

Fact Sheet

SPECIAL VOTING

Special voting for selected categories of voters will take place on **04 March 2010** as required by the amendments to the Law No. 16 passed on 8 November 2009. Special voting includes personnel of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and other security institutions, detainees, prisoners and patients in hospitals and other health institutions.

Voting will take place pursuant to a special voter list or by conditional ballot, depending on the category of voter. Special voting ballots will not be counted in the polling station, as is the case for regular polling. Instead, the sealed ballot boxes will be transported to governorate Count Centres, where verification and counting will take place. Counting processes in Count Centres will commence on 8 March, after the conclusion of regular polling on Election Day.

Voting of military or personnel of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and other security institutions

Voting shall be conducted based on official lists which include the names and locations of those who will be working on the general election day (7 March) or on call. The ministries and institutions must submit such lists 60 days prior to the Election Day. Names on these lists are deleted from the Final Voter List to be used on 7 March. If names of the personnel for the ministries are not submitted on time, they shall vote as part of the general voting according to the Final Voter List.

Polling for this category of voters will be conducted under the same procedures as regular voting, except that the votes will be counted in governorate Count Centres.

Conditional Voting of detainees, prisoners and patients in hospitals and other health institutions

Detainees and prisoners in institutions with more than 200 voters shall be included in special voting. Patients in hospitals and other health institutions with more than 100 beds shall be included in special voting. These voters will cast a ballot for the governorate where they are listed on the voter register.

Voters will cast what is known as a 'conditional ballot'. Conditional voting allows for the eligibility of the voters to be verified. Verification occurs after the votes are cast, and prior to the vote being included in the count. Voters are required to provide relevant personal data for recording on the conditional ballot envelope. Voters failing to provide the required information will not be allowed to vote. On the basis of this information, if

the voter is proven to be eligible for the governorate for which the ballot is cast according to the voter register, then the ballot will be counted.

Each voter must know their family PDS number or voter number as specified on their Voter Information Card that was distributed to voters in Iraq prior to the Voter Registration Update in 2009. Whenever possible, they should bring the original or a photocopy of their PDS card or their Voter Information Card. In each polling station the identity of the voter will be checked, and the following personal details will be written on the conditional ballot envelope:

- a. Governorate for which the ballot is cast**
- b. PDS number (if available)**
- c. Name, father's name, grandfather's name**
- d. Date of birth**
- e. Food Ration Centre code (if available)**
- f. Voter Number (if available)**

This information will also be recorded on a blank voter list and the voter will be required to sign or thumbprint (for illiterate voters) next to his/her name on the voter list. Any person refusing to sign or thumbprint the voter list will not be permitted to vote. After signing the voter list, the voter will be given a conditional ballot envelope with his/her data written on the outside as well as the ballot for the governorate where s/he is registered to vote. The voter will also be given a secrecy envelope (with the name of the governorate for which the ballot is being cast written on the outside). Voters will also receive a booklet with lists of all candidates nominated by the political entities in the respective governorate. After marking the ballot, the voter will place the ballot into the secrecy envelope, seal it, and then place the secrecy envelope into the conditional ballot envelope with his/her data recorded on the outside.

After closure of polling, all ballot boxes will be sealed and transported to the Governorate Count Centre, where the verification of conditional ballot envelopes and counting of ballots will take place. Count Centers will have computerized data units for verifying data of the voters against the final voter list for whole of Iraq. If a voter is found on the Final Voters' List for the Governorate for which s/he has cast the ballot, the ballot would be counted. The count of conditional ballots will start after regular polling day and after the verification process is finalized.

Special measures will be put in place to prevent multiple voting. If multiple voting is confirmed the case will be forwarded to the court and prosecuted as per regular procedures.