's voter card to indicate that he/she has cast a ballot⁵⁴
- j. The secretary of the sub-committee makes a mark next to the voter's name in the voter registrar to indicate that he/she has cast a ballot.⁵⁵

Q: What happens after 5pm when the polls close?

A: The chairman of the sub-committee declares the end of the balloting process and the ballot boxes and balloting documents are sealed. The chairman of the sub-committee then delivers the sealed boxes and documents to the respective general committee.⁵⁶

VOTING RIGHTS

Q: What are voters' rights under Egyptian law?

A: Voters have a number of rights under the Constitution and the laws of the

⁴⁵ Law 73 (1956), Article 28

⁴⁶ Law 73 (1956), Article 31

⁴⁷ Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending paragraph 2 of Article 29 of Law 73 (1956)

⁴⁸ Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending paragraph 2 of Article 29 of Law 73 (1956)

⁴⁹ Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending paragraph 2 of Article 29 of Law 73 (1956)

⁵⁰ Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending paragraph 2 of Article 29 of Law 73 (1956)

⁵¹ Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending paragraph 2 of Article 29 of Law 73 (1956)

⁵² Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending paragraph 2 of Article 29 of Law 73 (1956)

⁵³ Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending paragraph 2 of Article 29 of Law 73 (1956)

⁵⁴ Law 73 (1956), Article 32

⁵⁵ Law 73 (1956), Article 32

⁵⁶ Law 73 (1956), Article 34

Arab Republic of Egypt. These rights apply to all voters whether they are men or women; live in an urban area or a rural area; are literate or illiterate. Specifically, voters have the right to:

- Receive a Voters' Card anytime before Election Day if you are legally registered to vote;
- Be informed of the location of their polling station by the police station where they are listed;
- To cast a ballot for elections to the People's Assembly if they are legally registered voters in the district where they are listed;
- Gain entrance to their assigned polling station to cast their vote, provided that they are legally registered to vote;
- Cast their ballot if they are in line at the polling station prior to 7 PM;
- To be free of any threat, intimidation, or bribes intended to influence whether or not they vote and for whom;
- To direct questions on voting procedures to the members of the polling station sub-committee and receive answers;
- To receive an open, unmarked, stamped ballot directly from the Chairman of the polling station sub-committee;
- To mark their ballot in private and to keep their choice secret;
- To hand their ballot directly to the Chairman to be immediately deposited in the ballot box;
- To watch as their ballot is deposited into the ballot box;
- To request and receive assistance from a person of their choice in casting their vote if they are blind, or have another physical impairment that prevents you from voting.
- To report any violation of their voting rights or election misconduct to the Chairman of the polling station sub-committee.

Q: What if a voter's rights are violated or they witness electoral misconduct?

A: If a voter believes that his/her rights have been violated or he/she witnesses electoral misconduct, they must report this immediately. They have several options to report violations or misconduct. They can alert the:

- Chairman of your polling station sub-committee;
- A member of your District General Committee;
- An officer of the Election Affairs Department at your police station;
- The Directorate of Security;
- The Office of the Attorney General; or
- The High Election Commission.

VOTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Q: *What are voters' responsibilities under Egyptian law?*

A: Just as voters have rights, they also have responsibilities. Specifically, they must:

- Be legally registered to vote;
- Learn the location of your polling station;
- Arrive at the polling station between 8 AM and 7 PM to cast your ballot;
- Present your Voter ID Card and/or a valid ID Card;
- Clearly mark their choices on the ballot;
- Sign the Voters' List once they have cast their ballot;
- Dip their finger in the special, colored ink after they have cast their ballot;
- Refrain from threats, intimidation, or bribery with the intent of influencing someone else's vote;
- Refrain from obstructing other voters from entering the polling station or disrupting the voting process;
- Refrain from voting on behalf of another person or violating the secrecy of another person's vote;
- Refrain from campaigning inside the polling station;
- Avoid tampering, damaging, destroying, hiding, or stealing ballot boxes or any election documents or materials; and
- Avoid threatening or insulting members of the polling station sub-committee.

