

# FACT SHEET

## 2014 Council of Representatives Elections

*Elections for the Council of Representatives (CoR) are scheduled for 30 April 2014 across Iraq.*

### ***What is the role of the UN in the elections in Iraq?***

At the request of the Government of Iraq, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), through the Security Council resolution 2061, is mandated to advise, support, and assist the Government of Iraq and the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) on the development of processes for holding elections and referenda.

To implement this mandate, a UNAMI led integrated team of electoral advisers from UNAMI, UNDP and UNOPS is collocated within IHEC in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Electoral Office in Erbil. The Integrated Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT) provides advice and assistance in the areas of election management, operations; field coordination; data center management; information technology; logistics; procurement; training; gender; legal and regulatory frameworks; complaints; graphic design; external relations; and public outreach.

### ***What is the legal framework for the elections?***

The CoR elections are governed by the 2013 Elections Law of the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The CoR is made up of 328 seats out of which 320 are distributed among the governorates based on their administrative boundaries. The remaining 8 seats are reserved for the following components:

- 5 seats for the Christian component distributed to Baghdad, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Dohuk and Erbil governorates,
- 1 seat for the Yazidi component in the Ninewa governorate,
- 1 seat for the Sabean Mandaian component in the Baghdad governorate and
- 1 seat for the Shabaki component in the Ninewa governorate. (*See Annex A for distribution of seats*).

The electoral system for the CoR elections is by proportional representation with semi-open list balloting.

### ***Does the law provide a quota for women representation in the Council?***

According to the law, women representation in the Council should be at least 25% of the total membership. Political parties are therefore required to submit lists of which no less than 25% must be females. The candidate lists that will be submitted to IHEC must have one (1) female candidate placed *after* each three (3) male candidates.

### ***Who qualifies to vote?***

An eligible voter must be an Iraqi citizen, legally competent, 18 years or above in the year in which the elections are held and must be registered in the registry of voters. No voting by proxy is permitted in the elections.

### ***What are the eligibility criteria for Candidates?***

In addition to being a registered voter, a candidate;

- i. Must not be less than 30 years of age,
- ii. Must not be covered by the Accountability and Justice law,
- iii. Must not be convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude,
- iv. Must hold at least a high school certificate or its equivalent,
- v. He / She must not have enriched himself/herself at the expense of the state and
- vi. Must not be a member of the Armed Forces or Security Agencies upon nomination.

### ***How many Political Entities and Coalitions are registered to contest the elections?***

There are 71 Political Entities and 36 Coalitions registered to contest the Elections. From these entities and coalitions, a total number of 9964 candidates have been nominated. Out of this number, 2592 candidates (26%) are women.

On 29 January 2014, the IHEC conducted a ballot lottery for the placement of Political Entities and Coalitions on the ballot paper.

### ***When does the electoral campaign begin?***

The CoR electoral campaign begins after the certification of the final Candidates' list by IHEC. Campaigns activities must end 24 hours prior to the opening of polls. IHEC is responsible for monitoring Political Entities and Candidates' compliance with IHEC Regulations No. 7 (2013) on Electoral Campaigning.

### ***When was the last voters' registration update conducted?***

Voters' registration update (VRU) took place between 10 November and 09 December 2013. The IHEC opened 1096 VR centres across the country. Voter cards were not issued during the registration update. (See Annex B for number of Voters by Category)

### ***When will voters receive their e-voter identification cards (e-VIC)?***

Distribution of electronic voter cards to registered voters began on 28 January and will continue till 20 April 2014

### ***What is the purpose of the biometric voters' registration currently taking place?***

The IHEC has decided to include voters' biometric data to the existing voters' information for future elections. Consequently, a biometric voters' registration aimed at capturing voters' fingerprints and photographs began on 30 January 2014 and will end before the CoR elections on 30 April 2013. The biometric registration exercise will resume after the certification of CoR election results. 1082

biometric voter registration centres (BVRCs) will be opened across Iraq. It must be emphasized that the ongoing biometric voters' registration will not be used for the April 2014 CoR elections.

