



FACT SHEET VOTING FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (Absentee Voting)

There are over **63,000 internally displaced persons** registered to vote in the Governorate Council elections in Iraq; they are referred to as "**absentee voters.**" An absentee voter can vote for the Governorate of his or her original residence, but does so from another location.

Only internally displaced persons who are registered as absentee voters will be allowed to vote for their governorates of origin from another location - in absentee polling stations or regular polling stations that have been designated to also serve absentee voters. Absentee voters are subject to the same laws and regulations as regular voters.

The following special provisions will be made for these voters:

- Special '**absentee polling stations**' will be reserved for absentee voters so they can vote for candidates from their governorate of origin. These polling stations will be established in polling centre locations where the IDP absentee voters currently reside.
- In some cases absentee voters will vote in **regular polling stations, which have been assigned to also serve absentee voters.** These stations will be provided with separate ballot papers, political entity lists and ballot boxes. Additional polling staff will be allocated to assist absentee voters.

Voting Process:

- Absentee voters will be recorded on separate voter's lists which includes the names of absentee voters for each governorate.
- After checking the voter's identification document, the Identification Officer will ask the voter his/her governorate of origin in order to locate the voter's name on the correct governorate section of the voter list.
- The voter will sign the voters' list next to his/her name in the section of their governorate of displacement.
- The Ballot Issuer will issue a ballot from the governorate of origin, and a correct governorate booklet of political entities and candidates standing for election in that governorate.
- The voter will be directed to a separate polling booth where he/she will mark the ballot and will be shown a separate ballot box where the vote will be cast.

Counting process

- Counting of absentee ballots will take place in the GEO counting centres.