



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات في العراق  
كۆميسونى باآلى سه ربه خۆى هه ئيزارد نه كان له عيراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq

**International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT)**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Who can vote in the upcoming elections?**

#### **Who can vote in the upcoming governorate council elections?**

All eligible Iraqis whose details are correctly listed on the Voter List in their assigned polling unit can vote in the upcoming governorate council elections.

To be registered to vote a person must be:

1. An Iraqi citizen
2. Legally competent
3. Eighteen years of age the year in which the elections are held
4. Registered on the voter's list in accordance with instructions issued by the IHEC

By default all Iraqis should appear on the Voter List as it is drawn from the Public Distribution Database. Nevertheless the IHEC undertook a voter registry update period last year to update the list and ensure those who have moved or newly eligible voters were added. If you participated in the update period please bring your Form 111 to the polling station where you believe you should vote. If your name does not appear on the Voter List but you have a genuine Form 111 you will be issued with a ballot. If your name is not on the Voter List in the polling centre you attend you may have gone to the wrong polling centre – in which case the Form 111 should indicate where you should go, or call the IHEC Call Centre free of charge.

IDPs who have taken advantage of the update period last year to register to vote using an absentee ballot will be allowed to vote for their governorate of origin in their current governorate of residence. An IDP must appear on the IDP voter list to take advantage of this. Otherwise an IDP can vote in the governorate of residence, providing they have been registered on the Voter List, and by presenting at an assigned polling station with the correct identification documents. As the Voter List is taken from the PDS database, IDPs who have moved their PDS registration to their current governorate of residence will appear on the Voter List.

#### **When and where will the elections take place?**

On polling day – 31 January 2009 – eligible Iraqis should visit the polling facility allocated to them by the IHEC. A voter's name will appear only once on the Voter List in one polling station – it is important to check ahead of Election Day where you are registered. When attending at a polling station please bring one piece of photographic identification (see below). The ID needs to include the same name and spelling as the name on the Voter List. The election official will check their name against the list. If their name correctly appears on the Voter List, a voter will be asked to sign next to

it, after which a ballot paper is issued. Voters will be instructed on the voting process by electoral officials working for the IHEC.

**Where can Iraqis go for further information or where to find the location of their polling station?**

- Go to the local IHEC Election Office
- Go to the IHEC voter registration centers used during the 2008 voter registration update
- Go to food ration centers where IHEC posters are on display
- Consult their local media for announcements on television and radio programs and in newspapers
- Call the IHEC Call Centre free of charge on number 7777
- Check the IHEC website at [www.ihec.iq](http://www.ihec.iq) by inputting their food ration number and data

**Valid Identity Documentation**

In order to prove identity, a voter must present a valid official photo ID document, from the list below:

- **Iraqi Official Documents (originals):**
  - ✓ The Civil Identification Card.
  - ✓ The Iraqi Nationality Card.
  - ✓ The Iraqi passport.
  - ✓ Retirement Card.
  - ✓ An Official Graduation Certificate that is issued by one of the Iraqi Universities and the formal Institute.
  
- **Foreign or International Documents (originals):**
  - ✓ Refuge Certificate that is issued by the UN.
  - ✓ Certificates that are issued by the Red Cross.
  - ✓ International passport or ID Card