



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات في العراق  
كۆميسونى باآى سه ربه خۆى هه ئيزارد نه كان له عيزراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq

**International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT)**

## **FACT SHEET SEAT ALLOCATION**

### **Overview**

The 'Elections Law of the Provincial, Districts, and Sub-Districts Councils' (Law No. 36 of 2008) defines an electoral system, which is used to allocate seats to winning candidates. The IHEC Board of Commissioners has issued regulation (No. xxx) that defines the steps that will be used to translate valid votes into seats, for winning candidates in the Governorate Council elections.

The Law reserves seats for minorities, known as 'component seats', in Ninewa, Baghdad and Basra. There are single seats reserved for Christians, Yazidi, Shabak components in Ninewa; single seats for Christian and Sabeen components in Baghdad; and one Christian component seat in Basra.

The Law provides for a system that allows for single and open lists to compete for general seats. A single list is a list with only one candidate. An open list has more than one candidate, but no more candidates than there are seats for the governorate council. The IHEC Board of Commissioners has also determined that among winning lists of 3 or more candidates, at least one winning candidate will be a female among every three.

### **Component Seats**

For component seat races, the component list entity winning the most number of valid votes for that seat shall win. If there is a draw between entities, then the winning list will be determined by a lottery. The candidate of the winning list will win the component reserve seat.

### **First Round Allocation**

The electoral system requires that an 'Electoral Divider' be determined. The 'Electoral Divider' is calculated by dividing the total number of valid votes cast for open and single lists, by the number of seats allocated for open and single lists. (If component seats exist in a governorate, the valid votes cast for the component lists and the component reserve seats will be removed from the calculation of the 'Electoral Divider'.)

The total valid votes will be calculated for each list by counting the valid votes for the political entity and all of its candidates. If the total valid votes for a list is less than the 'Electoral Divider' that list will be excluded from further calculations, and will not be eligible to win seats.

If the total valid votes for a single list equals or exceeds the 'Electoral Divider' the list will receive one and only one seat. The list will then be excluded from further calculations, and is not eligible to win further seats.

The total valid votes for each remaining open list will then be divided by the 'Electoral Divider'. The integer result of that division will then be awarded to each list as seats. (However, a list may only be awarded as many seats as it has candidates. If a list wins more seats than it has candidates, the excess seats it would have won are not awarded to the list.)

### **Vacant Seat Allocation**

If all seats are not allocated in the first round then the remaining vacant seats will be allocated to qualified open lists. To be qualified to receive vacant seats, the list must be an open list, have been awarded at least one seat in the first round, and have more candidates than it has received seats.

The number of vacant seats is calculated by adding any component reserve seats for the governorate to the total number of seats allocated (to single and open lists) in the first round, then subtracting this total from the number of seats assigned to the governorate.

For all lists qualified to receive vacant seats, the number of seats already awarded to these lists will be totalled. For each qualified list, the number of seats that they have won will be divided by the total number of seats won by the qualified lists, to determine a ratio for each list.

The ratio for each list will then be multiplied by the number of vacant seats. The integer result of that multiplication will then be awarded to each list as seats. (If a list wins more seats than it has candidates, the excess seats it would have won are not awarded to the list.) The remainder portion of each multiplication will then be compared, and one seat awarded to each list in the order of highest to lowest remainder, while necessary and possible.

### **Reordering of Candidates**

Within each winning list, candidates will be ranked from highest to lowest based on the number of individual valid votes they have received. If two or more candidates in the same list receive an equal number of valid votes, then the order in which they were submitted by the political entity will determine their ranking.

### **Women's List Quota**

For each list with 3 or more winning candidates, the list's winning candidates will be reordered to ensure that at least one women candidate is within the first three winning candidates, at least two within the first six winning candidates, and so on, while necessary and possible. Female candidates will be re-ranked in this priority, based on the number of highest to lowest valid votes received within the list.

### **Final Award of Seats**

For each winning list, the seats won by the list will be awarded to the list's candidates in the order of highest to lowest, as established by the steps above.

For further information please visit the IHEC website at [www.ihec.ig](http://www.ihec.ig) or call the IHEC National Call Centre on the following toll free numbers: Mobile 7777 or landlines 7432516, 7432518 and 7432519