



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Election Commission

Regulation on Voter Registration

Basis:

This regulation has been approved by the IEC (hereafter referred to as the Commission) pursuant to the provisions of articles (15) and (66) of the Electoral Law.

Purpose:

This regulation regulates affairs related to voter registration for 2014 presidential and provincial council elections.

Valid Documents for Voting

Article 1:

In order to vote on Election Day, voters shall identify themselves by one of the following documents:

1. Electronic national ID (E-Tazkira) which is issued newly by responsible organizations
2. Valid voting registration cards which has already been issued by the IEC, and
3. Valid voter registration cards issued through voter registration process in 2013 and 2014 as set forth in the following articles.

Voters who cannot identify themselves through one of the abovementioned articles will not be allowed to vote.

Location and Opening Time of Voter Registration Centers

Article 2:

1. The start and end dates of voter registration shall be determined based on the electoral calendar.
2. In order to provide eligible voters with necessary documents, the Commission shall adopt a phased approach as follows:

A. Voter registration at provincial level:

The Commission shall open voter registration centers at provincial level up to two weeks before the Election Day.

Voter registration at district level:

If an assessment made by the Commission indicates that the voter registration process does not reach a level to secure universal suffrage at the district level in the country, the Commission shall open voter registration centers at district level for a period of two months provided that the Electronic national IDs (E-Tazkira) have not been issued to these districts.

B. Pre-polling day voter registration process at polling center level:

If after the completion of the voter registration process at district level, the assessment of the Commission shows that in all or parts of Afghanistan,

voters have not had the possibility to receive adequate documents (E-Tazkira or voter registration cards) to participate in the elections, the Commission shall decide whether or not to conduct a five-day voter registration exercise at all or selected districts of the country at polling center level. This process will start on the seventh day before the Election Day and will end in the evening of the third day before the Election Day. No voter registration shall take place after that date or on Election Day.

3. The Commission shall pay special attention to establish voter registration centers and stations in locations that are accessible to all people including females and persons with disabilities. Each voter registration center shall have at least two registration stations, one for registering male voters and another for female voters.

New Registration

Article 3:

- 1) During the registration process, the following persons shall attend voter registration centers in person with documents proving their identity and apply for new registration given the conditions stated in this regulation:
 - Persons who have recently become eligible to vote
 - Persons who have recently returned to the country
 - Persons who have moved from one constituency to another one
 - Persons who lost their voter registration cards
 - Persons whose voter registration cards have been damaged in a way that his/her details would not be visible, and
 - Vote eligible persons who have not received voter registration cards in the past due to various reasons
- 2) Nomads eligible to vote may go to predetermined locations during voter registration process and apply for registration in accordance with the procedures of the Commission.
- 3) Those eligible voters, who want to receive voter registration cards, should let registration staff take their pictures. Women who avoid taking their pictures owing to various reasons, are an exception to this rule
- 4) Those eligible persons who receive new E-Tazkira, do not need for new registration
- 5) Identification documents needed for voter registration shall be defined in the relevant procedure.

Public Outreach

Article 4:

The Commission has to conduct a widespread public outreach program to publicize accurate information on changes in the voter registration exercise.

Supervision and Observation of Registration Process

Article 5:

Voter registration is considered to be a part of the election. In order to further ensure transparency in this process, accredited agents, national and international observer organizations and media may monitor and observe the process based on the conditions specified in the relevant regulations, procedures, and codes of conduct.

Challenge to Voter Registration Process

Article 6:

The following persons may challenge eligibility of a voter:

- All citizens who are eligible to vote, and
- Accredited agents and responsible authorities

Head of registration office, after establishing contact with the party who has been challenged, and taking into consideration the evidences provided by both parties shall decide to refuse or confirm the challenge.

Complaint against Voter Registration Process

Article 7:

The following persons may file a complaint about an electoral offense and or infringement:

- All citizens who are eligible to vote, and
- Accredited agents and responsible authorities

Citizens who are eligible to vote, agents and responsible authorities may file their complaints in written with the Commission using a complaint form if the Electoral Law and decisions of the Commission are violated and or if they are not satisfied with the decision of the head of the registration office.

The complaint filed shall be adjudicated by the Secretariat of the Commission and if needed, the issue shall be referred to the Commission for final decision.

Secrecy of Information

Article 8:

The Commission shall take necessary measures to avoid using the information obtained during voter registration for other purposes except for holding elections and other instances stated in the law.

Entry into force

Article 9:

This regulation shall be published and come into effect as of its approval date. With the enforcement of this regulation, the regulation on the voter registration and preparation of the voters list approved through the decision No. 8-1391 dated 25 December 2012 (5 Jadi 1391) is annulled.