



International Foundation
for Electoral Systems

Election FAQs: Tunisia

Local Elections

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Middle East and North Africa

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

2011 Crystal Drive | Floor 10 | Arlington, VA 22202 | USA | www.IFES.org

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When is Election Day?

Members of Tunisian local councils will be elected on December 24, 2023 for the first time. On the same day, the election commission will organize a drawing by lot to designate persons with disabilities, who have a set number of reserved seats, to serve on local councils.

Who will be elected on election day?

Local councils are not specifically mentioned in the 2022 Constitution. The President of the Republic signed a Decree Law on March 8, 2023 to establish these councils at the level of the delegation (*Moutamdya*) and to define the way they are elected.¹ Tunisia is composed of 279 delegations.

Tunisian voters will directly elect the members of the 279 local councils for a five-year term. In addition to elected members, each local council consists of one member representing persons with disabilities selected by lot and not elected. Additionally, relevant ministries will appoint non-voting members to represent the authorities on each local council.

Why are these elections important?

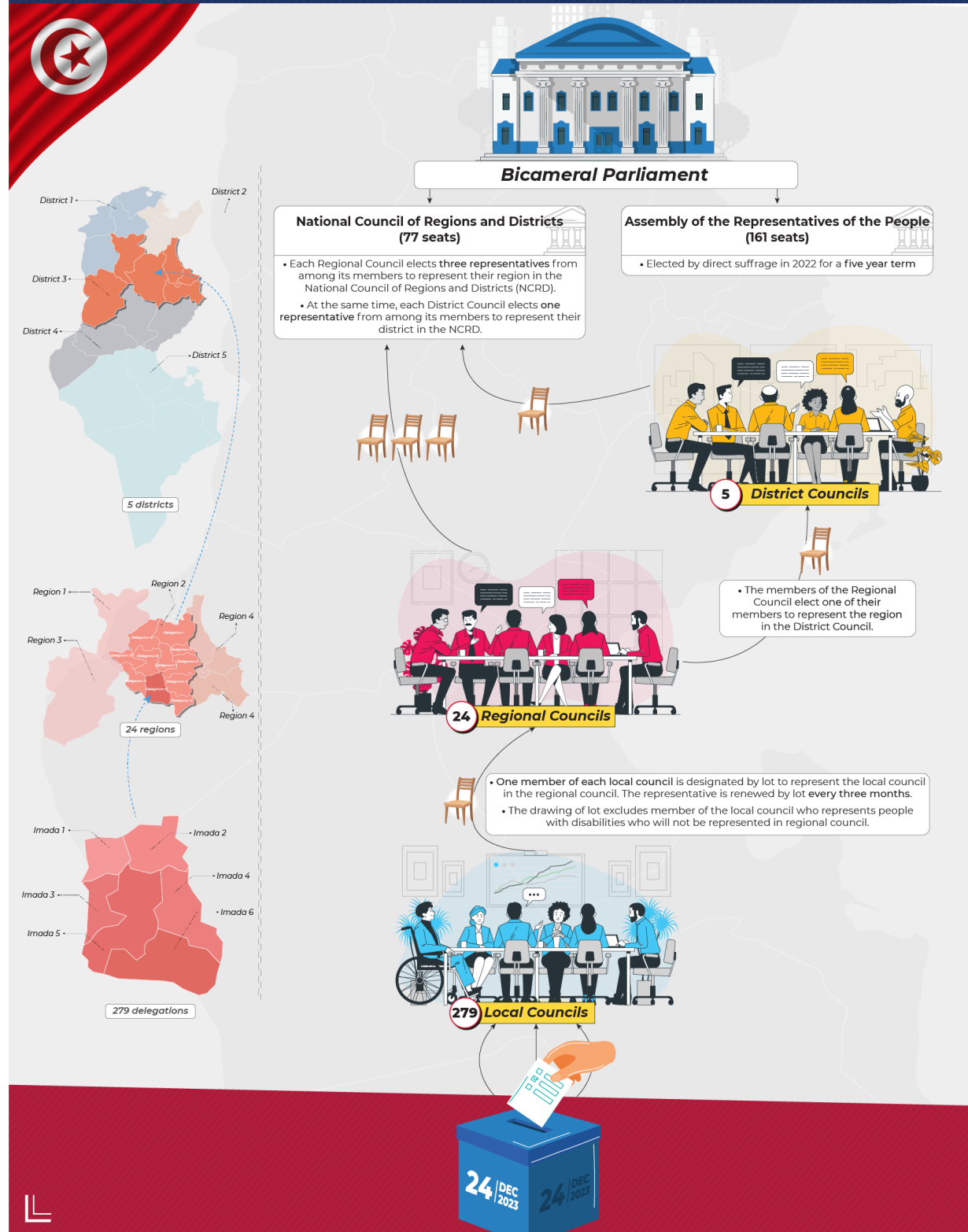
These elections are important as each delegation will now have, for the first time, a directly elected council. However, the prerogatives and responsibilities of these councils are not known and were not clarified in the run-up to the December 24 election. Neither the Constitution nor any laws specify the mandate and powers of these local councils, how they differ from the 350 municipal councils, or how the two will interact with each other.²

