

FACT SHEET

Voter Registration Update - August 2009

The Voter Registration Update

The Voter Registration Update is a process in which the Provisional Voters' List containing the names and personal data of eligible registered voters is made available to individuals and families to check that their information is correctly entered. The information on the Provisional Voters' List comes from the IHEC voter registration database 2008 which is drawn from data taken from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Displacement and Migration, Ministry of Trade and three voter registration update exercises in 2008 and 2009.

When and where?

From August 22 to September 30 2009 at 1082 Voter Registration Centers nationwide. All centers are open from 8 A.M to 3 P.M. Saturday to Thursday. See the IHEC website for further details: <http://www.ihec.iq/>. Iraqis can also call the IHEC National Call Center using the toll free numbers to verify that their name and other personal data is correctly entered. The toll free mobile number is 7777, or email: callihec@ihec.iq.

Who can participate?

To be registered to vote a person must be:

1. An Iraqi citizen;
2. Legally competent;
3. 18 years of age before or in the year of the election; (Born in or before 1992)

Voter Information Card

The IHEC introduced the new Voter Information Card in 2009, which enables a voter to check his/her information and make the necessary changes during the VRU period.

Over 18 million VICs were printed by the IHEC and are being distributed throughout the country by mobile teams, going door-to-door and explaining to voters how to utilize their right to vote in the upcoming CoR elections.

Voter Registration Update Process

Eligible Iraqi's citizens should visit their designated Voter Registration Center to check that their personal data is included correctly in the Provisional Voters' List. If the person's information on the Provisional Voters' List is the same as the information in their ID documents, no further action is required.

Note that:

Verification 1. of the name and personal data on the Provisional Voters' List can be done in person or by a family member.

Amendments and changes 2. of a polling unit within a Voter Registration Center must be done in person or by a family member.

Additions and changes 3. of a polling unit to another Voter Registration Center must be done in person by presenting the PDS card.

To make changes or amendments for other family members' 4. eligible citizens must present a document to prove the relationship and ID documents of the family member.

To register to vote for IDP absentee voting5. , those who have been forcefully displaced after 9 April 2003 can register to vote in the governorate of their displacement closest to the area where they live or for their governorate of origin on the polling date through absentee voting.

Mobile teams and messages targeting IDPs were deployed by the IHEC for the 2009 VRU6.

In order to register to vote:

IDPs whose name on the IDP list must present two official documents (one with a photo ID) and are 1. not required to provide evidence of displacement.

IDPs whose names are not on the IDPs lists must apply to the Ministry of Displacement 2. and Migration for a confirmation letter addressed to the Voter Registration Center to register them as internally displaced confirming their IDP status and governorate of origin.

Voter Registration Update Offences**It is an offence to:**

Make false declarations;1.

Present forged documents to the Voter Registration Center;2.

Seek double or multiple registrations for self or other people;3.

Attempt to prevent other people from registering through the threat or actual use of violence or other 4. forms of intimidation;

To withhold vital documents from family members, thus barring them from verifying their voter 5. registration status; and

To seek to corrupt the voter registration process through bribes or threats.⁶

Special procedures for Kirkuk, Diyala, and Ninawa

The IHEC Board of Commissioners issued a decision to monitor all additions and out-of-Governorate changes in the three Governorates to monitor any unusual transactions that may affect the registration process. An IHEC committee for cross-checking and verifying additions was created.

