



## **UN Integrated Electoral Assistance Team**

### **2013 Iraqi Governorate Council Elections**

#### **UPDATED FACT SHEET – 16 April 2013**

#### **Election Day**

20 April 2013 - Election Day

13 April 2013 - Special Voting for Army and Police

#### **Role of the UN in the Governorate Council Elections**

Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2061, the United Nations is mandated to provide advice, support, and assist the Government of Iraq and the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) on the development of processes for holding elections and referenda.

To implement this mandate, a UNAMI-led integrated team of electoral advisers from UNAMI, UNDP and UNOPS works closely and is co-located within IHEC. The team provides advice and assistance in the areas of election management, operations; field coordination; data centre management; information technology; logistics; procurement; training; gender; legal and complaints; graphic design; external relations; and, public outreach.

#### **Operational Planning Figures**

Iraq will hold Governorate Council elections in 12 of the country's 18 governorates on 20 April 2013. No elections are scheduled yet for the governorate councils in the Kurdistan region and Kirkuk. Elections in Anbar and Ninewa have been postponed.

There are 13,538,588 regular voters and 53,682 internally displaced absentee voters in the updated IHEC voter registry database for these 12 governorates. A voter registration update was held from 9 December 2012 up to 8 January 2013 to provide an opportunity for voters to check their data in the preliminary voter list and request for addition, change, correction and deletion, as necessary. IDPs were given the opportunity to register to vote in absentia for their governorate of origin.

A total of 5,149 regular polling centers and 32,102 regular polling stations and 96 IDP absentee polling stations will be opened on election day between 7am until 5pm. In addition, there are 30 polling centers and 94 polling stations for those internally displaced that are currently located in the Kurdistan Region and Kirkuk. For the voting by army and police personnel, IHEC is setting up 1,845 polling stations in 420 polling centers.

IHEC is in the process of hiring approximately 250,000 polling staff for the elections. The polling staff training process, which utilizes the cascade approach, was scheduled to be completed by 10 April 2013.

High quality election materials have been procured to guarantee the integrity of the electoral process with specific security features such as watermarked and ultraviolet light-sensitive coated ballot papers, indelible ink, serial numbered and bar coded results forms.

IHEC has scheduled the delivery electoral materials to and from polling centers within 3 days prior the elections and 1 day after closing of the polls. While no major logistics challenges are foreseen, all movements will be escorted by Iraqi Security Forces.

## Legal Framework

The election is governed by Law No. 36 of 2008 as amended, most recently by the Council of Representatives in December 2012. The electoral system is by proportional representation with an open list balloting - that allows voters to select the entity and candidate of their choice. Seats in each governorate councils will be allocated to political entities using the St. Lague seat allocation formula<sup>1</sup>.

The law also provides for guaranteed representation of women and components in the governorate councils. IHEC published the regulation determining the number of seats being contested (See table below).

Governorate	Population	Total seats	Components seats	Women seats
Baghdad	7,255,278	58	1 seat for each of Christians, Sabeen Mandeian, Faili Kurds and Turkmen	15
Nenawa	3,353,875	39	1 seat for each of Christians, Yezidi and Shabak	10
Basra	2,601,790	35	1 seat for Christians	9
Babil	1,864,124	31		8
Thi –Qar	1,883,160	31		8
Al-Anbar	1,598,822	30		8
Najaf	1,319,608	29		8
Diyala	1,477,684	29		8
Salahaddin	1,441,266	29		8
Qadiseya	1,162,458	28		7
Wasit	1,240,935	28	1 seat for Fayli Kurds	7
Maysan	997,410	27		7
Karbala	1,094,281	27		7
Muthana	735,905	26		7
Total	28,026,596	447	9	117

## Political entities and candidates

There are 265 political entities and 50 coalitions that have been certified by IHEC to contest the elections. Nomination papers were submitted for a total of 8,302 candidates, of which 2,205 (26%) are women. Following a vetting process by the Accountability and Justice Commission, the IHEC ordered the exclusion of 117 candidates.

The electoral campaign started on March 1 and will continue until midnight of April 18. IHEC is responsible for monitoring political entities and candidates' compliance with campaign regulation, towards this end, IHEC has dispatched 162 monitoring teams throughout the country.

## Electoral observers and political entity agents

IHEC has accredited 48,292 local observers, 238,419 political entity agents, 271 international observers, 1,945 local journalists, 174 international journalists, 56,626 total calls received by the "Call Center".

## Vote Counting, Results Tabulation and Announcement of Results

Upon close of polling, the ballots for regular voting are counted in the polling stations. Results are recorded in specific reconciliation and results forms that are then eventually sent to the Data Entry Center in Baghdad for tabulation. Ballots for absentee and special voting stations are sent to the Governorate Count Centers for batching, sorting and counting. Results are then recorded in specified result forms and sent to the Data Entry Center in Baghdad.

Final results will be announced once tabulation and processing of complaints are completed.

For further information please consult IHEC and UNAMI websites: <http://www.ihec.iq>; <http://unami.unmissions.org>

<sup>1</sup> In the St. Lague seat allocation formula, valid votes for each political entity is divided by regular integers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.....and the winning seats are allocated based on the highest averages in descending order until all the seats are allocated.