

**Fact Sheet**  
**Anti-Fraud Measures for the 2010 Council of Representatives Election**

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) is implementing a number of anti-fraud measures to protect the integrity of the election process and ensure that election results are accepted as credible by the Iraqi people. Anti-fraud mechanisms are included at all levels and during all phases of the electoral process. Besides technical specifications designed to prevent fraudulent duplication of ballot papers, perhaps the single most important anti-fraud measure in the 2010 elections is the production of the voter list down to the polling station level. This means that a voter's name will only appear in one polling station. Each of the almost 18.9 million eligible voters has been assigned to a specific polling location based on their food ration cards. Consequently there will be no same day registration and voting.

Furthermore, a significant safeguard against fraudulent tampering with the electoral process will be domestic observation; IHEC has comprehensive accreditation procedures to allow access for Iraqi and international observers and political entities' agents to observe all polling and counting procedures. All candidates and their political entities are encouraged to accredit representatives with the IHEC to observe polling, counting, transportation of ballots and sensitive materials and results tabulation and release.

**Voter Registration and the Voter List**

- Each voter is allocated to a specific (and only one) polling station; a voter can only cast a ballot in the polling station where s/he is on the voter list;
- Voters are required to produce a photographic identification to vote;
- There will be no proxy voting; only in person voting will be allowed;
- Voters are required to sign or leave a finger print next to their name (for illiterate voters) in the voter list when issued with a ballot; without a signature/print a ballot will not be issued; consequently if a voter has cast a ballot they will be unable to vote again;
- Special Voter List for military and police. Registered voters belonging to the military and police will vote by a reference to a special list. The names of the registered forces are removed from the Final Voter List which will be used for regular polling.
- Voters will be informed ahead of election day exactly where to go and vote – information will be available at the IHEC Governorate Election Office, the IHEC District Election Office (previously the voter registration centres used in 2009) and by posters at polling centres. Voters can also call free of charge the IHEC Call Centre on 7777; or input their food ration number and data on the IHEC website at [www.ihec.iq](http://www.ihec.iq) to find their polling location.

**Political Campaign Period**

- IHEC actively monitors media coverage of elections – any breaches of the IHEC Regulations are investigated and the Board of Commissioners who decide an appropriate penalty if a breach is established. This can ultimately include a fine or removal of votes from a political entity. Board decisions are published in national newspapers and online;
- Campaign period ends 24 hours before polling;
- IHEC has established a comprehensive set of campaign rules as well a complaints process that can be accessed by all voters, political entities and candidates should they witness campaign violations, intimidation or fraudulent behavior.

## **Polling**

- ***Ballots, boxes and stamps:*** Ballots themselves have been printed by world renowned printing specialists that also print international currency; security features have been incorporated into the design of the ballot that will prevent duplication;
- The number of ballots issued to individual polling stations has been closely monitored to ensure that any discrepancies can be easily detected; ballots are produced in pads of 50 and have a sequential serial number to enable close tracking should a pad go missing or be fraudulently used (NOTE: individual ballots issued to voters will not be tracked to ensure secrecy of the vote);
- ***Special Ballot Stamps*** (with a unique and confidential) identification stamp will be used to mark the back of ballots as they are issued to voters. Only ballots with this stamp will be counted.
- ***Transparent ballot boxes*** will be used to allow observers and political entity agents to see the ballots being cast (yet maintain the secrecy of the vote) – this will assist in detecting tampered boxes; all sealing and unsealing of ballot boxes will take place in the presence of observers and political entity agents.
- ***Special numbered seals*** are used on the ballot boxes; these seal numbers are recorded on opening and close of polling and on re-opening when the count begins – any discrepancy is recorded and an investigation initiated that can result in that ballot box and its contents being excluded from the results; observers and entity agents can also recorded these numbers and report any discrepancy;
- ***Tamper evident bags*** are used to store election sensitive information & tally sheets to ensure that misuse can be detected.
- ***Ink:*** Voters will be inked with indelible ink to show that they have voted and to prevent multiple voting.

