

Electoral Update 22 September

- The IHEC Board of Commissioners extended Voter Registration Update period until 30 September 2009, in order to give more voters the opportunity to check/correct their details on the Voter List. After the celebration of Eid holidays all VRCs will re-open, working every day until 30 September, with extended working hours: 8.00 - 17.00. 1 October will be the last day of Exhibition and Challenges period except in Kirkuk where it will extend until approx 8 Oct. To date, over 275,000 voters requested services and over 605,000 visited VRCs for checking purposes only.
- UNAMI deployed a senior election officer to Kirkuk to review the VRU process there.
- Less than **120 days** remains until planned Election Day. The IHEC is ready to implement the CoR elections, but still awaits clarity on the CoR Law. The 2005 law is still in effect. Chief Technical Adviser held a number of high-level meetings at the Parliament emphasizing the urgent need to clarify the electoral law debate.
- The IHEC certified **296** political entities wishing to contest the CoR elections. This includes 250 groups and 46 individual entities. 166 PEs are new and 130 were re-certified.
- The IHEC accredited 187 domestic observer groups and agents of 78 political entities, issuing 19,226 observers' and 7,068 PE agents' badges, to date. No international observers have thus far been accredited.
- The interrogation of the IHEC Chairman by the CoR Integrity Committee meeting on some issues related to the Governorate Council elections was postponed until September 30. UNAMI advises the CoR that political attacks on IHEC will have a negative impact on the electoral timeline and will degrade public confidence in IHEC and the electoral process.
- The IHEC BoC has appointed Commissioner Hamdia Al-Hussaini as new Chief Electoral Officer, accepting the resignation of Judge Qassim Al-Boodi, who will remain a voting BoC member. The BoC is visiting Germany for observation of the electoral process on 21 – 30 September. One commissioner will remain in Baghdad to oversee the work of the IHEC.