



**FACT SHEET
BALLOT PAPER
For the Governorate Council Elections
2009**

Iraq is divided into several electoral districts based on governorates; each governorate represents one electoral district. There will be a specific ballot for each of the fourteen governorates where elections will take place (which does not include the governorates of the Kurdistan region and Kirkuk).

- Each voter will receive a stamped and pre-folded ballot paper from the Ballot Issuer who will explain the method of voting to a voter.
- Each ballot paper must be stamped with the official IHEC ballot stamp. Unstamped ballots will not be included in the count.
- The Ballot Issuer explains to the voter how to mark the ballot:
 - ✓ Place a tick mark (√) in the box next to the political entity you would like to vote for.
 - ✓ If you would like to vote for a candidate, place a mark (√) in the box next to the candidate number in the candidate area on the left hand side of the ballot paper, in addition to the mark for the political entity.
 - ✓ **If you place a mark only for a candidate, with no mark for a political entity, your vote is invalid.**
 - ✓ In governorates with reserved seats for components (Baghdad, Ninewa, Basra), if you would like to vote for a component, put a mark (√) **only** in the box next to the name of the component list you would like to vote for.
- A poster of political entities and candidate names will be displayed behind the voting screens, so voters are able to check a name or number of a political entity or candidate.
- If the voter spoils a ballot paper, or wants a new ballot paper for any reason, s/he may return to the Ballot Issuer and receive a replacement ballot.
- The ballot must be folded so that no-one can see the voter's choice. Then it will be cast in the ballot box.

