



## IHEC Regulation No.18

According to the authority which has been given to the Board of commissioners in the article (4), item (8) of the Independent High Electoral Commission's law No. (11), in the year 2007, and the amended Law of the Iraqi Parliament Election of the No. (16), for the year 2005 we decided issuing the following regulation:-

# (Voting, counting, and Sorting)

No. (18) For the year 2009

## (Preamble)

The independent High (Supreme) Electoral Commission in Iraq has been established according to the law no (11) for the year 2007 to be precisely the only electoral authority in Iraq, The commission is professional, autonomous, independent, and neutral, subjected to the supervision of council of representatives.

## Section 1 (Terminology)

The following terms represented the meaning in the face of each one of them:-

1. **"Commission"**:-means The Independent High Electoral Commission.
2. **"Polling officer"**: the person who is hired for working with the Commission during the election period in accordance with the conditions, regulations and codes of conduct issued by the Commission and signed by him/her.



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3. **"The polling station"**: Is a site that operation of ballot is conducted, and includes one polling station or more.
4. **"Polling station"**: Is a location within the polling station staffed by a team of polling staff to facilitate the process of voters cast ballots, and the place where sorting and counting process of the votes.
5. **"Center for counting and sorting in the provinces"**: Is a place prepared in the provinces to carry out the process of counting and sorting of ballot papers for voting on the military and internal security forces and inmates and detainees, detainees and admitted to the hospitals and absentee voting for the Displaced.
6. **"Center for data entry"**: Is a place for the collection process of voices of candidates and political entities for the Iraqi parliament elections.
7. **"Voter registry"**: Is a list containing the names of voters eligible to vote in elections and referendums, according to the latest update conducted by the Commission.

## Section2 (Polling and counting sites)

1. Set up polling stations at convenient locations throughout Iraq.
2. In charge of each polling station, there is a coordinator (Director) who organizes the work of the Center and its staff, as well as coordination with the security forces charged with protecting the center and be accountable to the director of the center subgroup.
3. The management of each polling station officer (Director) who oversees the electoral staff at the station.
4. The counting and sorting process of votes for elections is Conducted in the polling station where voting takes place soon after the polling process with the exception of special voting and absentee voting for the Displaced.
5. The officer in charge of the polling station promised to manage the process of counting and sorting votes, and the staff with the assistance of each station is responsible for this process.
6. Anyone who enters the polling station will be subject for inspection, and no person may be carrying a bag or other container, enters into a polling



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station; with the exception of the staff that transport equipment belonging to polling and counting.

### **Section 3 (Voter registration)**

1. Each voter should have his name included in the register of voters for one station, and has the right to vote once.
2. The vote is personal to the registered voters in the polling station of the polling center. Votes are not casting by or on behalf of the authorization.
3. The voter, in addition to a name registered in the register of voters, should highlight the definition of an official document with a photograph to prove his identity.
4. The displaced, those included with special voting, displaced, and the polling staff are voting according to the procedures issued from the commission.

### **Section 4 (Polling Process)**

1. The voting process Begins at polling stations opened at seven in the morning until five o'clock pm on the Election Day under the law, it is permitted to vote for those in the queues at the polling station at five o'clock before closing.
2. Voting shall be in accordance with the open-list system where voters have two options either to vote for a list of just put a sign in the box allocated to it or to vote for one candidate by putting another sign in the box that refers to the serial number of the candidate.
3. Each voter put assign in the box in the ballot paper, in secrecy, the blind or illiterate voters or due to another obstacle will be assisted by a relative or friend of his own choosing, or the officer in charge of the polling station. Nor shall any one but the officer to assist more than two voters in this matter
4. Each voter dye his/her finger with the special polling ink otherwise he/she is not allowed to vote.
5. Any voter with dyed finger is not allowed to vote again if he/she comes to the polling station.



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### Section 5

#### (The process of sorting and counting)

1. Conducted the screening process, counting and completion of forms its own immediately after the polling process in each polling station with the exception of special voting and absentee voting for the Displaced made in the counting and sorting centers in the provinces.
2. At the end of the voting process, the station manager counts the ballot papers used by the voters in the polling station and participating teams to complete the process of counting valid votes for each list and a candidate in accordance with procedures issued by the IHEC.
3. All decisions on the validity of ballot papers or on the safety calculated for one of the options (the list or the candidate) by the manager of the station who must apply the rules of the Commission's procedures in making his/her decision. The decision of the director of the station is final in this matter unless the staff member objected to counting and sorting out resolution. In this case, vote counting and sorting staff and the majority will be the decisive voice for the station manager if voices were equal.

### Part 6

#### (Compilation of results)

1. When the officer is convinced with the accuracy of counting and sorting votes; he/she announces the preliminary results after the end of the process of sorting and counting to the present inside the polling station, by viewing the fourth version of the forms for the results on the walls of the station, and convey these findings to a central location and identification according to IHEC.
2. The director of the Center of counting and sorting in the governorate Declares the initial results after the end of the process of counting and



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sorting of ballot papers on voting absentee for the present by presenting the fourth edition of the forms at the results of counting and sorting.

3. The results of elections will be enlisted in the database inside the Center of data entry in the national office.
4. After reaching the final result of the total number of votes cast at the election, the distribution of results in accordance with the distribution of seats' regulation.

### Part 7

#### **(Persons authorized to enter polling stations and counting and counting)**

1. in addition to voters who cast their votes, the following persons are allowed to enter into the polling station or center , or staying in it:-
  - A. Polling staff.
  - B. IHEC staff is authorized.
  - C. Authorized agents of the political entities and coalitions.
  - D. Accredited electoral observers.
  - E. Representatives of the media accredited.
2. IHEC determines the number of agents and electoral observers and entities who are entitled to be present in each station or polling stations.
3. It is not allowed to bring the photographic equipment or take photos within the center or polling station without prior approval from the Commission, photography should not reveal the intention of the voter in voting even if he/she agreed to this and there should be no press interviews inside a polling station.
4. The members of the security forces should remain outside the center or the polling station or counting and sorting center in the province unless



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absolutely an emergency to attend to within the site or unless an authorized official of the Commission allows their attendance.

### **Section 8** **(Effectiveness of the regulation)**

This regulation shall enter into force since the date of its ratification by the Board of Commissioners in 14/11/2009.

Board of Commissioners