



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 COUNT CENTRE STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

The Count Centre operation will consist of the following processes:

Intake	Intake at the GEO Count Centre is the process of receiving and verifying all election materials used at polling stations.
Reconciliation	Reconciliation is the process of verifying polling processes through accounting checks. For this election there are two main reconciliation processes: number of ballots cast against signatures on the voter list, and checking total ballots accounted for (used and unused) against ballots received.
Verification	Verification of conditional ballot envelopes is the process by which the voter's details, as written on the envelope, are checked in the voter register database to verify that the voter is on the voter list and eligible to cast a ballot for the correct governorate. If the voter is found on the voter list for the correct governorate, her/his ballot will be counted. Additionally, the process facilitates detection of possible multiple voting.
Batching	Reconciled and verified materials will then be batched. Special voting and absentee ballots are not counted by polling station, but by governorate batch in the Count Centre. Each batch will therefore have ballots for one governorate only, but these will come from a mixture of different absentee and special voting polling stations.
Count	Ballots will then be sorted and counted using the same procedures which were applied for counting in polling stations. Valid votes will be sorted and counted for political entities and candidates, and these will then be recorded in reconciliation and results forms. Special voting and absentee ballots will be counted by governorate batch. Ballots from audited regular stations which need to be counted will be counted by polling station.

- Following this, Reconciliation and Results Forms will be transferred to the Tally Centre in Baghdad for compilation of results.
- The above processes are supported by storage and archive areas, to transfer and store materials and forms in an organized manner for each polling station.

- The following outlines the planned processing schedule at the Count Centre, indicating start dates for each processing area to be undertaken until completion:

Process	Estimated Date/Period	Comment
Intake special voting	28 Jan (evening) – 29 Jan	
Reconciliation special voting	29 Jan	
Verification special voting	29 Jan (target date for completion 03 Feb)	Verification of a polling station may take place after reconciliation of that station
Intake absentee ballots Intake regular ballots requiring audit	01 Jan	After intake at the GEO warehouse on 31 Jan (evening) – 01 Feb
Reconciliation absentee	01 Feb	This will ONLY start after completion of reconciliation for all special voting polling stations
Batching (special voting and absentee)	04 Feb	To commence on the instruction of the National Office
Counting (all)	04 Feb	
Audit (all)	29 Jan	Audit and reconciliation can be completed on an ongoing basis. Count of audited stations will not take place until 04 Feb (end of election day complaints period)

- **All count processes are open to observation by accredited political entity agents, observers and media.**