



INFORMATION PACKAGE

KURDISTAN REGION PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2024



**As of 18 October 2024*

Prepared by :

UNAMI Office of Electoral Assistance (OEA), in cooperation with IHEC Public Outreach Department



@lhecofficial





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Election Day

October 18 18 October: Special Voting
(For Security Personnel)

October 20 20 October 2024: Regular Voting

7am - 6pm

Use of Technology

Voter Verification Device (VVD)

Verifies and Identifies the Voter

Polling Centre Optical Scanner (PCOS)

To cast the ballot and record the vote

Results Transmission System (RTS)

Transmits the results securely using a satellite link

Total Voters 2,899,578

18 Oct: Special Voting Voters

215,960 Total
4,969 Female

20 Oct: Regular Voting

2,683,618

1,486,461 Male
1,413,117 Female

2024 Kurdistan Region Parliamentary Elections

Information Package *

Seats 100
Reserved for women 30%
Reserved for Minorities 5

Polling Centres (PCs) 1431
Polling Stations (PSs) 7067
PC - Regular Voting 1266
PC - Special Voting 165

Complaints and Appeals

Complaints could be submitted at IHEC GEO office within two days after the alleged violations and at PSs during E-day.

Regulations are published on IHEC website - ihec.iq

Polling Staffs

40,901

Voting Requirements

In person with Bio-metric Card

Candidates 1191

823 Male
368 Female



Kurdistan Region Parliamentary Elections

Information on Electoral District/Constituencies



| | Duhok | Erbil | Sulaymaniyah | Halabja | Total |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Total Voters | 737,859 | 101,5588 | 108,3248 | 62,883 | 2,899,578 |
| Female Voters | 363,962 | 494,216 | 524,538 | 30,401 | 1,41,3117 |
| Male Voters | 373,897 | 521,372 | 558,710 | 32,482 | 1,486,461 |
| Total Seats | 25 | 34 | 38 | 3 | 100 |
| Minority Seats | 1 - Christian | 1 - Christian 1 - Turkoman | 1 - Christian 1 - Turkoman | - | 5 |
| Candidates | 226 | 395 | 516 | 54 | 1191 |
| Female Candidates | 66 | 118 | 162 | 22 | 368 |
| Polling Centres (PCs) | 297 | 560 | 534 | 28 | 1431 |
| Polling Staffs | 9878 | 14835 | 16188 | 28 | 40,901 |



Introduction

The upcoming Kurdistan Region Parliamentary Elections, scheduled for 20 October 2024, are critical for the region's political landscape. These elections follow a series of legal and political developments, including a ruling by Iraq's Federal Supreme Court that restructured the electoral constituencies and mandated specific quotas for women and minorities. The Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) is overseeing the electoral process, ensuring transparency and fairness. The elections are seen as an essential step in restoring political stability and legitimacy to the Kurdistan Regional Government after the previous parliament's term extension was declared unconstitutional. The elections will determine the composition of the regional parliament, which plays a significant role in the governance and future direction of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Key features of this election include the division of the Kurdistan Region into four single electoral constituencies, a minimum of 30% of parliamentary seats reserved for women, out of 100 seats 5 seats allocated specifically for minority groups.

IHEC is authorized to manage various electoral events, including ensuring the fairness and transparency of the elections.

The general voting will take place on Sunday, the 20th of October 2024. Special voting for security forces will be held on the 18th of October 2024. Polling centers will be open from 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM for the polling process, including electronic and manual counting and sorting.

The preliminary results will be announced within 24 hours after the completion of voting.

This information package serves as a window to information for the 2024 KRPE elections.



KRI Parliament

1

- The Kurdistan Regional Parliament plays a crucial role in the governance and legislative process of the Kurdistan Region. It serves as the primary representative body for the people, ensuring that the interests and aspirations of the region's residents are addressed within the framework of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

2

- The elections for the Kurdistan Regional Parliament are fundamental in promoting democratic governance, enabling citizens to elect representatives who are responsible for enacting laws, overseeing the executive branch, and addressing local concerns. These elections contribute to the autonomy and self-governance of the Kurdistan Region within the broader framework of the Iraqi federal system.

