

**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Election Commission**

**Electoral Campaign Rules
for Presidential and Provincial Council Elections of (1398)**

Basis:

Article 1

These rules has been enacted pursuant to provision of article 108 and paragraph (3) of article 76 of the Electoral Law, taking into consideration the provision of articles 10, 76, 77, 78, 79 and 98 of the (amendment) to Electoral Law through the Independent Election Commission (hereinafter referred to as Commission).

Purpose:

Article 2

These rules shall regulate the relevant manner and affairs of the electoral campaigns of the candidates, political parties and political parties' coalition in presidential and provincial councils' elections of the year 1398.

Electoral Campaigns Period

Article 3

(1) The period for electoral campaigns is as follow:

1. For Presidential candidates (60) days; and
2. For Provincial Councils' candidates (20) days.

(2) The electoral campaigns period will end (48) hours prior to commencement of the election day.

(3) The Lower House candidates of (Ghazni) and provincial council candidates, during the first 40 days of the electoral campaigns of the Presidential candidates, shall not engage in activities pertaining to electoral campaigns in favor of Presidential candidates.

Electoral Campaign Timing

Article 4

The commencement and ending of the electoral campaigns of Presidential, provincial council and Lower House of Ghazni province elections, shall be determined in election calendar.

Terms of Electoral Campaign and Obligations of the Candidates and Political Parties

Article 5

(1) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions, within the determined timeframe, taking into account the laws, rules and procedures and observing the code of conduct, the relevant commitment letter of (candidates, observers of the candidates, political parties, observers and monitors) and other approvals of the commission, Electoral Complaints Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Complaints Commission) and Media Committee, may carry out activities related to their electoral campaigns.

(2) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions, in the period between announcement of the final list of the candidates and commencement of the electoral campaigns, the silence period, and the day of elections, shall not engage in electoral campaign (i.e. gatherings, attending visual, printed and radio media for broadcasting their political and campaigning platforms, and publishing their poll-signs, posters and billboards, social media pages or sending messages through telephone and social networks).

(3) The candidates, political parties, political coalitions, and their supporters shall not interfere in electoral campaign affairs of other political parties or destroy electoral materials of other candidates or interfere or create obstacle in the path of their activities.

(4) The electoral campaign programs shall not disturb the public order.

(5) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions shall not pave the ground for participation of the armed forces personnel, judges, prosecutors and governmental employees in their electoral campaign programs. Also, the security organs, judges, prosecutors and governmental employees shall not interfere in electoral campaigns of the candidates, political parties and those of political coalitions.

(6) the candidates, political parties and political coalitions shall not use the children in their electoral campaigns to advance their relevant programs.

(7) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions shall not invite foreign citizens and foreign institutions in their relevant electoral campaign activities and shall not provide their participation in such events. Also, foreign citizens and foreign institutions shall not participate in electoral campaign activities of the candidates.

(8) No one shall force citizens of the country to participate or not to participate in electoral campaign of the candidates and political parties.

(9) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions and their supporters, shall not apply badges, and signs related to the commission, the Complaints Commission, Media Committee, governmental offices in their electoral campaigns.

(10) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions and their supporters, shall not foment tribal, linguistic, religious, partisan and gender issues during the electoral campaign.

(11) The candidates shall not engage, during their electoral campaigns, in acts that incite violence and provoke (tribal, group, religious, linguistic, regional and gender) sentiments.

(12) The candidates are obliged to collect their installed electoral materials from the cities and participate in clearing activities of the cities, upon the end and within 20 days of their electoral campaigns, within 20 days,

(13) The candidates, political parties, political coalitions, and their supporters shall respect private properties of the individuals and shall obtain the owner's consent, prior to installation, writing and drawing of their publicity materials on the private properties or using of such properties for their electoral campaigns.

(14) The candidates, political parties, political coalitions, and their supporters shall not install, write or draw their publicity materials and publicity materials on the governmental facilities.

(15) The candidates, political parties, political coalitions, and their supporters, may, for preserving the beauty and cleanliness of the cities and neighborhoods, make maximum use of electronic billboards, banners, poll-signs, and publicity screens in their electoral campaigns.

