

**Commissioner Hamdiya Al Hussaini, IHEC CEO:**

**Preparations to open Polling Centers for CoR Elections to expand the opportunity for all eligible Iraqi voters to participate**



After passing the amendment to the elections law no. (16) Year 2005, to represent the legal framework to govern CoR elections according to open list, and to pave the road to implement and regulate that, the IHEC has issued polling procedures, counting and sorting regulation to be as guide to achieve this important process.

She added: the law divides Iraq into multiple electoral districts based on governorates; each governorate represents one electoral district, IHEC registered political entities (PEs) and accredited candidates' lists for all electoral districts, based on the law.

Mrs. Al Hussaini emphasized that this approach was taken to expand the opportunity for all eligible Iraqi voters to participate including IDPs; therefore polling stations for absentee polling will be allocated for IDPs who did not register for absentee polling during the Voter Registration Update (VRU) in their living places in order to cast their vote for PEs or Candidates in the governorates they were displaced from.

She mentioned that the IHEC will open around (10000) polling centers in all governorates and (52000) polling stations... voters have been distributed to polling unites according to PDS agents' number and also according to data registered in VRU which took place between 22/8/2009 and 30/9/2009.

Each polling station will keep a copy of the voter register, names of voters will be organized alphabetically, and the registry includes a column for voter's signature before casting the vote. There will be another register (Center's Register) which includes voters' data of all stations of the center ordered alphabetically according to voters' names and polling stations to be used in helping voters to find their polling stations only. A mark will be next to voters' names who updated their data during VRU from August to September 2009, and to be noted that members of one family will find their names in the same polling center but in different stations according to the first letter of the name of the voter.