3

- The Kurdistan Parliamentary Election Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended, underscores the importance of these elections by outlining the legal framework that ensures a fair, transparent, and inclusive electoral process. The law guarantees the representation of various segments of society, including the allocation of quota seats for women and minorities, thus fostering a more equitable and democratic governance structure.

Timeline of Key Events Leading to the 2024 Kurdistan Regional Elections (1)



25 FEBRUARY 2022

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) announced the sixth parliamentary elections, initially scheduled for 1 October 2022. However, disagreements over the election law, constituencies, minority representation, and voter registry delayed the process. Additionally, the Kurdistan High Electoral Commission's (KHEC) mandate had expired in December 2019, and despite several requests, it had not been reactivated.



OCTOBER 2022

Iraq's Federal Supreme Court (FSC) declared that the IHEC is the sole authority responsible for election matters across Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region.



9 OCTOBER 2022

The Kurdistan Parliament voted to extend its current four-year legislative term by one year, until October 2023, to allow more time for electoral preparations and capacity-building efforts.



30 MAY 2023

FSC ruled the extension of the Kurdistan Parliament's term as "unconstitutional," effectively dissolving the Kurdish legislature. The Kurdistan Region Presidency and KRG were designated as caretakers until new elections could be held. Initially, scheduled for 18 November 2023, the elections were postponed until 2024.



AUGUST 2023

The Kurdistan Region Presidency announced 25 February 2024 as the new date for the parliamentary elections.



2 JANUARY 2024

IHEC informed the Kurdistan Region Presidency that holding the elections on 25 February 2024 was not feasible, citing operational challenges. A meeting on 20 February 2024, involving IHEC, Kurdistan Region authorities, and UNAMI, led to an agreement to hold the elections between 5-10 June 2024.



21 FEBRUARY 2024

FSC ruled that the Kurdistan Region would be divided into four single electoral constituencies instead of the previous single constituency. The ruling also confirmed that a minimum of 30% of the 100 seats in parliament are reserved for women.



18 MARCH 2024

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) announced its decision to withdraw from the elections, raising concerns about minority representation and seat distribution. UNAMI and the diplomatic community made efforts to resolve the issues.

Timeline of Key Events Leading to the 2024 Kurdistan Regional Elections (2)



7 MAY 2024

Due to the lack of progress and a status quo order from the Federal Supreme Court, IHEC suspended all electoral preparations.



20 MAY 2024

The Electoral Judicial Panel ruled that 5 seats in the 100-seat parliament should be allocated to minorities



21 MAY 2024

The Council of Representatives voted to extend the term of the current IHEC Board of Commissioners by six months, until 6 January 2025, to facilitate the Kurdistan Region parliamentary elections.



POST-MAY 2024

Following these developments, IHEC, with support from the UNAMI OEA, updated the electoral timeline and proposed a new election date of 5 September 2024 to the Kurdistan Region Presidency.



26 JUNE 2024

The KRG Presidency issued a regional decree setting October 20, 2024, as the date for parliamentary elections in Kurdistan. UNAMI OEA supported IHEC in updating the electoral timeline and preparations to conduct the elections.



Role of Domestic Observers

In KRPE elections, domestic observers play a crucial role in enhancing the transparency and credibility of the electoral process. Their primary responsibilities include:

- **Observation:** Observers watch the election proceedings at polling stations to ensure that they are conducted fairly and in accordance with the law.
- **Reporting:** They record and report any irregularities or violations of the electoral process to their respective organization.
- **Assessment:** After the elections, domestic observers may provide an independent assessment of the fairness and legitimacy of the process.
- **Public Confidence:** Their presence can help to reassure voters that the election is being conducted impartially, which can increase public confidence in the electoral process and the results.



