

Fact Sheet

**2010 Iraq Parliamentary Elections
Legal framework and operational planning facts**

Election Day

7 March 2010-Council of Representatives Election Day

4 March 2010-Special voting for police, military, detainees and hospitalized

5 – 7 March – Out-of -Country Registration and Voting planned in 16 countries

Number of registered voters on the Final Voters List: approximately 18, 9 million

Number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) registered to vote by absentee on the Final Voters List: approximately 97, 000. Special polling station for IDP conditional absentee voting will be open across the country.

Legal Framework which forms the basis for the election

Size of Council of Representatives (CoR): based on a decision adopted by the CoR on December 6, 2009, that provides for clarification to the amendments of the electoral law passed in November 2009.

- 325 seats, based on 2005 population data obtained from the Ministry of Trade and adjusted for 2.8% annual growth across all governorates allocated as follows:
- 310 general seats allocated to 18 governorates per the attached annex;
- 15 compensatory seats, out of which 8 have been reserved for minorities: Yizidi Component: one seat in Ninewa; Sabean Mandeian Component: one seat in Baghdad. Shabak Component: one seat in Ninewa; Christians: five seats distributed for Baghdad, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Dohuk and Erbil, but voted for in a single national constituency;
- Out of Country Voting (OCV) - will be the same as in-country with OCV voters voting directly for their governorates; IHEC has requested 16 countries for permission to conduct the OCV: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Netherlands, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, UAE, UK and USA. IHEC staff, UN and IFES advisers are being deployed to country offices.
- Open list electoral system - a voter can vote for a party as well as for one candidate of their choice from the party list;
- The number of candidates that parties can nominate - up to double the number of seats for the electoral district;
- Special Voting - Voting shall be conducted on March 4, by a reference to special voter lists. The names of registered security forces are to be removed from the Final Voter List. Details of detainees' and hospital patients' are to be provided prior to polling.
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have the right to vote for their place of origin in the place of displacement by absentee;
- Remedial provision for Kirkuk and governorates with disputed voter lists that have had an annual population growth rate of greater than 5% if petitions for review are supported by 50 MPs and approved by a simple majority;
- Women quota - 25 % applied to all winners;

IHEC Operational planning to date

- An estimated 8,600 Polling Centers containing up to approximately 50,000 Polling Stations across the 18 Governorates of Iraq have been identified by IHEC for polling and counting on general polling day (March 7); A maximum of 400 voters are assigned to each polling station pursuant to a voter list;
- An estimated 650 Polling Centers containing up to 2,600 Polling Stations have been identified for Special Voting (March 4);
- IHEC estimates 300 Polling Centers with approximately 1050 Polling Stations to facilitate voting for IDPs. Consideration may be given for adding more stations, given the legal language adopted by the CoR;
- IHEC has identified 19 count centers located in the governorates for the counting of absentee and special voting (police, military, detainees and hospitals);
- An estimated 300,000 Iraqi staff will be hired for special and general voting, count centers and the data entry/tabulation center. Such staff have been selected by a public lottery based on more than 500,000 applications.

Coalition Formation and Candidate Nomination

- Candidate Nomination for the CoR elections closed on December 20, 2009. IHEC reported 6529 candidates nominated by 86 political entities. Seven political entities and 50 candidates are competing for the Christian race to run in a single national constituency.
- On December 24, 2009 IHEC conducted a ballot lottery to determine the order of the political entities and coalitions on the ballot.

Logistics

- More than 3,000 land convoys and more than 20 international flights are planned to provide logistical support for the movement of electoral materials with a completely integrated security plan designed by the Election Supreme Security Committee (ESSC).
- Materials include: more than 26 million ballots (19 different types of ballots)
- 100.000 ballot boxes to be obtained from China;
- 10.000 Polling Center and 52.000 Polling Station kits and stamps from Lebanon,
- Ink from China,
- An estimated 30 tons of voter list and sensitive materials printed in Lebanon
- 15 tons of printed materials (stickers, envelopes, labels and posters);
- 15.000 training kits, 15.000 sets of training printed material.
- Requirements for OCV operation are not included in these numbers.

