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# **Elections in Côte d'Ivoire**

## *2015 Presidential Elections*

Frequently Asked Questions

Africa

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# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What is the electoral management body? What are its responsibilities?**

In Côte d'Ivoire, the election management body is called the Independent Electoral Commission (*Commission Electorale Indépendante* [CEI]), and it is responsible for any election and/or referendum in the country. It comprises 17 members, including one representative of the President of the republic; one representative of the President of the National Assembly; one representative of the Minister of Territorial Administration; one representative of the Minister of Economy and Finance; one magistrate appointed by the Supreme Judicial Council; four representatives of civil society including two from religious denominations, one non-denominational representative and one representative of a non-governmental organization; one lawyer appointed by the bar; four representatives of the ruling political party or ruling political group; and four representatives of opposition political parties or opposition political groups.

The CEI is responsible for the registration of voters on electoral lists, the organization and monitoring of elections, and the announcement of the provisional results of the presidential election.

The CEI has 513 local committees, including 31 Regional Commissions (*Commissions Régionales*), 83 Departmental Commissions (*Commissions Départementales*), 39 Municipal Commissions (*Commissions Communales*), 360 Sub-Prefecture Commissions (*Commissions Sous-Prélectorales*) and 19 Electoral Commissions of Diplomatic Representations (*Commissions Electorales de Représentations Diplomatiques*).

## **What is the structure of the government?**

Côte d'Ivoire is a secular republic based on the principle of separation of state powers into three functions: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The President-elect of the republic is the chief executive. He appoints the Prime Minister, while he is the Head of Government. The current government has 32 ministers, five of whom are women.

Most current members of the government belong to the coalition of the Rally of Houphouëtistes for Democracy and Peace (*Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix* [RHDP]).

Côte d'Ivoire has had a unicameral National Assembly since the country's last parliamentary elections in 2012.

## **When is Election Day?**

The election of the President of the republic of Côte d'Ivoire will be on October 25, 2015. On Election Day, polling stations will open at 7 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

## **Who can observe the elections? How do they become accredited?**

The presidential election can be observed by any legal person, including institutions and media organizations duly accredited by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI). Accreditation cards can be picked up at the CEI or downloaded on the CEI's website.

## **How will security be ensured on Election Day?**

A security plan has been adopted and approved by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI). This plan was developed and proposed to the CEI by a coalition of forces (police, gendarmerie, army, and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire) committed to securing the presidential elections.

## **Who is eligible to vote?**

Ivoirians aged 18, registered on the electoral list, and with national identity cards or voter's card are eligible to vote.

## **How many candidates are there?**

The Constitutional Council has identified 10 candidates, two of whom are women. The list of candidates includes six independent candidates and four candidates sponsored by political parties.

## **How many registered voters are there?**

The provisional electoral list has 6,300,158 voters, including 344,295 new registrants.

## **What are polling places and polling booths?**

The polling place is where voters will vote. In Côte d'Ivoire, it is generally in public places such as schools. The polling place includes several polling booths.

In Côte d'Ivoire, each station for the presidential election will have three officers (a President and two Secretaries). Representatives or delegates of candidates for the presidential election are admitted into the polling station. Observers also have access to polling stations.

According to Article 21 of the Electoral Code, each station serves a maximum of 600 voters.

## **How many polling stations are set up on Election Day?**

Approximately 22,000 polling stations will be set up for the presidential elections.

## **Is out-of-country voting allowed?**

Article 3 of the Electoral Code states that people "living abroad and registered in a diplomatic or consular representation may take part in the presidential election according to the modalities prescribed by decree in the Council of Ministers on a proposal from the Commission on Elections."

For the 2015 presidential election, identified Ivoirians residing in the following countries can vote: South Africa, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Canada, the United States, Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Switzerland.

## **How will voters with disabilities cast their ballots?**

Article 37 of the Electoral Code provides that any voter suffering from a physical disability making it impossible to complete the voting process is allowed to be assisted by any person of his/her choice having no similar physical disability.

## **Where does the vote counting take place? How are the votes counted?**

At the closure of the polling station, the polling stations President counts the votes in front of the representatives of the candidates, Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) members and observers. The President then proclaims the provisional results of the polling station and drafts the minutes, which are signed by representatives of the candidates. Each candidate's representative and members of the CEI receive a copy of the minutes.

## **What are electoral disputes?**

Electoral disputes are the right of contestation of the voting operations, which all candidates are entitled to, in accordance with the law. A candidate who is not satisfied with the results writes a letter to the President of the Constitutional Council to complain about the way the vote was conducted and how the votes were counted. A candidate has five days after the announcement of provisional results to file a complaint. The Constitutional Council has seven days to make a decision regarding the complaint.

## **When will the provisional and final results be announced? By whom?**

After the announcement of results at the local level (sub-prefecture, commune, department, and region), the Independent Electoral Commission will proclaim the provisional results at the national level in the presence of the representatives of the candidates, at the latest within five days after the end of vote. The final results of the presidential election are proclaimed, after reviewing all potential complaints, by the Constitutional Council.

## Resources

- 60 Questions to Understand the 2015 Côte d'Ivoire Electoral Code ([French](#))
- 2015 Electoral Code ([French](#))
- Independent Election Commission ([French](#))