Registration:

Interested and qualified domestic observer groups or CSOs may register up to 10 days before the election at IHEC GEO offices. Registration forms and required documents are available on the IHEC website -

<https://ihec.iq/25723/2023/07/>

Observers cannot file **complaints**; however, they can document any violations and include them as recommendations in their report.



Rights of Agents and Observers

They may enter a polling center when polling staff arrive and stay until the completion of polling, electronic and manual counting, sorting processes, packing, and handover of materials. They can record seal codes and the number of voters in their journals and observe all processes inside the polling station, except when voters are making their choices behind the voting screen.

They are permitted to move between polling stations within the center during polling hours. However, they must remain at a single polling station during the electronic and manual counting and sorting processes.

They may choose to sign and record data on the Polling Station Reconciliation Form 41 and sign the results report form No. 42.

They can follow the truck carrying polling materials to the Vote Receiving Center (VRC) or GEO warehouse, or to the auditing and reporting center. They are not allowed to travel in any IHEC vehicles.

Political party or coalition agents have the right to file complaints to IHEC by completing a Complaint Form 110, available with the polling center coordinator. While observers cannot file an official complaint, they may report their concerns in their general reports to the organizations they represent.

To facilitate the work of internationally accredited observers, they are allowed to be accompanied by their interpreters and security personnel.



Media accreditation

- **Local Media Accreditation:**

Registered local media outlets can submit their accreditation forms to the Kurdistan Region Independent Electoral Office (KRI GEO) offices.



- **International Media Accreditation:**

International media outlets can submit their accreditation forms to the Kurdistan Region Electoral Office (KREO) for processing and approval.

- **Date:**

As per the IHEC timeline the last date to submit the form is 10 October 2024.

Campaign Monitoring

IHEC has established a Central Campaign Monitoring Committee to oversee the political campaigns during the electoral campaign period. In addition to this central body, each GEO offices in KRI region has its own sub-committees dedicated to campaign monitoring, ensuring that all political activities are closely supervised. These measures are in place to maintain the integrity of the electoral process and ensure compliance with campaign regulations across the Kurdistan Region.



COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS



Q: WHAT IS AN ELECTORAL COMPLAINT?

Allegations about electoral irregularities and violations of the law, regulations, and instructions may arise throughout the electoral process. These can relate to areas such as candidate and voter registration, campaigning, polling, counting and tabulation, and the announcement of preliminary results. Individuals or political parties whose electoral rights are denied, restricted, or violated, have the right to file a complaint for redress. The right to submit a complaint against electoral irregularities and access legal redress are key elements in ensuring the integrity of the elections.

WHO CAN FILE A COMPLAINT?

Eligible voters, agents of political parties, coalitions, and candidates can file complaints. Observers cannot file complaints directly but can submit reports to their respective organizations, which may take further action if necessary.

Any electoral violations should be reported **within two days** of the alleged violation.





COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS



WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO FILE A COMPLAINT?

A detailed report including the name and contact details of the complainant and a detailed description of the incident should be submitted in written form. Before Election Day, complaints can be submitted to IHEC at its Governorate Electoral Offices (GEOs).

WHEN CAN ONE SUBMIT A COMPLAINT?

Complaints regarding Election Day polling and counting must be submitted within a two-day window, starting from the hour polling begins to the official end of the following working day.

Complaints about electoral campaigns can be submitted any time from the date of the violation until the end of the campaign period.

HOW ARE THE COMPLAINTS PROCESSED?

All complaints are transferred to the IHEC National Office for review and decision by the Board of Commissioners (BoC). Regarding Election Day complaints, classification committees, composed of one BoC member and staff from the IHEC National Office's Complaints and Appeals Section, determine if a complaint meets formal requirements and if it could impact the vote count, such as in suspected fraud cases. These cases are handled on a priority basis.



COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS



DOES IHEC INFORM COMPLAINANTS ABOUT THE DECISION?



BoC decisions are published on the IHEC website within three days of being issued.