Accreditation process

- Accreditation process for the CoR elections is ongoing. More than 80 international organization and diplomatic missions have been invited to observe the upcoming election. Approximately 200,000 – 300,000 political agents, national and international observers are expected to participate in this election, which should provide for every polling station in Iraq to be observed.

UNAMI “poll watchers”

- As part of the technical assistance, teams of UNAMI officials will watch the polling and counting process across the country;

IHEC Public Outreach/Voter Education

The IHEC voter education campaign will be conducted in up to 5 languages - Arabic, Kurdish (Bagdenani and Sorani dialects), Turkoman and Assyrian and will include the following:

- TV/Radio campaign – 6 TV spots and 6 audio spots featuring main VE messages plus additional voter information utilizing up to 30 local and satellite TV channels and 20-30 radio stations. Daily multiple broadcasts for 21 days leading up to E-Day.
- Newspapers campaign – publication of IHEC VE ads in 50 newspapers; half-page size, for 28 days leading up to E-Day. Electoral newsletter insert in 20 newspapers.
- Printed materials – brochures, manuals, pamphlets and posters – 500,000 of each type
- Large scale materials – 1000 Billboards, 100 electronic screens country-wide.
- Voter Education symposiums, seminars and workshops – held by National Office and GEOs country-wide, including 128 symposiums at district and sub-district level.
- VE mobile teams – 48 teams country-wide; mobilizing voters, printed material distribution, including 3,000,000 motivational letters.
- Call Centre – up to 30 operators fielding up to 2000 calls per day at the toll free number (7777).
- Website – regular updates of the website www.ihec.iq in 3 languages (Arabic, Kurdish, and English). Polling Centre locator on the website.

Security

- The Elections Supreme Security Committee (ESSC), comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Iraq National Security Council (NSC), Iraq National Intelligence Services (INIS), IHEC, UNAMI and the US Force for Iraq, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Interior, Lt General Dr. Ayden, is responsible for organizing and coordinating security over the elections period across the country. A National Election Security Plan was presented by the ESSC and IHEC on 23 January in Baghdad.

IHEC Data Entry Center (DEC)

- For the first time, IHEC updated of the Voter Registry in Iraq. For that operation the IHEC's Data Entry Center (DEC) was equipped with roughly 250 data entry stations, 20 scanners and an archiving.
- The candidate nomination forms, submitted by Political entities, were also processed at the IHEC DEC.
- The DEC was also used for the data entry and verification of information of the PDS cards submitted by the Ministries of Interior and Defense to create a special Voter Register for the personnel of Iraqi Police and Iraqi Security Forces.
- For the tabulation of results data entry following the elections of the CoR, the DEC will be equipped with 350 data entry workstations along with adequate scanning and archive capacity to process over 50,000 polling stations. These stations will represent regular, absentee, special and out of country voting.
- The actual counting of votes will take place in polling stations after the closing of the polls on election date (regular and out-of-country voting) or at count centres (absentee and special voting). Copies of results forms will be displayed at each station (or count centre), while the original results forms will be transported to the IHEC DEC in Baghdad for results data entry, tabulation and results display.

- Provisional results will be released by IHEC HQ in Baghdad. They include the valid votes cast by police and military, IDPs, detainees, regular and out of country voters. Once all complaints and audits have been processed and appeals to IHEC decisions adjudicated, the final results will be submitted to the Federal Supreme Court for certification.

Apportionment of Council of Representatives Seats

No.	Governorate	Seats
1	Baghdad	68
2	Ninewa	31
3	Basra	24
4	Thi-Qar	18
5	Babel	16
6	Sulaymaniyah	17
7	Anbar	14
8	Erbil	14
9	Diyala	13
10	Kirkuk	12
11	Salah El-Din	12
12	Najaf	12
13	Wassit	11
14	Qadissiya	11
15	Missan	10
16	Dohuk	10
17	Karbala	10
18	Muthanna	7
	Compensatory	15
		325

More information on the IHEC website www.ihec.iq