



جمهورية العراق
المؤوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات
كۆميسونى بالآى سه ربه خوى هه لُبزارد نه كان
The Independent High Electoral Commission

Pursuant to the authority given to Board of Commissioners in Article (4), Paragraph (Eighth) of the Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. (11) of 2007, and CoR amended law No. (16) of 2005, we have decided to issue the following regulation:

Regulation No. (18) of 2009

(Polling and Counting)

(Preamble)

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) was established by Law No. 11) of 2007 to be the exclusive electoral body in Iraq. The IHEC is a professional, governmental, independent, neutral and autonomous body, subject to the supervision of the Council of Representatives (CoR).

Section 1
(Terminology)

The terms stated below indicate the following meanings:

1. IHEC: The Independent High Electoral Commission.
2. Polling Staff: Is the person who had been contracted in accordance with the conditions and regulations issued by IHEC and has signed its Code of Conduct
3. Polling Center: It is the location where voting is conducted and it contains one or more polling station.
4. Polling Station: It is a place within the polling center where the electoral task force works to facilitate the process of voting, and where the process of counting and sorting of ballots takes place.
5. Count Center in governorates: Is the location where the counting and sorting process of ballots is conducted for military officials, internal security forces, detainees, prisoners, inmates, patients in hospitals and IDPs.
6. Data Entry Center (DEC): It is the national location where results are compiled.



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Section 2

(Polling and Sorting Locations)

- 1- Polling centers will be established in appropriate locations throughout Iraq.
- 2- Each polling center will be headed by a coordinator (manager) who has the capability to organize the whole center and its staff, and coordinate with assigned security forces, to protect the center. He will report to the related sub-center manager.
- 3- Each polling station will be managed by one OIC who will supervise the electoral staff in that station.
- 4- The process of counting during the elections will be located in the polling station where voting takes place. The process commences immediately after the completion of the polling process, excluding SNV and IDP.
- 5- The OIC of the polling station is responsible of the management of the counting process. Polling station staff will be responsible for helping the OIC in this process.
- 6- Any person who enters the polling station will be subject to search. It is prohibited to carry a bag or any other container into the polling center, with the exception of IHEC employees who transport polling and counting equipment.

Section 3

(Voter Register)

- 1- Each voter must be listed in the voter registry for one polling station, and he has the right to cast his vote once only.
- 2- Voting is personal for the voter registered in the polling station of the polling center. Voting by proxy or authorization is prohibited.
- 3- Voter must display a photo ID, in addition to locating his name in the VR .
- 4- Polling staff, IDPs and SNV voters cast their votes in accordance with the procedures issued by IHEC.



Section 4 (Polling Process)

- 1- The voting process starts in polling centers at 7:00 am until 5:00 pm of E-day according to the law. At 5:00pm, voters who are waiting in queues at the polling center will be allowed to vote before closing the center.
- 2- In CoR elections, the nomination will be based on the Open List System. The voter has two options, either to vote for a list by marking in the box which was allocated for this purpose, or to vote for any of the candidates by putting another mark in the box indicating the number of that candidate in his list.
- 3- Each voter will mark his ballot paper in secrecy. Illiterate, blind or handicapped voters, who need assistance, have the right to choose a friend, relative, or Station OIC to assist them. In that regard, no one else except the OIC can help more than two voters.
- 4- Every voter must dip his finger in the indelible ink; otherwise he will not be allowed to vote.
- 5- Any person whose finger marked with indelible ink will not be allowed to vote again.

Section 5 (Counting and Sorting Process)

- 1- The counting process and completing its forms will be conducted after concluding the polling process at each polling station. SNV and IDP counting will be conducted at count centers in the governorates.
- 2- At the end of the polling process, station manager will count the ballot papers issued to voters, at the polling station they are distributed to. He will complete the counting process of the valid votes for each list and candidate.
- 3- Decisions regarding the ballot paper validity of one of the two options are taken by the polling station manager, who should apply IHEC procedures. The decision of the polling station manager will be final in this matter, unless it is rejected by one of the counting staff. In this case, counting staff will vote by majority on the decision. If the votes were equal then the final vote will be for the station manager.



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Section 6
(Collecting Results)

- 1- When the OIC is convinced with the accuracy of counting, he will announce the provisional results to the people present at the polling station, at the end of the counting process by posting the fourth copy of the Result Form on station's walls. He will then transfer the results to a central location, as determined by IHEC.
- 2- The count center manager will announce the electoral provisional results of the governorate in front of the people present by posting the fourth copy of the Result Form in the count center.
- 3- The election results will be entered into the database inside DEC at N.O.
- 4- After obtaining the final results of the total votes casted in the elections, the results will be distributed according to the seat allocations regulation.

Section 7
Personnel Authorized to enter Polling and Counting centers

1- In addition to voters who cast their votes, the following persons are authorized to enter or remain at PC or PS:

- A. Polling staff
- B. Authorized IHEC staff
- C. Accredited agents of political entities and coalitions.
- D. Accredited electoral observers
- E. Accredited media representatives

- 2- The number of electoral observers and PE agents in each PS or PC is determined by IHEC.
- 3- It is prohibited to enter cameras or video cameras into the polling center or station without obtaining IHEC's prior approval. The videotape/ photograph should not reveal the voter's intention, even if the voter consents to that. Also, conducting interviews inside the polling center is forbidden.
- 4- The security forces members should stay out of the polling center/ station or the count center in the governorate unless there is a contingency situation that requires their presence on the site, or they have been requested to enter by one of IHEC staff.



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**Section 8
(Entry into Force)**

The provisions of this regulation shall be applied to CoR Elections of 2010, It shall enter into force from the date of its ratification by the Board of Commissioners on 14 / 11 / 2009

Board of Commissioners