HOW TO FILE APPEAL AGAINST IHEC BOC DECISIONS?

Appeals against BoC decisions can be made at the Electoral Judicial Panel (EJP), consisting of three judges. Appeals must be submitted within three days following the BoC decision's publication, either at the IHEC National Office, GEOs, KREO, or directly to the EJP.

The BoC must respond to the EJP's requests and inquiries regarding appeals within seven days from receipt. The EJP then decides on the appeal within 10 days from receiving the BoC's response. Decisions of the EJP are final and binding.



For more information

<https://ihec.iq/complaints-and-appeals/>



E-DAY COMPLAINTS



Ø WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO FILE A COMPLAINT?

1. A voter
2. Agent of political party, alliance or individual candidate.
3. Candidate (they have the right to file a complaint in the PC of which the candidate is listed in as a voter).

Ø HOW TO FILE E-DAY COMPLAINT?

The complainant can obtain Complaint Form 110 from the Polling Centre Coordinator, GEO, or National Office. The complaint must be submitted within 48 hours of the end of polling.

The Complaint Form must include the following:

1. Name, address and contact information of the complainant.
2. Name and contact information of the alleged person
3. Details of the alleged violation, including date, time, place and circumstances.
4. Name and contact information of any witnesses supporting the case of the complaint (if available).
5. Any relevant document or other evidence supporting the complaint.
6. Signature of the complainant
7. Complaints are confidential; therefore, a complainant should fill out the Complaint Form, date it, sign it, *seal it and submit.*

Step by Step Voting Process

#1



Present your Biometric Voter Card (BVC) to the Identification Officer (IO), to verify your details (including photo).

#2



Insert your voter card into the verification device. The device reads the card and displays your voter data.

#3



For fingerprint verification, place a finger on the screen as instructed.

#4



The IO scans the ballot's QR code with the Voter Verification Device (VVD).

#5



After verification, receive your BVC back and the ballot from the ballot issuer.

#6



Sign or thumbprint next to your name on the Voters List.



#7



Proceed to a private voting booth to cast your vote in secret.

