



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات في العراق  
كۆميسونى بالآى سه ربه خوى هه ئبژارد نه كان له عيراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission

## FACT SHEET Voter Registration Update Complaints

Eligible citizens, political entities and their accredited agents can lodge a complaint regarding the voter registration update to the IHEC Board of Commissioners in accordance with the regulation governing complaints. Election Observers cannot lodge a complaint about the voter registration update.

### Complaints

Complaints are statements in writing describing an alleged irregularity of the voter registration update or an alleged discrimination because of race, color, age, gender or religion. Complaints can be raised during the preparations, implementation and conduct of the voter registration update and must be submitted no later than three days after the alleged incident.

### Complaints Adjudication Bodies

The IHEC Board of Commissioners in accordance to Regulation No. 2 of 2007 has the primary jurisdiction to receive and resolve complaints submitted by any person who is aggrieved by a violation or irregularity of the voter registration update processes and procedures. The Board may, at its discretion delegate its jurisdiction to the Electoral Administration.

Final decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Electoral Judicial Panel composed of three- non full time judges appointed by the Supreme Court. The decision of the Panel is final and cannot be appealed against.

### Eligibility to Lodge Complaints

Complaints relating to the voter registration update may be lodged to the Board of Commissioners by an individual, organization or political entity/agent. Accredited election observers and accredited election observation organizations are not permitted to lodge any complaint relating to the voter registration update.

### Applications

Complaints must be done in writing on a blank sheet of paper or using the Complaint Form 110 available at the voter registration centers, any elections office and at the IHEC website [www.ihec.iq](http://www.ihec.iq).

Complaints can only be made by the victim or witness of the alleged incident and signed by him/her.

The written complaint must include:

- The name, address and contact information of the individual, political entity/agent or the organization lodging the complaint.
- The name, address and contact information of the individual, registration official, political entity or the organization alleged to have committed the violation.
- A detailed description of the alleged violation or incident. The information should include the date, time, place where the alleged violation or incident was committed.
- The names, address and contact information of any other witnesses.
- The signature of the aggrieved individual, registration official, political entity or organization. If the complainant is a political entity or organization then the complaint must be signed by an authorized representative of the entity or organization.

Written complaints and completed complaints forms should be delivered within three days of the alleged incident or by such deadlines as may be established by the Board:

- To the voter registration official at the voter registration centre where the alleged incident occurred.
- To the governorate or regional election office.

### **Adjudication of Complaints**

Upon receipt of the complaint the Board may conduct preliminary investigations into any complaints arising from the voter registration update in a timely and impartial manner ensuring confidentiality of the information submitted to them. The Board may dismiss a complaint that is clearly ill-founded or does not have justifiable evidence. The author of the complaint will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond if the Board considers the complaint well founded. The Board may call witnesses, including parties to the complaint, and conduct hearing which may be conducted in public or private - taking into account issues of security and confidentiality.

The Board will process the complaint or it may delegate its jurisdiction to the Electoral Administration and make a decision in favor or against the complaint if it is convinced that the alleged irregularity did indeed take place and take actions against the perpetrators of the alleged irregularity.

The complainant will be notified in writing the decision of the Board. The notification shall include a notice to the complainant of their right to appeal and how to file the appeal. Decisions of the Board regarding complaints relating to the voter registration update will also be published in the newspapers in Arabic and Kurdish languages.

### **Adjudication of Appeals against the Board's Decisions**

The Board may reconsider a decision after presentation of new evidence. Final decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Electoral Judicial Panel which may consider appeals against the final decisions made by the Board. Final decisions of the Panel cannot be appealed.