Ballot Counting and Results Determination

Q: *Who counts the ballots?*

A: Ballot counting is undertaken at the district General-Committee by a counting committee⁵⁷ composed of:

- The chairman of the relevant General Committee
- The chairmen of the sub-committees
- The secretary of the General-Committee

Q: *What is the mandate of the Counting Committees?*

A: The mandate of the counting committee, which is made up of the judge-chairmen of a district's sub-committees includes⁵⁸:

- Ballot counting and tabulation of results
- Deciding on the validity or invalidity of voter's ballots
- Deciding on all matters related to the balloting process

⁵⁷ Law 73 (1956), Article 34

⁵⁸ Law 73 (1956), Article 35

Q: How do the Counting Committees make their decisions?

A: The counting committees make their decisions by majority and in case of a tie the chairmen of the committees decide the outcome. The committee's deliberations are private, but their decisions must be entered into the committee's record, with the reasons of the decision, and publicly announced by the chairman of the committee. The committee must complete its work by the following day⁵⁹.

Q: Are candidates allowed to monitor ballot counting?

A: To ensure the transparency and fairness of ballot counting and committee decision making, each candidate has a right to appoint an observer to the counting committee.⁶⁰

Q: Who announces the results of each district?

A: District results are announced by the chairman of the district general committee⁶¹, and include the number of votes won by each candidate. Three copies of the committee's records are made and signed by the chairman and secretary of the committee. The first copy, along with the election materials, is sent to the Minister of Interior, the second to the High Elections Commission and the third is kept on file with the relevant Directorate of Security. **The general results of the election are announced by the chairman of the High Elections Commission within 3 days of the announcement of district results by the general committees.**⁶² A certificate of election is sent to the winners by the chairman of the High Elections Commission within one month of the announcement of the final national results.⁶³

Run-Off Elections

Q: When are the run-off elections called?

A: Run-off elections are called in a number of cases:⁶⁴

- a. **2 Other-Category Candidates win absolute majorities:** In this cast the other-category candidate which has won the most votes is declared the winner of one of the district's 2 seats. The two worker/farmer candidates with the highest number of votes are called to a run-off election. The candidate who wins the highest number of votes is declared the winner of the second of the district's 2 seats.
- b. **No candidate wins an absolute majority:** in this case the 4 candidates that have the highest number of votes are called to a run-off election, 2 of which

⁵⁹ Law 73 (1956), Article 35

⁶⁰ Law 73 (1956), Article 34

⁶¹ Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending Article 36 of Law 73 (1956)

⁶² Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending Article 37 of Law 73 (1956)

⁶³ Law 173 (2005), Article 2 amending Article 38 of Law 73 (1956)

⁶⁴ Law 38 (1972), Article 17

must be worker/farmer candidates. The 2 candidates, who win the highest number of votes, so long as one of them is a worker/farmer, are declared the winners of the district's 2 seats.

- c. **Multi- Candidate Race, 1 of which is a Worker/Farmer:** In this case, as noted above, the worker/farmer candidate is granted a seat so long as he/she has won a number of votes equivalent to 10% of the voters registered in the district. For the second seat, a run-off election is called for the top 2 other-category candidates.

Q: Should they be required, when are run-off elections expected to take place?

A: Run-off elections, should they be required, are scheduled to take place according to the following table:

Region	Run-Off Elections
Cairo, Giza, Menoufiyya, Beni Suef, Al Minya, Asyut, Matruh, Wadi Gedid.	Tuesday, 15 November 2005
Alexandria, Baheyra, Ismailiyya, Port Said, Suez, Qalubiyya, Gharbiyya, Al Fayyoun, Qena	Saturday, 26 November 2005
Daqhaliyya, Sharqiyya, Kafr Al Shayhk, Damietta, Sohaq, Aswan, Red Sea, North Sinai, South Sinai	Wednesday, 7 December 2005

Q: When will the new People's Assembly be seated?

A: The new People's Assembly must be seated by December 13th, 2005.