#8

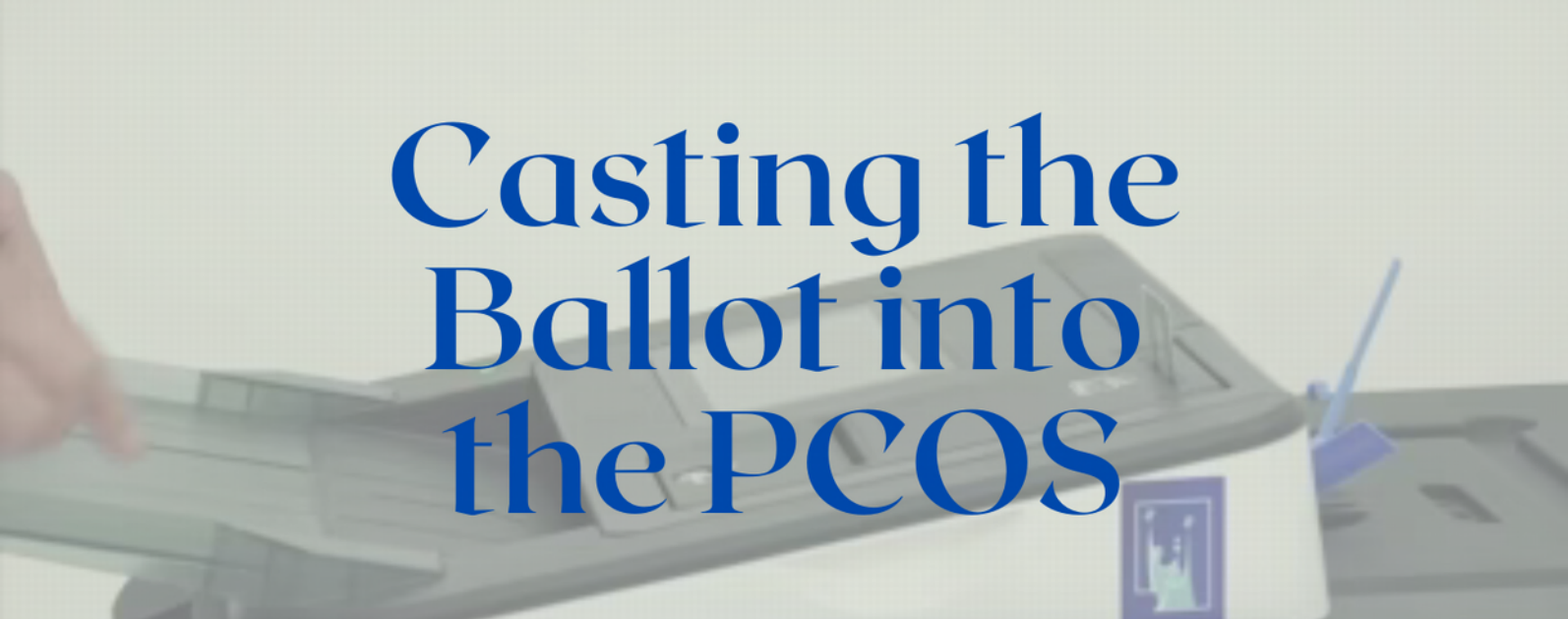


After voting, dip your right index finger in ink to ensure it covers the entire nail. Do not wipe the ink off until it dries.

#9



Insert your ballot into the PCOS.



Casting the Ballot into the PCOS

01

The voter will place the ballot into the PCOS to be scanned simultaneously from both sides, ensuring it is placed correctly, face down, to maintain the secrecy of the vote.

02

The QR code of the ballot will be read and matched to the list of QR codes exported by the VVD to the PCOS via cable, confirming that the ballot has been processed by the VVD.

03

The tick mark on the ballot will be read and determined as valid or invalid, then counted and sorted, and the vote will be electronically tallied.

04

After the PCOS scans the ballot, it will deposit the ballot into the box, and then the message 'Vote successfully recorded' will appear on the screen.



To maintain a high level of professionalism and adhere to internationally recognized standards, the activities pursued by political party agents shall be regulated by the following principles.

- **Adherence to laws and regulations:** Agents accredited by IHEC must recognize and respect the valid laws of Iraq in all circumstances.
- **Accuracy:** Agents must be honest and trustworthy.
- **Objectivity:** Agents should rely on comprehensive and accurate evaluations of all circumstances and relevant facts when drawing their conclusions.
- **Independence:** Agents must make decisions freely, without any interference or influence, in accordance with the rule of law.
- **Neutrality:** Agents are expected to impartially recognize the interests of the electoral process and the fundamental values of democracy, and work to protect these values.

Political party's agent has right to:

1. Monitor all stages of the electoral process.
2. Access information provided by IHEC.
3. Freely engage with other parties, coalitions, and observers.
4. Voice concerns and file complaints with IHEC.
5. Access polling centers as per IHEC's guidelines.
6. Sign documents and reports in my presence as a witness.

Agents must:

1. Act peacefully, respecting IHEC staff and all election participants.
2. Avoid carrying weapons or displaying aggressive behavior at electoral sites.
3. Remain neutral, not showing favoritism through actions or attire.
4. Decline gifts or services from any parties or candidates.
5. Not interfere with IHEC's work or that of others involved in the election.
6. Follow Iraqi law and IHEC regulations.
7. Comply with IHEC staff instructions, including entry or exit orders from electoral sites.
8. Not disrupt the electoral process.
9. Wear identification badges visibly and introduce oneself to IHEC staff.
10. Uphold voting secrecy and avoid the voting area.
11. Not influence voters or disrupt voting confidentiality.
12. Avoid providing guidance or interpretations of the law to voters.
13. Not mediate disputes.
14. Ensure information shared is directly sourced and verifiable, organized clearly in reports