### ***Will there be special voting in this election?***

Special voting for the personnel of the Iraqi Security Forces who will be deployed at polling centres on Election Day and IDPs (Absentee voters) will be held on 28 April 2014. Conditional voting, as part of the special voting, will be conducted for prisoners and wardens in facilities of more than 400 and also for patients and staff of hospitals with more than 100 beds. Regular voting then takes place on 30 April 2014. Conditional ballots are used in the prisons and hospitals to allow for the eligibility of the voters to be verified after the polls and prior to the votes being included in the count at the GEOs.

### ***How many polling centres (PCs) and polling stations (PS) are established for this election?***

IHEC has set up 8,083 Polling centres (PCs) with 48,796 polling stations (PSs) across Iraq (figures may vary upon completion of allocation of voters to PSs). (See Annex B for distribution of PCs/PSs)

### ***Will Iraqis living outside Iraq vote in this election?***

Eligible Iraqis who live outside the country will be able to vote in certain designated countries. There will be 124 PCs and 783 PSs for the purpose of Out of Country Voting (OCV) in 19 countries to enable eligible voters living outside Iraq to exercise their franchise. (See Annex C for the distribution of OCV PCs and PSs). Registration and voting for the OCV will take place simultaneously from 27 to 28 April 2014.

### ***When do polls begin and end?***

Polls open at 7:00 am and closes at 5:00 pm. Voters who come after 5:00 pm will not be allowed to vote. However, voters in the queue at 5:00 pm will be processed to vote.

### ***How will polling staff vote?***

Polling staff will vote before 7:00 am so that they can open the polls to voters at 7:00 am. All polling staff at the polling centre will vote in one polling station. Their ballot box will be sealed and kept by the PC Coordinator until close of polls when their ballots will be counted and recorded separately from that of the general voters.

### ***What documents are voters required to present in order to vote?***

According to the polling procedures, each voter must present his or her electronic voter card and a photo ID document for the purpose of identification and verification before being allowed to vote (*this provision in the procedure is still under discussion and could change before Election Day*).

### ***Who has the power to suspend the polling process and or postpone the elections?***

The Polling Centre Coordinator can suspend the polling process if the centre or any of its stations is threatened by riot, violence, storm, flood or any other event which makes orderly polling impossible. Such a decision should be taken in consultation with the Sub-Centre. The Sub-Centre then informs the GEO who will also inform the National Office. Elections can only be postponed by the decision of the Council of Ministers with the approval of the Council of Representatives.

### ***Do Observers and the Media have any role in this election?***

Electoral observers (national and international), Political Entity Agents (PEAs) and the Media will play a very important role in monitoring, observing and reporting on the electoral process as part of ensuring free and fair conduct of the elections. These actors can access PCs and PSs only when they are duly accredited by the IHEC. IHEC has issued Regulations 4, 5 and 8 for Observers, PEAs and the Media respectively.

Observers and PEAs report their findings to the IHEC and their respective organisations whereas the Media report to the general public. PEAs and voters have the right to submit a complaint about the electoral process to IHEC but Observers can include any irregularity observed in their report to IHEC.

Non-accredited media can still report on the elections but for security and logistical reasons, they cannot enter electoral premises and may not be on the list for press events related to the elections.

Polls begin at 7:00am whether or not PEAs, observers or the media are present.

### ***What is the process of counting and results management at the PS?***

Sorting and counting of ballots begin at the polling stations upon closure of polls. Ballots of special and conditional voting will be counted at the close of polls on 30 April 2014 at the Sorting and Counting centres in the Governorates. After counting and completion of the results form, the Polling Station Manager will announce the results to the people present and post the forth copy of the results form at the polling station. Representatives of political parties will be given hardcopies of the results form which is certified by the Polling Station Manager.

### ***What is the process of counting and results management at the branch counting centre?***

Copies of the results forms and the ballots will be sent to the next level of the counting and results management process called the Branch Counting and Sorting Centre in the governorates. Staff at this centre will undertake a reconciliation and recount of the ballots from the polling stations. Upon completion, the relevant results forms will be completed and results announced to the people present. Accredited PEAs will be allowed at the centre and hard copies of the results form certified by the Branch Manager given to them.

