

## **Fact Sheet**

### **COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION: NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES**

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq has issued Regulation No. 17 and Procedures for the nomination of candidates for the Council of Representatives (CoR) election. To be eligible to nominate candidates for the CoR elections, a political entity (PE) and a coalition must be certified by the IHEC. A political entity may be either a party or an individual.

A political entity may submit candidates' lists to run for the elections in one constituency or more (a separate list for each constituency); concurrently, it can form a coalition with one or more political entity and submit a candidates' list for constituencies other than the one where the PE has submitted a list by itself (the candidates' names must not be repeated in PE and coalitions candidates' lists in different electoral districts).

A total of **325** Council of Representatives seats are apportioned as follows:

**310** shall be distributed to electoral districts

**15** compensatory seats, from which

**8** - reserved seats for components allotted as follows:

<b>Component/Governorate</b>	<b>Baghdad</b>	<b>Ninewa</b>	<b>Erbil</b>	<b>Kirkuk</b>	<b>Dohuk</b>
Christian Component	1	1	1	1	1
Yezedi Component		1			
Sabean and Mandeian Component	1				
Shebak Component		1			

The list should be filled electronically. The number of candidates on the list should not be less than 3 (with the exception of individual PEs and components) and no more than the double number of seats apportioned to a governorate for which the list is submitted. The list must contain at least 25% of women candidates. Component entities should present a list of two candidates for each component seat. The submitted lists are considered final unless asked to be modified by IHEC; PEs should check the lists carefully before submitting.

**Candidates' eligibility** – Iraqi, 30 years of age by the Election Day, must hold at least a secondary school certificate or equivalent, must not be a member of the Armed Forces when nominated, not included in the De Baathification procedures, not become rich illegally by using country resources or public funds, and must not be convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

**Candidates' approval process** – applications received from Head of PE or authorized representative within a specified period on an official IHEC form with full information required by the IHEC. Candidates who do not meet the IHEC requirements will be deleted from the list and the list will be considered final. Candidates bear full legal responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided on their nomination form.

IHEC shall publish the candidates' lists in a period not less than 30 days before Polling Day. PEs/coalitions and their candidates have the right to challenge IHEC decision which rejects the certification of candidate lists, before Electoral Judicial Panel.

The regulation, procedures and official forms can be downloaded from the official IHEC website at <http://www.ihec.iq> . The official period for candidates' nomination is: 12 – 20 December, and applications may be officially submitted at the IHEC Baghdad Offices (Karkh and Rusafa) and at IHEC's Governorate Electoral Offices daily at 9.00 – 19.00.