



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات في العراق
كۆميسونى باآلى سه ربه خۆى هه لىژارد نه كان له عىراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq

International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT)

FACT SHEET **POLLING CENTRES**

IHEC will establish approximately 7,000 polling centres throughout Iraq for the Governorate Council elections. Each polling centre consists of one or more polling stations, approximately 42,000 polling stations will be established.

Voters have been assigned to a polling centre based on of their food ration agent number, and services provided to the voters during last year's the Voter Registration Update Period. A voter's corresponding Polling Centre number and the Polling Centre address will be displayed at each food ration distribution agent; and the Governorate Election Offices. The lists will also be displayed at Branch Electoral Offices (the same location as the voter registration offices used last year for the update exercise). A voter can also call the IHEC Call Centre free on 7777 and visit the IHEC website at www.ihec.iq to find their polling location. On the day of polling voters must bring with them photo identification.

In order to expand opportunities for the participation of all eligible Iraqis in the voting process in addition to the **regular Polling Centres**, IHEC has decided to set three other types of Polling Centres/Stations:

- **Absentee Voting Polling Stations (IDPs)**

To accommodate all Internal Displaced People/Voters that are registered for the Absentee Voting program in Iraq. These Polling Stations will be established in Polling Centres in the locations where the IDP absentee voters currently reside (including three governorates of Kurdistan Region and Kirkuk), so that they can cast a ballot for the candidates of their choice from the governorate from which they have been displaced.

- **Special Voting Polling Centres**

Special Voting Polling Centres will be established for the following categories of voters that will not have opportunity to cast their ballots on the Election Day but on the 28 January: military and police forces, detainees and patients in the selected hospitals.

- **Special Polling Centres (remote areas)**

Special Polling Centres will be opened in areas where voters have difficulties accessing main Polling Centres due to the distance or security issues. These centres will have the same voter list as their referent polling centres in the main settlements.

All Polling Centres will be opened on Saturday 31 January 2009, from 0700 to 1700 hrs, except the Special Voting Polling Centres, which will be operating on 28 January 2009. Of note:

- Each polling station will have a specific voter list and only names that appear on that list will be allowed to vote in that polling station.
- Families will be listed in alphabetical order, according to the name of the head of the family.
- All voters have to sign the voter list next to their name before receiving a ballot.
- All voters must bring photo identification with them on election day.

There will also be a polling centre register, which contains voter information for all stations in the centre, listing families in alphabetical order according to the head of family names and detailing their polling stations. It will be used to help voters to finding which polling station they should cast a ballot. There will be a register, similar to centre register, displayed on the walls outside the polling centre, allowing voters to see and identify the stations where they will vote.

Voters have the opportunity to obtain information about theirs assigned Polling Centre/Station from IHEC website www.ihec.iq and IHEC Call Centre: 7777 mobile, 7432516, 7432518 and 7432519 landlines