The Egyptian Radio and Television Union's (ERTU) **Guidelines and Principles for State Media Coverage** **of the Parliamentary Election**

[Unofficial Translation]

- Having held several sessions the General Commission tasked with developing principles and standards for state audiovisual media coverage of the People's Assembly election has agreed to the following:

I. The Guidelines and Principles

• The Egyptian Radio and Television Union shall:

1. Promote an active role for state media in enhancing public political and electoral awareness with the objective of promoting proactive and informed participation in the forthcoming elections;
2. Provide neutral and equal coverage access for parties at the national level and for candidates at the local level;
3. Allocate equal time for candidates to present their ideas and programs to voters;
4. Forbid the discussion of any candidate's personal life or the impugning of his/her reputation;
5. Affirm respect for national unity and the values of Egyptian society
6. Differentiate between coverage and paid political advertisements and assure transparency and equality for all candidate's paid political advertisements;
7. Inform all parties and candidates of all principles and guidelines by which they must abide; and
8. Establish a committee to review all party's and candidate's to ensure respect for the above guidelines and to monitor the coverage grid during the election period and to correct any coverage that may be at odds with the above guidelines.

II. Forms of and Schedule for Media Coverage of the Elections

- The ERTU will be broadcasting programs with a view to increasing political awareness; presenting and analyzing various political programs and providing practical coverage of the electoral process. These programs will be characterized by neutrality and provide fair access to parties participating in the elections, as well as independents. Additionally the ERTU will provide time slots to cover candidate's campaigns in the following manner:

1- Radio Broadcasts

- Discussion programs will be organized for parties to afford them the opportunity to explain their electoral programs. These programs will involve meetings with party leaders or their representative and will broadcast on national radio stations. Consideration will be given to providing equal time to each party. These programs will be re-broadcasted on local networks.

a. The General Program Station:

- i. A discussion program will be organized for every party leader or his/her representative to explain his;/her party's electoral program in every phase of the election in which the party is running candidates. A similar program will be organized in the case of run-off elections.
- ii. News programs will be broadcasted throughout the election period to present and analyze developments and the main election activities in the electoral process that take at the district level. These programs will broadcast for a total of 1 hour a day in two timeslots after the main news programs.

b. The Youth and Sports, Middle East, and News Stations

- These stations will broadcast 3 election news programs on each station, in addition to re-broadcasting party leaders discussion programs.

c. Local Stations

- These stations will provide coverage in the Governorates covered by each phase of the election over 4 news program broadcasts daily. They will broadcast coverage in the following manner:
 - i. A discussion program will be organized for party leaders or their representative to explain his/her party's electoral program with regard to local development in the district in which the party is running candidates.
 - ii. 5 minutes will be allocated for each candidate to present him/herself and his/her platform to the public. An additional 5 minutes will be allocated in the case of a run-off election to each remaining candidate.
 - iii. Local stations will air district-specific news programs to introduce voters to their candidates, their policy positions and campaign activities. These programs will run for no more than 2 hours per day distributed over 4 time slots.
- **General Notice: *All discussion programs and interviews specified for parties and candidates will be pre-recorded and broadcast in their specified times.***

2- Television:

a. Channel 1

- i. A discussion program will be organized for every party leader or his/her representative to explain his;/her party's electoral program in every phase of the election in which the party is running candidates.
- ii. 3 News programs will be broadcasted throughout the election period to present and analyze developments and the main election activities in the electoral process that take at the district level. These programs will broadcast for no more than a total of 90 minutes a day after the main news programs.

b. Channel 2

- i. Discussion programs will be organized to discuss party programs with party representatives and their party's position on various issues. Consideration will be given to providing equal time to each party

c. Nile News:

- i. A discussion program will be organized for every party leader or his/her representative to explain his;/her party's electoral program in every phase of the election in which the party is running candidates.
- ii. 3 News programs will be broadcasted throughout the election period to present and analyze developments and the main election activities in the electoral process that take at the district level. These programs will broadcast for no more then a total of 120 minutes a day after the main news programs.

d. Egyptian Satellite Channel (ESC)

- i. The ESC will rebroadcast all programs specified to present party programs, as well as discussion programs and news programs intended to cover electoral activities.

