



Republic of Liberia  
**National Elections Commission (NEC)**



# **Guidelines on the Establishment of Electoral Districts in Liberia**

**16 May 2005**

## **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, Article 89 of the January 6, 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia established the Elections Commission as an autonomous public Commission;

WHEREAS, Section 9, Chapter 2 of the 1986 Elections Law empowers the Elections Commission to formulate and enforce electoral guidelines;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission successor to the Elections Commission, was reconstituted by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in Accra, Ghana, on 18th August 2003;

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement mandates that the electoral system in Liberia be reformed in order to ensure that the rights and interests of all Liberians are guaranteed, and that the elections are organized in a manner that is acceptable to all;

WHEREAS, Section 5 (y) of the Electoral Reform Law of 2004 establishes Electoral Districts as the amalgamation of voting precincts by the National Elections Commission for the purpose of electing members of the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission shall define and publish the number of Electoral Districts for each county on or before 15 July 2005;

### **NOW THEREFORE:**

**The National Elections Commission hereby promulgates the following guidelines pertaining to the creation of Electoral Districts in Liberia for the sole purpose of the October 2005 elections:**

## **Part I: GENERAL**

These guidelines may be cited as the Guidelines on the Establishment of Electoral Districts in Liberia.

In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Electoral District" means one of 64 units comprised of the amalgamated Voter Registration Centers for the purposes of the House of Representatives within a given county;
- (b) "The Commission" means the National Elections Commission;
- (c) "Amalgamation" means the combination of Voter Registration Centers to form Electoral Districts;
- (d) "The Reform Law" means the Electoral Reform Law of 2004;
- (e) "Criteria" means those factors to be considered in the establishment of the amalgamation of Voter Registration Centers to form Electoral Districts;
- (f) "Population Quota" means the total number of registered voters across all counties divided by 64, the total number of House seats; and
- (g) "Contiguous" in the establishment of Electoral Districts means wholly contained within one area.

## **Part II: Context**

The Electoral Reform Law stipulates that Liberia adopt a first past the post electoral system that relies exclusively on single-member Electoral Districts to elect members by simple majority to the House of Representatives, therefore, it is necessary to allocate seats accordingly.

Furthermore, pursuant to Section 4 of the Electoral Reform Law, the sixty-four (64) seats shall be distributed among the 15 counties on the basis of the number of registered voters in each county, provided no county receives less than 2 seats.

Additionally, no Electoral District shall cross a county boundary, and Electoral Districts shall be contiguous as far as is practicable.

## **Part III: Seat Allocation**

After the number of registered voters in each county has been tabulated, the total number of registered voters for all the counties and the population quota can be established.

Two (2) seats are hereby automatically allocated to each of Liberia's fifteen (15) counties irrespective of the number of registered voters in the county. Thirty (30) of the total number of sixty-four (64) House seats shall be so allocated.

The remaining thirty-four (34) seats shall be allocated to the counties on the basis of the relative number of registered voters in each county. Only counties that have the requisite quota of registered voters, based on the balance of total number of registered voters, may be awarded any of these 34 seats each time a county achieves the quota.

#### **Part IV: Establishment of Electoral Districts**

The Commission shall establish 64 Electoral Districts to represent amalgamated units of Voter Registration Centers for the purpose of the House of Representatives elections.

The primary criterion for the establishment of the Electoral Districts is the total number of registered voters in a given county. An Electoral District will be established according to the registered voter population quota for a given county. The Voter Registration Centers will be amalgamated to form Electoral Districts based on the tabulated number of persons registered to vote at each center.

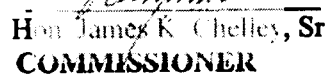
When amalgamating Voter Registration Centers to form Electoral Districts, the Commission shall endeavour, as much as is practicable, to have relatively equal number of registered voters represented within each Electoral District, notwithstanding the deviations that result from the 2 seat minimum per county.

Additional criteria guiding the establishment of Electoral Districts may include, as much as practicable, contiguity, geographic features, the existing administrative district and tribal/chiefdom boundaries and communities of interest.

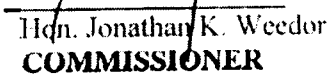
#### **Part V: Publication**

The Commission shall publish the final Electoral Districts on or before 15 July 2005.

  
 Hon. Mary N. Brownell  
**COMMISSIONER**

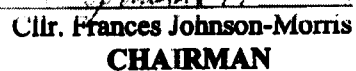
  
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