(16) The municipalities, and the relevant offices shall be obliged to determine in accordance with the standards, the size, places and distances between the billboards.

(17) The candidates, political parties, and political coalitions shall not install their posters and pictures over the posters and pictures of the other candidates or destroy them.

(18) The assigned employees of the commission and the municipalities may, based on instruction of the Commission and the Complaints Commission, remove publicity materials pertaining to the electoral campaign, which are contrary to these rules, from the sites where they are posted.

(19) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions shall convene their electoral gatherings in accordance with the relevant provisions of the law and shall coordinate their timing, venue and the route of their gatherings with the relevant authorities beforehand.

(20) In case the candidates, political parties, political coalitions and their supporters failed to adhere to the aforementioned, the Commission shall officially refer the issue to relevant sources for addressing. Real and legal persons could also file complains with Complaints Commission.

(21) The Complaints Commission, as per circumstances, shall address electoral infractions during electoral campaigns.

Financial Sources of Electoral Campaigns

Article 6

(1) For the purpose of public awareness, during the electoral campaigns, all public media outlets shall fairly, consistently and neutrally broadcast views/comments, goals and platforms of the candidates, in observance of the procedure approved by the Commission.

(2) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions cannot utilize public assets and properties during electoral campaigns, unless the competent official provides equal opportunities and facilities to all candidates of one electoral constituency.

(3) The candidates, political parties and political coalitions cannot accept or receive material and non-material support from foreign citizens or foreign governments or political missions of foreign countries based in Afghanistan.

(4) The candidates shall, in accordance with the Rules for Regulation of Financial Affairs of Candidates' Electoral Campaigns, report to the Commission on the financial donations received and their expenditures.

(5) Private media are shall be required to present their report to the Commission on sums they have received from candidates during electoral campaigns.

(6) Other issues related to financial affairs of candidates' electoral campaigns shall be regulated in Rules for Regulation of Financial Affairs of Candidates' Electoral Campaigns.

Non-interference of officials and employees of government offices in affairs of electoral campaigns

Article 7

(1) Officials and employees of the government offices shall strictly observe the following during the electoral campaigns:

1. Shall not advocate in favor of or against candidates, parties or political parties' coalitions.
2. Shall not participated in events and gatherings related to electoral campaigns of candidates, parties or political parties' coalitions.
3. Shall not interfere, directly or indirectly, in affairs related to electoral campaigns of candidates, parties or political parties' coalitions.

4. Shall not pave the ground, provide facilities, opportunities and government resources, on exceptional basis, to a candidate or specific candidates.
5. Shall not stop gatherings, delivering speeches or any other activities related to electoral campaigns that are administered pursuant to the law or manage or administer such events in favor of a specific candidate or candidates.
6. Shall not fix their internal trips to cities and provinces to coincide with the activities related to electoral campaigns of a candidate or candidates.
7. Shall not allocate government premises to be utilized as campaign center of a specific candidate or candidates and shall not use it as venue for gatherings and events related to electoral campaigns or candidates' electoral affairs, unless such opportunities are equally considered for all candidates of one electoral constituency by competent officials.
8. Shall not engage in printing and disseminating of campaign materials in newspapers or all other public media with the government expenses for the purpose of supporting or undermining a specific candidate or candidates.
9. Shall not destroy or collect materials of electoral campaigns of the candidates, unless the law instructed to do so.
10. In case of need for government office support for candidates, the Commission shall officially request the related government office for support in observance of provisions of law, rules and procedures.

(2) MPs of both houses shall not utilize government facilities for electoral campaigns of candidates.

