



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Election Commission

POLLING REGULATION

This regulation has been approved by the Independent Election Commission under the given authorities of Article 56 of the Election Law to regulate polling related affairs.

Terms

Article 1:

In this regulation, the following terms convey bellow concepts:

1. Commission: Independent Election Commission established based on article (156) of the Afghan Constitution.
2. ECC: Electoral Complaint Commission established under article (52) of the Election Law.
3. Election: Includes voters' registration, candidates' registration, electoral campaigns, voting, counting of votes and declaration of results.
4. Political Party: A political party registered with Ministry of Justice.
5. Election date: It is the Election Day which is announced by the IEC based on article (33) of the Election Law.
6. Polling Station's Journal: A special journal for recording information regarding complaints and major events in each polling station.
7. Polling centre: A combination of pre-determined polling stations for both females and males.
8. Polling station: A pre-determined polling station under a polling center.

Application

Article 2:

This regulation regulates polling related issues in the following elections:

1. Presidential Election
2. Parliamentary Election
3. Provincial Council Elections
4. District Council Elections



Right to Vote

Article 3:

1. Any eligible citizen who has been registered as a voter and received a registration card, in accordance with the current procedures can, upon presenting a valid registration card, attend pre-determined places and cast his/her ballot on the Election Day.
2. The Commission will establish the requirements necessary to maintain secrecy of the vote.

Polling Centres and Polling stations

Article 4:

1. Voting will be conducted in polling centres which are to be established by the Commission across the country based on the population and voters' accessibility to the centres.
2. If possible, special facilities will be provided for those eligible voters who might not reach the established voting centres due to different reasons.
3. If possible, voting centres will be established in the areas where public access is feasible.
4. Separate polling stations are created for female voters at each voting centre.
5. The Commission will determine the number of polling stations at each polling centre.

Voting Day and Time Period

Article 5:

1. The Commission defines and announces the start and end date of polling day.
2. If more than one election is held on the same day, the necessary voting conditions will be provided to voters for this purpose.
3. Before announcing the end of polling, the last voter in the queue is marked and the voters standing in the queue are allowed to cast their votes. No one can join the voters' queue to vote after announcing end of the poll.
4. Considering the situation, the Commission can decide on extending the voting time period in specific voting centres.

Polling Officials in Voting Centres

Article 6:

- 1) The voting process in the polling stations is to be managed by Electoral Officials under direct supervision of the Polling Station Chairperson and the Field Coordinator.
- 2) For better administration, the Chairperson can take the following actions:
 - a) In case of violation of the Code of Conduct by a political party's agent, a candidate, an observer or media organization, he/she should order the person to leave the polling station.
 - b) Considering crowding or security reasons, he/she can set time limits on the presence of political parties' agents, observers or media organizations in the polling stations.
- 3) For better administration, the Field Coordinator can take the following actions:
 - a) In case of a riot, violence, storm, flood or any other similar unexpected incidents as a result of which the voting process become impossible, he/she should issue an order to temporarily stop the voting process in the polling station concerned.
 - b) After resolving the situations set out in the first paragraph of the third clause of sixth article of this regulation, the Field Coordinator can, after receiving the permission of the Provincial Election Officer, extend the voting period on the same day by as much as the time during which the voting process was stopped.
 - c) The Field Coordinator is responsible for informing the Commission of his decisions on the first and second paragraphs of third clause of the sixth article of this regulation through the Provincial Election Officer as soon as possible.

Polling Station Journal

Article 7:

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Every polling station has a Journal. The Journal contains information about recorded complaints in the station as well as the actions taken about them and information regarding major events in the polling station which are regularly recorded in the Journal by the chairperson of the polling station.

Presence Permission

Article 8:

- 1) Nobody is allowed to enter polling stations except the following persons:
 - a) Polling Station Staff, the Commissioners and the officials assigned by the Commission's secretariat.
 - b) Persons introduced by the Electoral Complaint Commission
 - c) Eligible voters with valid registration cards
 - d) Political party agents, candidates' agents, accredited observers and media representatives.
 - e) Special guests introduced by the Commission
 - f) Persons authorized to help disabled voters in accordance with the ninth article of this regulation.

- 2) The persons attending voting centers should respect secrecy of vote.

Eligibility of Voters

Article 9:

- 1) Polling officials shall verify the eligibility of voters before giving him/her a ballot. Having a registration card is mandatory to participate in the voting process.
- 2) 2. Polling officials shall only record information about a voter that is authorized by the Commission.

Challenges

Article 10:

1. A registered candidate or political party's agent or a registered voter may challenge a voter's right to vote with a Polling Station Chairperson before the voter receives a ballot, and the Polling Station Chairperson shall make a decision regarding the objection and record the objection, the decision, and the reason for the decision in the polling station journal.
2. An objector or voter who is not satisfied with the decision of the Chairperson may file a complaint with the Electoral Complaints Commission.

Casting a ballot

Article 11:

1. A voter shall mark his or her ballot in secret.
2. Polling officials shall provide information to voters, before they enter behind the voting screen. Electoral Officials shall not influence or attempt to influence the voter's choice.
3. A voter who is disabled may request and receive assistance to mark a ballot from an authorized and reliable person or the Polling Station Chairperson, as follows:
 - a) A person assisting a disabled voter will mark the ballot in the voter's presence in the way the voter wishes.
 - b). No person except for a Polling Station Chairperson may assist more than one disabled voter to vote.
 - c). Any assistance given to a voter in accordance with this article shall be recorded in the Polling Station Journal.
 - d). The person giving assistance to a disabled voter should respect the secrecy of the disabled person's ballot.

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4. Each voter's finger shall be marked with indelible ink before receiving the ballot paper. An individual with this mark shall not be permitted to enter a polling station or polling station's queue except to assist a disabled voter.
5. If more than one election is to be held on the same day, each voter has the right to vote in the elections to be held.
6. A Nomad voter can only cast a ballot in Presidential and Parliamentary Elections.
7. A voter who spoils a ballot may return it to the ballot issuer, who shall issue a replacement ballot and keep the spoiled ballot and record it in the Polling Station Journal.

After the poll

Article 12:

1. After the last ballot has been cast, the Polling Station Chairperson shall seal the ballot boxes, secure the voting materials, and make a report accounting for all the ballots.
2. Sealing the ballot papers, making a report accounting, and transporting them to a voting center shall be monitored by political parties' agents, candidates, observers and media organizations.

Complaints

Article 13:

Under the Electoral Complaints Commission procedure, complaints on voting process are to be referred to that commission.

Entry into Force

Article 14:

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