Furthermore, this election is a critical step towards the indirect election of the National Council of Regions and Districts (NCRD), a new body established by the 2022 Constitution as the upper chamber of parliament. The establishment of the NCRD will constitute the final step of the president's plan to restructure Tunisia's system of governance. To create the NCRD, the following steps will need to be taken: once elected, each local council will designate by lot one of its members to serve on a regional council; members of the 24 regional councils will then elect one member to serve on a district council; and finally, regional councils will each elect three representatives to serve on the NCRD while the five district councils will each elect one member to serve on the NCRD (See the infographic below).

¹ Decree-Law No. 2023-10 of 8 March 2023 regulates local council election and the composition of regional and district councils.

² The President of the Republic decreed the dissolution of the municipal councils on 8 March 2023, a couple of months before they were up for renewal. The last municipal elections took place in May 2018 and the next ones are not scheduled yet.

From the local councils to the National Council of Regions and Districts



How will local council members be elected or designated?

The local councils are composed of three types of members: those directly elected, those drawn by lot, and those appointed by State authorities.

- Through a two-round majoritarian system, voters will elect in single mandate constituencies. In essence, 2,155 elections will take place throughout Tunisia on December 24. Each electoral constituency corresponds to a sector (*Imada*), the lowest administrative level in Tunisia. Candidates must receive an absolute majority to be elected in the first round. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, a second round is organized between the two top candidates two weeks after the proclamation of the final results of the first round. If there is only one candidate, he or she will be elected regardless of the number of votes received. The candidate who receives the largest number of votes in each delegation will preside over the local council as chairperson. After the first three months, a new chairperson will be selected by lot every three months.
- One seat per local council (279 in all) is reserved for persons with disabilities, whom the Election Commission will select by lot on 24 December.
- An undefined number of seats are reserved for local representatives of Ministries that will represent the State authorities, such as for instance the ministries of agriculture, social affairs, and education. Relevant ministries will appoint these non-voting members.

What is the applicable legal framework?

The Tunisian Constitution, adopted by referendum on July 25, 2022, does not reference local councils. The rules applicable to local elections are mainly based on two pieces of legislation, namely, Decree-Law No. 2023-10 of March 8, 2023, regulating the election of local councils and the composition of regional councils and district councils (known as "DL-10") and Organic Law No. 2014-16 of May 26, 2014, on elections and referendums, as amended and supplemented by subsequent texts and in particular by Decree-Law No. 2023-8 of March 8, 2023 (known as the Electoral Law). In the last two years, the electoral framework has undergone many changes through decrees, thus bypassing the parliament to enact the legislation. The dispersion of the electoral legal framework across many different pieces of legislation has decreased its readability, coherence, and accessibility to stakeholders.

The election commission has also issued several regulatory decisions applicable to the local council elections to supplement and detail provisions of the electoral legislation. They cover the organization of regional election administrations and commissions, the electoral calendar, voter registration, candidate nominations, the accreditation of observers, the electoral campaign, campaign financing and media coverage, and the procedures for voting, counting, tabulation and announcement of results. In addition to the regulations issued by the election commission, the President of the Republic issued decrees convening voters to the polls and setting spending limits and ceilings for private funding.

Who is responsible for organizing these elections?

