

Iraq Council of Representatives Out-of-Country Voting

Voter Eligibility – FAQ

1.1 Can anyone vote in the out-of-country election for the Iraqi Council of Representatives elections?

No, to vote you must be eligible and register.

1.2 How can I prove I am eligible?

According to the Electoral Law and IHEC regulations, to be eligible to vote in the 2010 CoR election, a person must:

- Hold Iraqi nationality
- Be legally competent – fully eligible
- Be born on or before 31/12/1992
- Prove a link to an Iraqi Governorate that you will vote for.
- Submit the required documents to prove the above

Only those who can present documentation proving eligibility will be allowed to register and vote.

1.3 How can I register to vote?

In order prove eligibility and subsequently vote, you must present at least **TWO** acceptable and original documents which confirm all of the following:

i) Identity can be proven by a document issued by a state, state agency or international institution, which contains a recognizable photograph. This may include, for example: Iraqi or foreign passport or ID card, driver's license, refugee identification (refugee ID card or official travel document).

ii Birth on or before 31 December 1992;

iii Proof of Iraqi nationality: In order to prove Iraqi nationality, you must present a document or documents issued by state, state agency, international institution or a National Red Cross Society/Office in the country of current residence, which confirm that you were born in Iraq; or you have current or had previous Iraqi citizenship; or your father has Iraqi nationality;

iv) Proof that you are affiliated with the governorate in Iraq that you will vote for. In order to prove this you must produce documentation, or your father's documentation showing residency or place of birth in that governorate.

Note: Only one document proving all of the above will not be acceptable. Remember to bring at least **TWO** documents with you to the Registration Centre.

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1.4 What documents prove that I have Iraqi nationality, identity and a link to a governorate?

You will need to show documents that confirm one of the following:

i. You were born in Iraq: You must present a document which lists place of birth as in Iraq.

OR

ii. You have current citizenship of Iraq: You must present a document which lists citizenship or nationality.

OR

iii. Birth to father of Iraqi nationality: You must present a document or documents which show a paternal link and your father's nationality as Iraqi.

Iraqi nationality may also be proven by:

iv. Iraqi issued documents: You must present any of the following official documents, issued by the Iraqi government:

- Iraqi passport "G" type that holds residence visa or entry stamp to the country (also proves Governorate)
- Iraqi passport "M", "N", "H", "S" and "A" that holds residence visa or entry stamp to the country (does NOT prove Governorate)
- Personal Identity card (shows the place of birth so proves Governorate)
- Nationality certificate (also proves Governorate)
- Iraqi nationality book – 1957 (also proves Governorate)
- Iraqi Ration Card (also proves Governorate)

v. International and foreign documents: You must present any of the following official documents (originals), issued by an international organisation, national organisation and State.

- Documentation issued by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), that includes an Asylum-Seeker Certificate, Refugee Certificate, Refugee Card or Attestation for Mandate Refugee (Does NOT prove Governorate)
- Certificate issued by a National Red Cross Office in that country of residence (Does NOT prove Governorate)
- Foreign passport or foreign personal identification document (Does NOT prove Governorate)

A link to an Iraqi governorate may be proven by:

vi. An Iraqi ration card, all other Iraqi issued documents listed above. Foreign residence card in the foreign country - this does NOT however prove nationality

International or foreign documents, only valid for out of country voters, which can be used to prove identity, are as follows:

- Documentation issued by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), that includes an Asylum-Seeker Certificate, Refugee Certificate, Refugee Card or Attestation for Mandate Refugee
- Certifications issued by a National Red Cross Society/Office in the country of current residence, i.e. outside Iraq
- Foreign Passports
- Driver's license of the host country
- Residency card of the country in which the Iraqi lives

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2. Some questions that may arise on eligibility

WHAT IF...

2.1 I have citizenship from a foreign country, can I vote?

Yes. There is no restriction with regard to Iraqis abroad holding one or more foreign citizenships. As long as you can prove that you fulfil the eligibility criteria as shown above, you can register and vote.

2.2 I left Iraq more than 30 years ago, can I vote?

Yes. There is no limitation on the length of residence outside Iraq for Iraqis abroad wishing to register and vote.

2.3 I was not born in Iraq; can I prove that I am Iraqi?

Yes. In addition to a document proving your identity and age, you will have to present document(s) showing that your father is – or was, if deceased – Iraqi and that you are his son/daughter. This could be, for example, your father's passport and a birth certificate.

If you have current or had previous Iraqi citizenship, even if you were not born in Iraq, you can register with the necessary documents and do not need to prove your father's Iraqi nationality. You will however have to prove your father's governorate of residence or place of birth.

2.4 What if I have no Iraqi passport, can I register to vote?

Yes, if you can bring two different official documents which *together* prove that:

- You have Iraqi nationality
- You have a link to an Iraqi governorate
- You were born on or before 31 December 1992 and
- You are who you claim to be

For example, if you were born in Iraq, your birth certificate would list place and governorate of birth in Iraq. This, plus a photo ID, would prove you are eligible to register.

2.5 Can refugees with no legal documents vote?

Refugees will need two official documents to prove nationality, governorate, voting age and identity. Refugees usually have documents that will prove this from international organizations, for example a UNHCR card and another ID document.