



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات في العراق
كۆميسونى باآلى سه ربه خوى هه ئيزارد نه كان له عيراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq

International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT)

FACT SHEET IHEC GOVERNORATE COUNT CENTRES

The IHEC has established 19 Governorate Count Centres to process and count ballots cast by special voters for the Special Voting day on 28 January 2009. There will be one Count Centre in every governorate. In Baghdad, in line with the IHEC Field Structure, there will be two Count Centres, one each in Rusafa and Karkh.

The ballots cast in the general election on 31 January will be counted at the close of polling in the polling stations.

When will special voting ballots be counted at the Count Centres?

The ballots cast through special voting will be transported to the Governorate Count Centres immediately following the special voting day on 28 January 2009.

The actual count of the special voting ballots will start after the general Election Day on 31 January 2009; however, special ballots will be subject to a verification process that will begin on the 28 January. This verification will confirm the eligibility of the voter. If verified the ballots will then be counted.

Will the Governorate Count Centres only count ballots cast through special voting?

No. Further to the special voting ballots, the ballots cast by absentee voters on Election Day 31 January 2009 will also be transported to and counted at the Governorate Count Centres.

In addition, the Governorate Count Centres will be used to undertake investigation into any suspect ballot boxes that are subject to a complaint.

Will the count at Governorate Count Centres be different from the count at polling stations at the end of the Election Day 31 January 2009?

No. The count itself will follow the same procedures as those used in the polling stations on 31 January. However, the special voting and absentee ballots will first undergo reconciliation and verification processes.

- **Reconciliation:** This process confirms the number of ballots issued against the voters who have voted on the voter registry. Since the ballots cast in special voting and absentee polling stations were not reconciled this will be the first activity in the Governorate Count Centres.
- **Verification:** Relevant data of the special voters recorded in the special voter lists and on the Conditional Ballot Envelopes will be verified with the Iraq wide Voter Registry. If it appears the data do not correspond to any registered voter, that particular conditional

ballot envelope will be disqualified. In addition, multiple voters who managed to cast a ballot in more than one polling station will be detected through this verification process, and all their ballots disqualified.

Since both reconciliation and verification processes are time consuming, these processes will start at the Governorate Count Centres on 28 January 2009 immediately following the end of the special voting day. No actual count of these ballots will likely take place until after 31 January.

When and how will the count then take place at the Governorate Count Centres?

Since every special voting and/or absentee polling station may contain ballots cast for different governorates, batches containing ballots for the same governorates will be constituted at the Count Centres. For reasons of a swift count process, and when possible, the batches will be containing a standard amount of ballots, all for the same governorate. Note ballots are not transported to their specific governorate to be counted they are counted in the governorate where they are cast.

As soon as batches have been constituted, the batched ballots can be counted. This count procedure will be same used in the polling stations on 31 January.

Are the Governorate Count Centres accessible for observation?

Yes. The processes taking place in the Governorate Count Centres form an integral part of the whole electoral process, and are therefore subjected to observation by observers, political entity agents and media.

Details about the Governorate Count Centres are available at the IHEC Governorate Electoral Offices, at the IHEC National Office in Baghdad and on the IHEC website www.ihec.iq.

Who is managing the Governorate Count Centres?

The Governorate Count Centres are under the direct supervision of the IHEC Governorate Electoral Offices, and in second instance the IHEC National Office in Baghdad. Every Governorate Count Centre will be managed by an IHEC Count Centre Manager.

What is happening with the results produced in the Governorate Count Centres?

The Reconciliation and Results Forms produced through the count of batches will be transported to the Tally Centre located at the IHEC National Office in Baghdad. At the Tally Centre, the results will be data entered to be included in the overall results compilation. Note: this will take time and any preliminary results released by the IHEC will probably not include special voting or IDP ballot tallies.