



Fact Sheet Collecting Signatures for the Proposed Referendum in Basra

Voters who support the proposed Basra referendum for the formation of a region can fill a signature form at a Sub-Centre from 15.12.08 – 14.01.09

Voters who do not support the proposed Basra referendum for the formation of a region do not have to fill any forms

Collection of signatures is NOT a referendum – referendum for the formation of a region will only be held if the list of signatures reaches 10% of eligible voters in the governorate of Basra

1. **A region is a legal entity that consists of one governorate or more.**
2. As defined by the Law of the Executive Procedures regarding the formation of regions 13/2008, following receipt of the initial petition of at least 2% of eligible voters from the governorate of Basra, **IHEC should provide an opportunity for all eligible voters within the governorate to sign in support of the proposed referendum** for the formation of the region.
3. For the purposes of the collection of signatures, **IHEC will open 34 Sub-Centres, from 8 AM to 4 PM, from 15 December 2008 to 14 January 2009**, where eligible voters will be able to submit their requests of support for organization of a referendum - **in person only**, after presentation of a valid photo ID document plus an additional document.
4. The voter lists will be specific for each of the Sub-Centres and will include the polling units of the respective centres. Only voters found on the voter list of the centre will be allowed to apply to sign the signature list. **Voters born in 1991 will be allowed to register and submit signatures from 1st January 2009 when they become eligible.**
5. Even if included on the original list of at least 2% of voters submitted to IHEC, voters must apply at IHEC Sub-Centres in order to be officially included on the signature list in support of the referendum.
6. The Sub-Centres will remain open on 15 – 21 January 2009 for display of signature lists and forms.
7. **Observers, political entity agents and media representatives accredited by the IHEC may be present at the Sub-Centres to ensure that the application process is free and fair** (but they may not disrupt the process, communicate with applicants or record any information which may infringe on the privacy of an applicant). Two observers per observation group, one agent per political entity may be present in any Sub-Centre at any given time and no electronic media equipment is allowed, except in the centres specified by the IHEC.
8. Each applicant checks the details on the form and signs form in the space provided, or marks with a thumbprint of the left hand if illiterate and receives the third copy of the form as a receipt. In case of a spoiled form an applicant may request a new form.
9. **Citizens and the agents of political entities have the right to file a (confidential) complaint to the IHEC.** Media and observers can report an incident to their organizations which can file a complaint to the IHEC (within 3 days of the incident).
10. Total number of voters on the Basra Final Voters List is **1,409,393**.
11. **If after the certification of the signature collection process the signature list reaches the required 10% of the Final Voters List, a referendum will be held within three months.**
12. The national office of the IHEC is responsible for organising, conducting and overseeing all the procedures related to the referendum and for the announcements of its results within 15 days from the date of referendum, taking into consideration that the percentage of participants is not less than 50% of the voters.