(3) Those MPs of upper and lower houses that participate in elections as candidates and, pursuant to provision of the Electoral Law who are not required by the Elections Law to resign from their duties, shall observe the following during the electoral campaigns:

1. Shall not use their official status for the purpose of influencing the election process or results.
2. Shall not directly participate in events or gatherings related to establishing of public facilities, inauguration of public projects, residential areas and so on, within the related electoral constituency.
3. Shall not interfere, directly or indirectly, in work of electoral staff.
4. Shall not fix their official internal trips to coincide with activities related to electoral campaigns in the related electoral constituency.
5. Shall not utilize government facilities for the purpose of their electoral campaigns, unless such facilities are provided equally to all candidates of other electoral constituency too.
6. Shall strictly avoid giving gifts, grants and loans, from the funds under their authority, for the purpose of influencing election process.

7. Shall avoid convening sessions, gatherings or activities related to attract the attention of a person or group for the purpose of influencing the election result, during the official working hours and in the official workplace.

End of electoral campaigns period

Article 8

(1) Election campaigns period ends (48) hours prior to the Election Day. The candidates, political parties and their supporters shall not continue their electoral campaigns or distribute, broadcast and disseminate materials related to electoral campaigns thereafter.

(2) The candidates, parties and political parties' coalitions are duty bound to remove upon the end of electoral campaigns period and prior to the silence period, all their campaign materials posted within 100 meters from the voting centers.

Monitoring and observation of electoral campaigns

Article 9

(1) The Commission, if needed, shall monitor the electoral campaigns of the candidates.

(2) Representatives of electoral observation bodies, national and international media may observe the process of electoral campaigns of the candidates. The candidates and political parties shall pave the way for representatives of electoral observation bodies, national and international media (bearing accreditations/ID cards) to observe the process of their electoral campaigns.

(3) The candidates, representatives of political parties and their supporters shall not create problems to activities of individuals included in paragraph (1) of this article as long as their activities are confined within the observation of electoral campaigns.

(4) Monitoring individuals and observers shall not, during monitoring and observation process, interfere in affairs related to electoral campaigns of the candidates.

(5) For the purpose of monitoring, observation and preparing reports from electoral campaigns of the candidates, the Commission shall issue credentials to national and international observers, representative of political parties, the candidates, civil society organizations working in the field of election and mass media.

(6) The Commission shall prepare a specific questionnaires (checklists) to all electoral employees assigned for monitoring, through which it shall gather required information.

Electoral Campaigns via Internet and Phone (websites and social media)

Article 10

- (1) The candidates, parties and political coalitions shall not send electoral campaign messages via phone text messaging prior and after electoral campaigns periods.
- (2) The candidates shall avoid broadcasting of video campaign materials from their address or from the address of related electoral constituency, prior or after electoral campaigns period, through social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram ...).
- (3) Candidates, parties, political coalitions and their supporters shall not broadcast, during electoral campaigns, issues that could incite violence or provoke tribal, group, religious, linguistic, regional, gender and disability sentiments.
- (4) None of the candidates shall post, prior to commencement of electoral campaigns, logos, pictures or publicity materials that have campaigning nature through social media.

Limitation on Electoral Campaigns Following Announcement Candidates' Final List and Prior to Commencement of Electoral Campaigns

Article 11

- (1) The candidates, political parties and their followers shall not start their electoral campaigns programs following the announcing candidates' final list and prior to commencement of electoral campaigns.
- (2) The candidates, political parties and their supporters shall not publish and broadcast, under the pretext of conducting seminar, conference, broadcasting commercial advertisement of the companies, congratulation message for Eid or athlete victory, supporting of national process or condolences with individuals, photo, logo or their electoral campaigns.
- (3) Launching electoral campaigns prior or after its determined period, is electoral violation and shall be addressed by the Complaints Commission.
- (4) If a candidate, political party or political parties' coalitions violate provisions of paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this article and is sentence to cash fine by the Complaints Commission, expenditures for such activities shall be counted as expenditures for the candidate's electoral campaigns.

Violation:

Article 12

(1) In case of provisions of these rules, the eligible voters, candidates, parties and political parties coalitions as well as related bodies may file their complains in the Complaints Commission.

(2) The Commission may, when relevant, and regardless of the existence of complains, introduce violators of these rules to the Complaints Commission.

Enforcement

Article 13

These rules shall come into force from the date of approval and shall be promulgated.