

Fact Sheet

Polling Centres

IHEC will establish more than 8,600 Polling Centers throughout Iraq for the Council of Representatives elections. Each polling centre consists of one or more polling stations, over 50,000 polling stations will be established.

In order to expand opportunities for the participation of all eligible Iraqis in the voting process IHEC has decided to set different types of Polling Centres/Stations:

Regular Polling Centers:

Voting in this type of centers will take place in accordance with the Final Voter List. Initially voters have been assigned to a polling centre based on their food ration agent number as per the PDS from July 2007. More than 600.000 voters changed their assignment to polling centers during the Voter Registration Updates in 2008 and 2009.

Voters' lists posters are displayed at the Polling Centres two weeks prior to the Election Day. A voter can also call the IHEC Call Centre toll-free at 7777 and visit the IHEC website at www.ihec.iq to find their polling location.

Prior to the 2009 Voter Registration Update, the IHEC distributed Voter Information Cards informing voters about their assignment to polling centers. This information is still valid unless voters changed their assignment during the VRU in 2009.

There are 18.3 mill voters on the Final Voter List that will be used on 7th March.

Polling Stations for Special Voting of Army and Police

1. Voting according to Special Voting List

The IHEC entered the information submitted by army and police and created a Special Voter List for their voting. The list contains 680.000 voters who will get an opportunity to vote on 4th March. Names of those voters were removed from the Final Voter List.

2. Conditional Voting

Special Polling Centers will be opened for members of the army and police whose names have not been included in the Special Voter List. They will vote by conditional ballot. Validity of their votes will be verified in the GEO Count Centers.

Polling Stations for Special Voting of Detainees and Patients in Hospitals

Voters will get a chance to vote by conditional ballots in these facilities on 4th March. Validity of their votes will be verified and counted (if eligibility confirmed) in the GEO Count Centers.

Absentee Voting Polling Stations (IDPs):

To accommodate all Internally Displaced People/Voters who are registered for the Absentee Voting program in Iraq. These Polling Stations will be established in Polling Centers in the locations where the IDP absentee voters currently reside, so that they can cast a ballot for the candidates of their choice from the governorate from which they have been displaced. There are 77.000 voters registered to vote in these polling stations.

Special Absentee Polling Centers:

These Centers will be opened for voters registered as IDPs with the Ministry of Trade (MoT) or Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) but who did not register with the IHEC for absentee voting. Only IDPs who did not change their ration cards and are not registered for voting in the place of their displacement have right to vote in these polling centers. IDP status will be confirmed at the entrance to the polling centers, only voters found on the lists of the registered IDPs will be allowed to enter the center and cast ballots. In these centers voters will vote on 7th March by conditional ballot that will be verified and counted (if eligibility confirmed) in the GEO Count Centers.

Special Update Centers:

IHEC will open Special Update Centers for eligible Iraqis newly registered with the MoT since July 2007 as well as for those who changed their governorate of registration with the MoT but did not registered that change with IHEC. These polling centers correspond with the areas covered by the MoT Food Distribution Centers. At the entrance to these polling centers there will be a list of eligible voters for that polling center (registered for the same Food Distribution Center in the area where the polling center is located). Only voters named on the list will be allowed to enter the centre and cast a conditional ballot. The voting in these centers will vote on 7th March, validity of votes will be verified and votes counted (if eligibility confirmed) in the GEO Count Centers.

Additional Remarks:

- Names of voters on all voter lists will be sorted in alphabetical order, according to the name of their names. .
- All voters have to sign the voter list next to their name before receiving a ballot.
- All voters must bring photo identification with them on Election Day.