- **General Notice: *All discussion programs and interviews specified for parties and candidates will be pre-recorded and broadcast in their specified times.***

e. The General Election Station

- A new channel will be instituted to cover the elections. It will broadcast for 10 hours a day throughout the election period and will cover the Greater Cairo governorates. It will regularly broadcast news programs on developments in the election process and will rebroadcast interviews and discussion programs with party leaders.

- Candidates running in districts in the Greater Cairo governorates will be permitted to use their allotted times (maximum 5 minutes/candidate) if time is not available for them on the regular stations.

f. Local Channels (Channels 3,4,5,6,7,8)

- i. Discussion programs organized for every party leader or his/her representative to explain his;/her party's electoral program will be re-broadcasted on local channels.
- ii. 5 minutes will be allocated for each candidate to present him/herself and his/her platform to the public on the local channel which covers his district. An additional 5 minutes will be allocated in the case of a run-off election to each remaining candidate.
- iii. 3 daily News programs (30 minutes each) will be broadcasted throughout the election period to present and analyze developments and the main election activities in the electoral process that take at the district level on the station which covers that district. Consideration will be given to ensure neutrality and fair coverage of all candidates' election activities.

3- Program Types

- All the various program types, such as direct speeches, interviews, discussion sessions and coverage of campaign rallies and tours. Candidates may choose the program type of their preference. All programs must be pre-recorded for airing.

III. Principles and Guidelines for the Program Grid During the Election Period

1. The Transparency and neutrality of the program grid shall be guaranteed by preventing the broadcast on television and radio stations which may be construed to be, directly or indirectly, as an endorsement or criticism of any candidate, such as films, plays, music videos or otherwise;
2. ERTU shall differentiate in its coverage, between media coverage of persons in their official capacities and what may be construed to be campaigning;
3. ERTU shall differentiate between coverage of the activities persons, such as minister or high ranking officials in their official capacities and their activities that may be construed to be campaigning for a particular candidate. The same principle shall apply to relatives of candidates;
4. ERTU coverage of candidates' campaigns shall strive to be accurate and balanced in order to provide citizens with a complete and accurate picture that will assist them in making their decisions on Election Day; and
5. The Commission recommends that privately owned Egyptian channels be informed of these guidelines and principles so that they may play their role

in achieving our common objective of promoting the values of democracy, freedom of choice, justice and transparency.

IV. Rules and Policies Governing the Broadcast of Paid Political Advertisements on ERTU Television and Radio Stations

1- General Policies on Paid Political Advertisements

- a. All paid political advertisements must abide by the ERTU Code of Ethics and rules for advertising, while taking into consideration the specific nature of the elections;
- b. All paid political advertisements must not impugn personal lives or character of competing candidates directly or indirectly;
- c. All paid political advertisements must not include words, pictures, meanings, symbols, or graphical effects that offend the character of a competing candidate;
- d. All paid political advertisements must not include material which threatens national unity or the values of Egyptian society;
- e. All paid political advertisements for individual candidates shall be aired on local television and radio stations, and for parties shall be aired on national and local television and radio stations.
- f. All paid political advertisements must not be financed by any natural or legal person in Egypt or abroad. Paid political advertisements meant to self-promote the political programs of official Egyptian political parties are exempted from this policy.
- g. All paid political advertisements must be reviewed by the sub-committee charged with establishing policies for paid political advertisements and to ensure that they abide by the above guidelines.
- h. ERTU shall coordinate with all private Egyptian television and radio stations to ensure respect for the above guidelines throughout the parliamentary election period. .
- i. Paid political advertisements for parties, not candidates, will be aired on Channels 1 and 2 and the Nile News Channel. Each advertisement shall have a maximum length of 3 minutes in a single airing.

2- Organizational Rules

- a. Parties shall be permitted to advertise their programs on national and local television and radio stations.
- b. Candidate shall be permitted to advertise their programs only on local television and radio stations.

