

Fact Sheet

VOTING FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (Absentee Voting)

Amendment to the Law No. 16 passed on 8 November 2009 has stipulated voting for internally displaced Iraqis. A displaced voter is an Iraqi who has been forcibly displaced from his/her permanent place of residence to another place inside Iraq after 9 April 2003 for whatever reason. They will be given the opportunity to vote absentee; that is, for their governorate of origin in the place of their displacement. The IHEC will establish absentee polling facilities where they will receive the ballot of their governorate of origin, as well as the booklet with names of candidates for that governorate.

Voters Registered with IHEC for Absentee Voting

An absentee voter can vote for the governorate of his or her original residence, but does so from the location of displacement. There are over **97,000 internally displaced persons** registered to vote absentee during the Voter Registration Update periods that took place in 2008 and 2009.

Absentee voters will vote for their governorates of origin in designated absentee polling stations or regular polling stations that have been designated to also serve absentee voters. Absentee voters are subject to the same laws and regulations as regular voters.

The following special provisions will be made for these voters:

- **Absentee polling stations** will be reserved for absentee voters so they can vote for a political entity and candidate from their governorate of origin. These polling stations will be established in polling centre locations where the IDP absentee voters currently reside.
- In some cases absentee voters will vote in **regular polling stations, which have been assigned to also serve absentee voters**. These stations will be provided with separate ballots, political entity lists and ballot boxes. Additional polling staff will be allocated to assist absentee voters.

Special Polling Stations for Conditional Absentee Voting

Special polling stations will be opened according to figures on IDP registered population by the MoDM in all governorates. Voters will be given the opportunity to vote in those polling stations by conditional ballot.

Conditional voting allows for the eligibility of the voters to be verified after the votes are cast, and prior to the vote being included in the count. Voters are required to provide relevant personal data, for recording on the conditional ballot envelope. Voters failing to

provide the required information will not be allowed to vote. On the basis of this information, if the voter is proven to be eligible for the governorate for which the ballot is cast according to the voter register, then the ballot will be counted.

Votes will be verified in the GEO Count Centers prior to counting taking place. Only votes of those voters who were not registered with the IHEC for absentee voting nor for voting in the governorate of displacement and who are registered with the MoDM will be counted.

Counting Process

Counting of absentee ballots will not be counted in the polling station, as is the case for regular polling. Instead, the sealed ballot boxes will be transported to governorate Count Centres, where counting will take place.