



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Election Commission

Regulation on Electoral Campaigns

Considering the authorities under article (156) of the Afghan Constitution, this regulation has been adopted by the Independent Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates' electoral campaigns' affairs.

Terms

Article One:

1. Commission: Independent Election Commission (IEC) established based on article (156) of the Afghan Constitution.
2. ECC: Electoral Complaint Commission established in accordance with article (61) of the Election Law.
3. MC: Media Commission established under article (60) of the Election Law.
4. Elections: It includes voters' registration, candidates' registration, electoral campaigns, voting, vote counting and declaration of polling processes.
5. Political party: A political party registered with Ministry of Justice.
6. Electoral Campaigns: Efforts of political parties and candidates to propagate their political platforms, to attract confidence and support of voters.
7. Agents: Individuals participating at an election to monitor, on behalf of an accredited political party or candidate.

Purpose

Article Two:

This regulation organizes political parties and candidates' electoral campaigns' affairs in the following elections:

1. Presidential Elections
2. Wolesi Jirga Elections
3. Provincial Council Elections
4. District Council Elections
5. Village Council Elections
6. Mayor Elections
7. Municipal Assembly Elections

Electoral Campaign Period

Article Three:

The commission, considering article 46 of the Electoral Law, shall specify and publicize the start and end of the Electoral Campaign Period at least 120 days ahead of E-day.

Conditions related to Electoral Campaigns

Article Four:

- 1) Within the time limits set by the commission, predicted legal conditions and considering the concerned code of conduct, political parties and candidates can conduct electoral campaigns by organizing rallies, propagandizing through mass media (audio and video) and other legal means.

- 2) Political parties, candidates and their supporters neither can interfere in other political parties or candidates' electoral campaigns nor disturb their activities.
- 3) Candidates and political parties shall not involve armed forces personnel, such as Ministries of Defense and Interior and General Directorate of National Security troops in their electoral campaign activities while they are in military uniform or on duty.
- 4) Political parties and candidates can not invite any foreign nationals to participate in electoral campaigns' activities.
- 5) Participation or nonparticipation of individuals in electoral campaigns is not mandatory.

Limits of Electoral Campaigns

Article Five:

- 1) Political parties, candidates and their supporters shall organize electoral campaigns' activities in accordance with the law, adopted regulations of the commission and concerned code of conduct.
- 2) Any violation of the Electoral Law and related code of conduct shall be investigated by the commission, MC, and ECC or the issue should be referred to the concerned authorities to be prosecuted.

Use of Resources during Electoral Campaigns

Article Six:

- 1) To raise public awareness, Public Media (TV, radio, and print media) shall fairly and impartially broadcast and publish candidates' platforms, comments, and objectives during electoral campaigns. Moreover, the State Media shall broadcast and publish the platforms, comments and objectives of the candidates in conformity with the designated timeline of the IEC fairly and impartially.
- 2) No candidate shall use public possessions and properties during electoral campaigns unless an authorized authority provides equal facilities to all candidates.

Nonintervention of Government Departments' Officials in Electoral Campaigns' Affairs

Article Seven:

Government Departments' Officials shall observe the following points during electoral campaigns:

- 1- Avoiding intervening directly or indirectly in favor of or against a certain party or candidate while on duty.
- 2- Avoiding intervening in meetings, gatherings, and peaceful rallies.
- 3- Avoiding preferential behavior, such as explicit criticism against or support for a candidate.
- 4- Avoiding using government facilities in favor of or against a candidate.
- 5- Avoiding removing or destroying posters and other publicity means of candidates.

The details of the mentioned issues in the enclosed policy document with this regulation have already been stated.

Ending the Electoral Campaign Period

Article Eight:

Electoral Campaign Period comes to an end 48 hours ahead of polling day. Candidates, political parties, and their supporters cannot continue their campaigns or distribute electoral campaign materials after ending the Electoral Campaign Period.

Electoral Campaign Materials

Article Nine:

- 1) Candidates, Political Parties, and their supporters are obliged to observe the followings during the Electoral Campaign Period:
 - a) Candidates shall not take any step towards the Electoral Campaign by making use of the media and arranging rallies before the date officially announced by the commission.

- b) Candidates may not use the commission or other government agencies symbols or badges for their political campaign purposes.
 - c) Candidates shall not install or display electoral campaign materials on state or public owned properties without previous permission of the authorized officials or their owners.
 - d) Candidates shall not use glue while installing their propaganda materials, such as posters and pictures.
 - e) For the purpose of keeping the cities clean and beautiful, candidates shall try to the best of their extents to make use of billboards, banners, poll signs and LCD.TV during the Electoral Campaign Period.
 - f) Candidates shall not display or publish such electoral materials which incite violence or ethnic, religious, linguistic, and regional discriminations.
- 2) The commission and municipal corporations' assigned officials are authorized to remove those electoral campaign materials which contradict this article's subject from the areas where they have been posted.
 - 3) The agents of candidates and political parties, during their presence in the polling process, shall not show the voters the badges, symbols and photos of the concerned candidates inside the polling stations for the purpose of achieving the Electoral Campaigns' activities.
 - 4) In case of the non- observance of the aforesaid cases, the commission will introduce the candidate as a violator to the concerned authorities for the purpose of further prosecution.

Electoral Campaigns' Observation

Article Ten:

- 1) Electoral Officials, representatives of the observing organizations as well as national and international media representatives shall observe the Electoral Campaigns' Processes.
- 2) Candidates, political parties' agents and their supporters cannot interfere in the activities of the persons mentioned in the clause (1) of this article as long as their activities are limited to electoral campaign process's observation.

Entry into Force

Article Eleven:

This regulation enters into force on the date it is approved and shall be published.