



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Independent Election Commission

Regulation on Election Campaign Period

Legal Authority

This regulation has been approved by the IEC (hereafter referred to as the Commission) under Article 79 of the Electoral Law.

Purpose:

This regulation shall regulate affairs related to electoral campaign of candidates, political parties and coalitions in 2014 presidential and provincial council elections given the provisions of Articles 16.4, and Articles 8, 48, 50, 51, 55 and 68.3 of the Electoral Law.

Electoral Campaign Period

Article 1:

The electoral campaign period shall be as follows:

1. 60 days for presidential candidates
2. 30 days for provincial council candidates

This period shall be ended 48 hours before the Election Day.

Electoral Campaign Time

Article 2:

The Commission shall define the start and end date of the electoral campaign on the electoral timeline at least 120 days ahead of Election Day and publicize it under Article 43.2 of the Electoral Law.

Election Campaign Conditions

Article 3:

- 1) Within the time limits set by the Commission and considering the relevant code of conduct, political parties and coalitions shall conduct electoral campaigns by organizing rallies and advertising through mass media.
- 2) Candidates, political parties and coalitions shall not conduct any electoral campaign (organizing rallies, appearance in video, audio and printing media to publicize their political platforms, printing and publishing posters and billboards) during the gap between publishing final list of candidates and the start of electoral campaign.

- 3) Candidates, political parties and coalitions and their supporters shall not interfere in other political parties or candidates' electoral campaigns and disrupt their activities.
- 4) Electoral campaigns must not disturb the public.
- 5) Candidates, political parties and coalitions must not involve armed forces' personnel such as Ministries of Defense and Interior and General Directorate of National Security troops in their electoral campaign activities. Furthermore, security forces shall not interfere in the electoral campaigns of candidates, political parties and coalitions.
- 6) Political parties and candidates shall not invite any foreign nationals and organizations to take part in the electoral campaign activities and or not prepare the ground for their participation. Moreover, foreign nationals and organizations are not allowed to partake in the electoral campaigns of candidates.
- 7) Candidates must not use issues that may cause violence and incite ethnic, factional, religious, linguistic, regional, sexual, age-wise sensitivities and feelings of people with disability.
- 8) No person is allowed to force citizens of the country into participation or nonparticipation in electoral campaign of candidates.

Limits of Election Campaigns

Article 4:

- 1) Candidates, political parties and coalitions and their supporters shall organize electoral campaign activities in accordance with the electoral laws, the enforced laws, regulations adopted by the Commission and relevant code of conduct.
- 2) Any violation of the Electoral Law and related code of conduct shall be investigated by the Commission, the Media Commission and the ECC.

Use of Resources during Electoral Campaigns

Article 5:

- 1) To raise public awareness during electoral campaigns, the mass media (TV, radio, and print media) shall equally, fairly and impartially broadcast and publish candidates' platforms, comments, and objectives.
- 2) Candidates, political parties and coalitions are not allowed to use public properties and assets during electoral campaigns unless an authorized authority provides equal facilities to all candidates.
- 3) Candidates shall not receive financial or technical contribution from foreign citizens or governments.

Nonintervention of Government Department Officials in Election Campaigns

Article 6:

- A. Government Department Officials shall strictly observe the following during electoral campaigns:
 1. Shall not directly or indirectly interfere in electoral campaign of candidates unless the Commission asks for it.
 2. Shall not provide public facilities and resources for a specific candidate or candidates.

3. Shall not avoid rallies, speeches and other similar campaign related activities which are regulated by the law or shall not attempt to organize them in favor of a specific candidate or candidates.
 4. Shall not support a specific candidate, political party and coalition or not provide special facilities or conditions for campaign related activities.
 5. Shall not synchronize their official trips to cities and provinces of the country with electoral campaigns of a specific candidate or candidates.
 6. While holding position, government officials shall not take part in meetings and gatherings of a specific candidate or candidates.
 7. Shall not earmark government places as advertising hubs for a specific candidate or candidates or shall not use them for campaign purposes unless equal facilities are considered for all candidates by authorized officials.
 8. Shall not use government newspapers and government media to publish advertisements at government's expense for supporting a specific candidates or candidates
 9. Shall not destroy or remove campaign materials of candidates unless it is stated in the law
- B. Those candidates who holds government positions or are members of provincial council and are not obliged to resign from their positions before being a candidate in accordance with the Electoral Law shall consider the following during the campaign period:
1. Shall not use their positions to influence the election results or process.
 2. Shall not participate in events or gatherings in relation to providing public facilities, founding public utility projects, residential places and other such events.
 3. Shall not interfere directly or indirectly in functional affairs of electoral staff.
 4. Shall not synchronize their official trips with campaign related activities.
 5. Shall not use government facilities and resources for campaign purposes unless similar facilities are provided for other candidates too.
 6. Shall strictly avoid giving gifts, grants and loans from funds under their own control to influence the electoral result
 7. Shall avoid organizing meeting, gatherings or activities to draw the attention of a person or a group in order to influence the election results.
 8. Shall not use government newspapers and media at the government's expense for campaign purposes.

End of Electoral Campaign Period

Article 7:

Election campaign period shall end 48 hours ahead of Election Day. Candidates, political parties and their supporters are not allowed to continue their campaigns or distribute electoral campaign materials after ending election campaign period.

Election Campaign Materials

Article 8:

- 1) Candidates, political parties and coalitions and their supporters shall observe the following:

- a) Candidates shall not start electoral campaign (campaign through media; slogans and gatherings) before the date officially announced on the electoral timeline.
 - b) Shall not use the Commissions or other government logos or badges during electoral campaigns.
 - c) Candidates shall respect person's properties and avoid posting, writing, and drawing electoral campaign materials on private owned properties and avoid using the properties for campaign activities without permission of their owners.
 - d) Candidates shall not use glue in order to post their campaign materials (posters and pictures).
 - e) Candidates are allowed to take full advantage of billboards, banners, pole signs and LCD TV to maintain beauty and cleanliness of cities and places.
- 9) Candidates shall not display or publish such campaign materials that incite violence and ethnic, factional, religious, linguistic, age-wise sensitivities and feelings of people with disability.
- 2) The Commission's assigned officials and municipalities are allowed to remove those campaign materials contradicting this article's context from where they have been posted based on instructions of the Commission.
 - 3) Agents shall not use logo, symbol, color, slogan, picture and other sign of a candidate, of the Commission and other government departments for campaign purposes.
 - 4) If the above points are not observed by candidates, political parties and coalitions and their supporters, the Commission shall officially present the candidate, political party, political coalition and or their supporters as an offending person to the relevant authorities.

Election Campaign Observation

Article 9:

- 1) Electoral Officials, representatives of observer organizations as well as national and international media are allowed to observe electoral campaign processes. Candidates and political parties shall pave the way for the electoral officials, representatives of observer organizations and national and international media to observe the electoral campaigns.
- 2) Candidates, representatives of political parties and their supporters shall not put obstacle to the activities of the persons mentioned the Article 9.1 as long as their activities are limited to electoral campaign process's observation.

Offences

Article 10

If a government official, candidate, political party and coalition violate the principles stated in this regulation, the issue shall be referred to the ECC for further processing that sometimes it may result in disqualification of a candidate.

Entry into Force

Article 11:

This regulation shall be published and come into force after the date of approval.