## **Security & Access:**

- A safe and secure security environment is key to instill confidence in the electorate to come out and vote. Voter intimidation and forced closure of a polling centre will not be tolerated by either the IHEC or Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). A National Security Plan has been established together with the Ministries of Defense and Interior to ensure that ISF deployment on Election Day will allow voters to vote safely, catch trouble makers and yet ensure the ISF do not interfere in the process. In some areas of Iraq USF-I Forces will also be working in partnership with ISF;
- The IHEC has worked closely with ISF to develop a “Code of Conduct” and ensure security forces understand their role and responsibilities on election day;
- Governorate and international borders will likely be sealed on election day;
- Access to polling stations should also be easier with a substantial increase in the number and location – approximately 50, 000 stations in almost 10, 000 centres;
- No cameras or telephones will be allowed into polling stations – except in special IHEC approved “media friendly” centres and then only if media respect the secrecy of the vote;
- Secrecy of the vote will be maintained by voting screens, behind which a voter will mark their ballot.

## **Staffing:**

- Only IHEC staff will be allowed access to sensitive election materials;
- Voters will be informed exactly what to expect and what to do when in a polling station by IHEC polling staff recruited from the Ministry of Education who are professional teachers and have had extensive training on polling procedures; all IHEC staff sign a Code of Conduct that if breached can result in significant professional consequences;

## **Observation:**

- Accredited observers and party entity agents will be allowed full access to observe the entire process from opening of polling to the final tally of results; All polling procedures and codes of conduct for staff and observers and entity agents have been published by the IHEC on their website – [www.ihec.iq](http://www.ihec.iq)

## **Transportation of ballots and sensitive materials:**

- All transportation of ballots and sensitive materials can be accompanied by observers and political entity agents;
- IHEC Staff, ISF, and in some cases USF-I, will accompany all movements of election materials.

### **Counting & Tally**

- Counting will take place at the polling stations at the close of polling (except for special and absentee voting for IDPs that will occur at secure governorate count centres) in full view of observers and entity agents; additionally, regular polling stations requiring audit will be audited at the governorate count centres, and counted if the problem is resolved;
- Special procedures have been developed to count and reconcile all ballots cast with the number of ballots issued to the polling station, and the total votes of political entities with valid ballots cast. If there is a significant discrepancy during the data entry, than an audit of the concerned polling station will be undertaken.
- All ballots are counted and displayed in front of observers and entity agents and are “double counted” to ensure accuracy; This double count also applies to the number of voters that have signed/printed the voter list;
- Count form and tally sheet numbers can be copied by observer and entity agents once the process is complete;
- All tally sheets are securely transferred to Baghdad to be data entered at the IHEC HQ, under full observation of national and international observers and entity agents;
- Data entry during the tally process will be under full observation; software development ensures that a duplicate reconciliation process is used and any anomalies automatically identified- a subsequent audit will be used to investigate suspect results sheets; all original results sheets are scanned and archived.

### **Special Voting – Military, Police, Detainee and Hospital Voting**

- Procedures have been developed to allow certain categories of voters who will be working on election day or unable to attend a polling station to be given the opportunity to vote – This includes members of ISF (military and police), and staff and residents of detention facilities and hospitals (with a capacity of at least 200 beds) – this process will be implemented by IHEC staff and in full view of observers and entity agents and will take place on 04 March;
- The IHEC in close consultation with the Ministries of Interior and Defense have been given details of all ISF members that will be participating in this election. Those registered with IHEC will vote by a reference to a special list on Special Voting day, 4 March. Their names have been removed from the Final Voter List which will be used on regular polling day, 7 March. Equivalent numbers of ballots will be issued (and not more than needed) to each polling location;
- Special Voting accounts for approximately 4 % of the electorate;
- Special Voting for certain categories of voters -staff and residents of detention centers and hospitals- (with capacity of at least 200 beds) will be given a secrecy envelop to place their ballot and vote (each voter is issued with a ballot from their governorate of registration); this is then inserted into another envelop with their name, PDS number and governorate details recorded on the outside; this is then placed into the ballot box; this is called “conditional balloting;”
- Eligibility of this category of voter will be confirmed during the counting process by checking voter data on the conditional ballot envelope against the voter register; if a voter is not found in the voter registry as eligible to vote for the governorate for which the voter has cast a ballot, then the vote will not be counted;
- Special Voters will also be inked – except for detainees on USF-I detention facilities;
- Checks on the voter lists used on 7 March will be made to ensure that those that vote on 4 March have not voted twice.
- Political entity agents should note that due to use of conditional ballots for a certain category of special voters, Provisional results will likely not include this category of voter.

More information on the IHEC website [www.ihec.iq](http://www.ihec.iq)