### ***What is the process of results management at the IHEC HQ?***

Results forms from Branch Counting and Sorting centres and special voting results form from the GEOs will then be sent to the Data Entry Centre of IHEC NO for tabulation and announcement of provisional results. After complaints about the electoral process received have been adjudicated, IHEC will then certify and declare the final results.

## Annex A

### Seat Distribution Per Governorate

Governorate	No. of Seats		Total
	Regular	Minorities & Ethnic groups	
Baghdad	69	2	71
Salahiddin	12	0	12
Wasit	11	0	11
Diyala	14	0	14
Anbar	15	0	15
Najef	12	0	12
Karbalaa	11	0	11
Babil	17	0	17
Qadissiya	11	0	11
Basrah	25	0	25
Maisan	10	0	10
Dhi Qar	19	0	19
Muthana	7	0	7
Erbil	15	1	16
Sulaimaniya	18	0	18
Dohuk	11	1	12
Ninawa	31	3	34
Kirkuk	12	1	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>328</b>

**Note:** According to the COR law the following minorities and ethnic groups will get seats: Christians (1 Baghdad, 1 Ninewa, 1 Kirkuk, 1 Dahouk and 1 in Erbil = 5 seats) ; Yasidis (1 seat in Ninewa) , Sabian Mandaian (1 seat in Baghdad) and the Shabaki (1 seat in Ninewa)

## Annex B

### Distribution of Voters and PCs/PSs

Governate	Governate code	General voting (# Voters)	Absentee voting (# Voters)	Special voting (# Voters)	General voting (# PC)	General voting (# PS)	Special voting (# PC)	Special voting (# PS)
Rusafa	1	2,762,973	476	116,378	1,023	6,656	43	279
Dahuk	4	612,065	22,071	29,370	264	1,512	15	74
Erbil	5	971,195	976	81,793	498	2,340	51	208
Sulaimaniya	6	1,168,460	901	71,152	503	2,753	31	175
Nenawa	12	1,912,461	172	86,582	740	4,534	41	217
Kirkuk	14	841,297	288	35,697	315	1,988	15	87
Deyala	21	887,479	186	53,525	455	2,159	38	140
Anbar	22	893,362	527	63,806	375	2,127	46	168
Karkh	23	2,141,084	20	156,839	773	5,134	66	380
Babylon	24	1,041,989	41	30,862	378	2,485	15	76
Karbala	25	617,846	202	25,319	241	1,468	16	65
Wasit	26	690,566	13	28,560	300	1,658	16	70
Salahaddin	27	769,572	68	44,489	296	1,821	25	111
Najaf	28	768,519	186	27,789	323	1,833	18	73
Qadiseya	31	662,708	81	20,088	273	1,618	12	51
Muthana	32	419,471	19	19,393	170	995	10	46
Thi-Qar	33	1,075,824	34	35,585	423	2,530	15	88
Maysan	34	605,031	27	32,951	230	1,446	17	80
Basra	35	1,611,794	62	63,651	503	3,739	42	166
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,453,696</b>	<b>26,350</b>	<b>1,023,829</b>	<b>8,083</b>	<b>48,796</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>2,554</b>

**Absentee voting** = An absentee ballot is a vote cast by someone who is unable to attend the official polling station.

**Special voting** = According to COR law, two days before general voting, will vote the military, policemen and in inmates in hospital and prisons.

**PC** = Number of Polling centers

**PS** = Number of Polling stations

**Annex C**

**Out of Country PCs / PSs**

#	Country	No. of Estimated PCs	No. of Estimated PS
1	Jordan	28	165
2	UK	5	59
3	Sweden	8	66
4	Germany	5	55
5	UAE	2	39
6	Australia	9	28
7	Lebanon	5	28
8	Iran	22	70
9	USA	8	70
10	Canada	7	33
11	Turkey	5	30
12	Netherlands	2	28
13	Denmark	6	22
14	Egypt	7	40
15	Austria	1	10
16	Spain	1	10
17	France	1	10
18	Norway	1	10
19	New Zealand	1	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>783</b>

OCV = Out of Country Voting PC = Number of Polling centers PS = Number of Polling stations