

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Ballots for CoR Elections – Key Facts**

The complexities of Iraq's Council of Representative election require different kinds of polling stations for different groups of eligible voters. These include general governorate voting, police and military voting, detainees and hospitals voting, special update conditional voting and out of country voting. Each of these classifications has its own methodology of determining how many ballots are required.

1. **General Governorate Voting.** IHEC is planning to open more than 47,000 general polling stations in all governorates for the 18.9 million voters on the final voter list. Each polling station has a maximum of 420 voters but due to demographic and geographical reasons, polling stations can have fewer numbers. Despite the varying numbers of voters, a polling station is allocated a standard carton of 450 ballots. The number of ballots for general governorate voting is approximately 21,150,000.
2. **Special Voting.** There are many categories of special voting, this includes absentee voting for registered IDPs, voting for police and military, hospitals and detainees, absentee voting for IDPs pursuant to MoDM and MoT lists and special update centers. These classifications of voters come from different governorates thus each polling station must be equipped with up to 18 different governorate ballots. For security and tracking reasons, ballots are bound in packs of 50. Given these different categories and the need for all 18 governorate ballots to be available in these special polling stations, IHEC must allocate an estimated 3,850,000 ballots for these purposes.
3. **OCV and Contingency Reserve.** Calculating the number of potential voters outside Iraq has been a very difficult task for the IHEC due to different data sources, moving populations and the late enactment of the election law which changed the way OCV would be conducted when compared to past exercises. Given all the criteria available for the 16 countries where IHEC plans to conduct OCV, 1.4 million ballots have been allotted. The international practice for election planning is to have spare materials that can be used in the event of any contingency. The standard practice is to have a material reserve of between 5-10%. IHEC has adopted a reserve percentage of 7% which equals a total ballot print of approximately 28, 200,000.
4. **Security of the Ballots** Each ballot has a series of highly sophisticated security features making it impossible to reproduce without detection by IHEC. In addition, each ballot has a serial number on its stub. The connection of a ballot and its serial number cease to exist only after the ballot is detached from the stub and handed over to a voter. For each phase of ballot handling - from the printing factory to the regional hubs, to the IHEC warehouses and then to the polling stations and then back to the warehouses there are hand over forms with coded fields for serial numbers and quantities of ballots. During the Election Day ballot serial numbers for each of the stations are recorded, and the number of unused ballots, discarded ballots, spoilt ballots and valid ballots are counted and recorded. Full ballot reconciliation is implemented in all polling stations for in country and out of country voting. These measures guarantee that ballots are accounted for at all times and that there is no space for misuse and fraud.