



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات في العراق
كۆمیسونی بالای سه ربه خوێ هه ئیژارد نه كان له عیراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission

Frequently Asked Questions

Complaints related to the Voter Registration Procedures

Am I allowed to submit a complaint against the voter registration update process?

Any voter or organisation other than elections observers is entitled to submit a complaint.

What is a complaint related to the voter registration update process?

Any perceived discrimination, intimidation, incident, irregularity or violation of any law, regulation, procedure, instruction, code of conduct or other applicable decision related to the voter registration update process may become the subject of an Electoral Complaint.

A distinction is made between complaints about circumstantial incidents and complaints about the voter registration update accuracy, whereby an eligible voter is refused a) to request the deletion of deceased persons from the Provisional Voters' List, or any b) addition, c) change or d) amendment of data on the same List.

Where can I find the laws and regulations relevant to the electoral process?

All relevant legislation and regulations governing the electoral process, inclusive of the complaints processing, as well as links to other related legislation, can be found on the IHEC website www.ihec.iq

How do I submit a complaint related to the voter registration update?

You must use the IHEC Complaints Form 110. This form can be obtained at any electoral office, a voter registration centre, a governorate electoral office or the national office in Baghdad. You have to submit the completed form, with or without any evidence documentation, to your assigned Voter Registration Centre.

Can I submit a complaint any time I want?

No. If you want to submit a complaint, you must do so within three days following the perceived discrimination, intimidation, incident, irregularity, violation or refusal to register and/or alter data on the Provisional Voters' List.

Is it safe to submit a complaint?

The IHEC will treat every complaint confidentially..

What will happen with my complaint?

Every submitted complaint will first be verified and may be rejected if not compliant with set criteria. Once accepted and registered, a complaint will be properly reviewed in order to render an appropriate decision.

Do I get a proof of my complaint?

Yes. Upon submission of your complaint, it will be countersigned by a Voter Registration Centre staff and you will be given a copy.

Who investigates my complaint?

The Director and the Section of Legal Affairs & Political Entities at the Governorate Electoral Office will register and investigate your complaint, after receiving it from the Voter Registration Centre. A decision should be issued within two days. The Governorate Electoral Office reviews and issues decisions in coordination with the Department of Electoral Advice & Complaints at the National Office in Baghdad, and under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners.

What if somebody is complaining about me?

Provided the complaint is accepted, you will be notified in due time of any allegation existing against you, and – in light thereof - of your right to respond or submit counterevidence.

How can I see the decisions made with regard to complaints?

The first instance decisions of the Governorate Electoral Office will be displayed at the Voter Registration Centre where the complaints originated, as well as at the Governorate Office, for a period of three consecutive days.

Can a decision of the Governorate Electoral Office include fines or sanctions of any kind?

The Governorate Electoral Office – on behalf of the Department of Electoral Advice & Complaints and under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners at the National Office in Baghdad - may impose penalties on any person or political entity found violating any law, regulation, procedure, instruction, code of conduct or other applicable decisions.

What if I don't agree with the first instance decision issued by the Governorate Electoral Office?

First instance decisions related to the voter registration process, and which were rendered by a Governorate Electoral Office, may be appealed. The deadline for these appeals runs out on the third day immediately following the three day display period of the decisions both at the voter registration centre and at the Governorate Electoral Office. Appeals shall be submitted in written at the relevant Governorate Electoral Office or at the National Office.

Who handles appeals?

The IHEC Board of Commissioners will process appealed first instance decisions (issued by the Governorate Electoral Office), while the Electoral Judicial Panel will adjudicate appealed decisions of the Board of Commissioners. The Electoral Judicial Panel consists of three judges from the Court of Cassation appointed by the Supreme Court. Decisions of the Electoral Judicial Panel are final and cannot be appealed.