



جمهورية العراق
المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات
كۆمیسونی بالای سه ره خۆی هه لێبارد نه كان
The Independent High Electoral Commission

FACT SHEET: Political Entity Agents

A political entity can be an individual candidate, a political party or a coalition of political parties. As key stakeholders in the electoral processes, political entities have the right to nominate Political Entity Agents to observe the electoral processes on their behalf. The role of Political Entity Agents is essential to provide transparency and maintain the integrity of the electoral processes and its adherence to international standards.

Political Entities Agents

Political Entity Agents are party workers who are nominated by registered political entities to observe the voter registration and electoral processes on behalf of their political entities. Only political entities registered by the IHEC are entitled to nominate and deploy political party agents.

Political entity agents have a dual role to play. First, to observe the electoral processes and report if they were conducted in accordance with Iraq the law and international standards. Second, they protect the interests of their political entities in the electoral process.

Only political entity agents accredited in accordance with the rules and procedures set forth by the IHEC will be allowed to have access and observe the electoral processes.

Eligibility for Political Entity Agents

Registered political entities must apply to the IHEC to have their agents accredited to observe the electoral processes on their behalf. Application Forms 134 and 135 can be obtained from the national, governorate and the Kurdistan Regional Elections Office. Applications are to be completed and submitted together with a copy of the Political Entity Certificate issued by IHEC.

The IHEC will register only agents nominated by registered political entities. IHEC requires that such nominees be:

- at least 18 years of age;
- possess documents that confirm his/her Iraqi nationality and residency;
- not be a candidate in the present election or an accredited election observer, IHEC official or a media representative;
- not be an active duty member of any security force.

The IHEC may, at its discretion, decline to accredit or withdraw the accreditation of political entity agents who fail to comply with the rules and procedures for elections observation. Aggrieved political entities may appeal against such a decision within three days from the date of the decision to the Electoral Judicial Panel according to Section 8 of the IHEC Law No. 11 of 2007.

Political Entities will be issued with badges for their individual agents who must wear them at all times along with appropriate identification documents.

Responsibilities of Political Entities

Political Entities will be:



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- Required to ensure that their accredited agents agree to and abide by the Code of Conduct for Political Entity Agents.
- Responsible for the adherence to the Code of Conduct for Political Entity Agents by their accredited agents at all times. Violation of the Code of Conduct may cause the agent's accreditation to be withdrawn.
- Responsible for any security, communications, transport, safety or other support arrangements and costs pertaining to the observation exercise for their agents. The IHEC shall not be responsible for any such support and no accredited agent will be allowed to utilize any IHEC resources.
- Responsible for briefing their accredited agents on the laws, electoral processes in Iraq and the provisions of the Code of Conduct prior to the beginning of any of their observation activities.
- Responsible to ensure that each political entity agent signs for his/her badge upon receipt and that they carry it along with alternative identification documents at all times while on observation activities.

Each accredited political entity agent has the responsibility to:

- Display his/her accreditation badges at all times while observing the electoral processes.
- Conduct him/herself appropriately at all times and adhere strictly to the Code of Conduct for Political Entity Agents.
- Perform his/her responsibilities in accordance with the elections rules and the Code of Conduct for Political Entity Agents.
- Be neutral and non-partisan and avoid display of badges, uniforms or other items symbolizing support for or against any political entity and refrain from making any statements of support or opposition to any political entity.
- May bring to attention of the electoral official on any action which they consider is not in accordance to the electoral rules or any other incident which may hamper the credibility of the electoral process.
- Respect, abide to the instructions of and cooperate fully with the electoral officials managing the electoral activity.
- Report accurately and truthfully to their political entities.

Rights of Political Party Agents

All accredited party agents have:

- Equal rights and responsibilities.



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- The right to access all electoral venues to observe the electoral processes in accordance IHEC's instructions and as long as they do not disrupt or interfere in any manner with the process.
- The right to discretely approach the manager of the electoral venue and seek information about the process.
- Access to relevant documents and meetings.
- Raise and file a complaint in relation to the conduct of an electoral official, electoral event or any other person in accordance with the IHEC's complaints procedure

Limitations of Political Entities

Political Entities

- Cannot nominate for accreditation more than 2 agents for each voter registration centre for the voter registration update.
- Cannot nominate for accreditation more agents than the number of polling stations in the province where they submitted their applications

Political Entity Agents cannot:

- In any way, interfere with the electoral processes.
- Conduct themselves in a manner which may infringe on the privacy of a voter or secrecy of the ballot.
- Handle any electoral material or equipment.