- c. 4 time slots will be made available daily on all ERTU local television and radio stations. Each timeslot will have a maximum length of 30 continuous minutes and shall not be part of any program's time slot. Airtime will be provided at a discounted rate. The timeslots shall be as follows:

Morning Period	6 AM to 10 AM
Noon Period	12 PM to 4 PM
Night Period	6 PM to 12 AM
Overnight period	12 AM to 6 AM

- d. No advertisements broadcasted in the periods specified in paragraph A shall be longer than 3 minutes.
- e. Candidates may broadcast advertisements outside the timeslots specified in paragraph A, for a period longer than 1 minute at a promotional rate (recommended discount of 50%)
- f. Candidates may use all creative methods in their advertisements so long as they abide by the Code of Ethics and respect intellectual property rights.
- g. Candidates' advertisements may not be aired during the news broadcasts, programs and reports on any of ERTU's television and radio stations. Nor may they be aired during live broadcasts of political, athletic or artistic events or during debates that may be organized by ERTU's television or radio stations.
- h. Candidate's advertisement requests shall not be accepted unless presented by his/her registered media representative or authorized agent. The request must include a certified check covering the full cost of broadcasting, and the desired broadcast schedule. Requests must be filed at least 72 hours before the agreed broadcast schedule.
- i. Advertisements must comply with the ERTU's technical and format standards.
- j. The ERTU shall establish a political advertising unit to ensure the smooth management of pricing, scheduling and broadcasting. Information on the committee shall be broadcasted via various media.
- k. Pricing information shall be made available via various media and on the internet.

V. Monitoring, Evaluation and Rectification of Media Performance

1. The General Commission shall form a committee through a decision of its chairman to monitor and rectify ERTU media performance. The

committee shall be chaired by the chairman of the General Commission. The committee shall be composed of:

- a. 2 members of the ERTU Board of Trustees;
 - b. 5 persons who are not members of the ERTU Board of Trustees from among experts and university professors in the field of media and who are not members of any party running candidates in the elections; and
 - c. 1 representative of each party running a representative in the election.
 - d. 3 representatives of civil society and human rights organizations
- Quorum for the committee shall be a majority of its members or, if one hour passes after the scheduled time for a meeting of the committee, then quorum shall be at least 5 members
 - The Committee shall take its decisions by the concurring votes of a simple majority of its members. In the case of a tie vote, the Chairman's vote shall decide.

2. Media which shall be monitored by the Committee:

- The Committee's mandate shall be limited to monitoring and rectification of all informational materials and candidate advertisements broadcast on all ERTU terrestrial and satellite television and radio station during the election period.

3. The Duration of the Committee's mandate:

- The duration of the Committee's mandate shall last during the period specified for campaigning by law and by the directives of the chairman of the High Elections Commission.

4. Data collection and monitoring methodology:

- The Committee shall monitor continuously and automatically all coverage through receiving requests and complaints. If the committee detects any violation that requires any form of intervention that it deems necessary it shall issue a directive to that effect to the chairman of the ERTU Board of Trustees for implementation.

5. Materials, installations and equipment

- The ERTU is Committed to providing all necessary materials, staff and equipment that the Committee may require to fulfill its mandate. It is also committed to providing an office space and staff at ERTU headquarters and the Economic Sector office to receive candidate requests or complaints and refer them to the competent agencies.

6. Nominees for membership on the Committee:

- **For Chairman of the Committee:**
 1. Mr. Amin Basiouny
- **For membership on the Committee from the ERTU Board of Trustees**

1. Dr. Hussein Amin
 2. Dr. Maggie Al-Helwany
- **For membership on the Committee from outside the ERTU Board of Trustees**
 1. Dr. Samy Al-Sherif
 2. Dr. Laila Abd Al-Mageed
 3. Dr. Jihan Rishty
 4. Dr. Adly Rida
 5. Dr. Samy Abd El-Aziz
 - **Representatives of all parties running candidates**
 - One representative from every party running candidates in the election
 - **Representatives of civil society and human rights organizations**
 1. Mrs. Ghada Saleh Shahbandar
 2. Mr. Hafez Abu Sadah
 3. Mr. Bahieddin Hassan
 - Finally, the General Commission recommends that these Guidelines and Standards be publicized so that private media who wish to abide by them may do so.