The High Independent Election Commission (ISIE) is mandated to organize and supervise elections and referenda. Organic Law No. 2012-23 of December 20, 2012 (hereinafter the ISIE

Law) established the ISIE as the body responsible for the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

The ISIE consists of a decision-making body (the Board) and an executive body (the Executive Secretariat). Since the amendment of the ISIE law by Decree-Law No. 2022-22 of 21 April 2022, the Board consists of seven members, including the president, who are all appointed by the President of the Republic for a non-renewable four-year term.³ However, the current ISIE composition, based on the April 2022 decree law, does not comply with the requirements of Article 134 of the 2022 Constitution, according to which the ISIE must be composed of nine independent, neutral, competent, and honest members who carry out their mission for a non-renewable six-year term. The Board takes decisions by a majority of the members present; the board's president casts a vote in the event of a tie.

The Executive Secretariat is composed of several departments responsible for managing all administrative, financial, and technical matters under the authority of the ISIE president. It is headed by an Executive Director appointed by and accountable to the ISIE president.

The ISIE's 27 permanent regional administrations are headed by regional directors and report to the executive secretariat. In addition to regional administrations, the ISIE board may appoint regional election commissions (commonly known as IRIEs) for each election. Each IRIE is composed of three members appointed by the ISIE Board.⁴ IRIEs are temporary bodies without decision-making power or independence. They exercise functions expressly delegated to them by the ISIE Board.

IRIEs and the regional administrations play an important role in local elections. In particular, they monitor voter registration and the litigation of disputes relating to registration; validation of candidacies and the management of related disputes; control of the electoral campaign and its financing; accreditation of candidates' representatives; and the organization of voting, counting, and tabulation of results.

How has ISIE disseminated voter information about the elections to the public?

In the run-up to election day, the ISIE has shared voter information on its social media accounts and its website (www.isie.tn) as well as on national TV. It broadcast a series of voter information spots on national media and held press briefings to inform the public of progress on the electoral

³ The seven ISIE Board members are appointed by presidential decree and selected as follows:

- Three members chosen by the President of the Republic (PR) from among the members of the previous electoral bodies.
- One judicial judge with an effective seniority of at least 10 years and chosen by the PR from among 3 candidates proposed by the Council of the Judiciary.
- One administrative judge with an effective seniority of at least 10 years and chosen by the PR from 3 candidates proposed by the Council of the Administrative Judiciary.
- One financial judge with an effective seniority of at least 10 years and chosen by the PR from among 3 candidates proposed by the Financial Judicial Council.
- One computer security engineer with an effective seniority of at least 10 years and chosen by the PR from among 3 candidates proposed by the National Center for Informatics.

⁴ According to Article 21 of the ISIE law, members of the IRIEs must be either former IRIE members, judicial or administrative or financial judges, or computer security engineers.

process. The ISIE set up a call center to answer questions from the public and conducted multiple meetings with candidates, civil society organizations, and journalists ahead of the election campaign. These public events provided sign language interpretation to make electoral information accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing voters.

Who has the right to vote in these elections?

According to the 2022 Constitution and electoral legislation, a voter must have the Tunisian nationality, be at least 18 years of age on election day, enjoy civil and political rights, not be incapacitated, and be registered in the voters list based on his/her actual residence address.⁵ The Electoral Law provides for two cases of incapacity, each of which must be certified by a court decision:

- Persons sentenced to a criminal penalty expressly prohibiting them from voting as an additional penalty;
- Persons under legal guardianship.

Additionally, serving military personnel, civilians during the period of military service (conscripts), and serving agents of the internal security forces no longer have the right to vote in sub-national elections.⁶ Before 2022, they could vote in municipal and regional elections.

How many voters are registered?

Since 2022, Tunisia has adopted an automatic registration process. Every voter over 18 years old with the legal capacity to vote is automatically included on the voters' register. The High Independent Election Commission has not made the final electoral roll public yet as of writing. The preliminary roll includes 9,079,271 registered voters for the local elections, of whom 30.8 percent are people under 36 years old, 47.7 percent are between 36 and 60 years old, and 21.4 percent are over 60 years old.⁷ Women account for 51 percent of registered voters.

What are the requirements for candidacy?

The conditions for standing in local council elections are as follows:⁸

- Be of Tunisian nationality, and without holding a nationality other than Tunisian nationality.
- Be a registered voter in the electoral district for which s/he intends to run.
- Be at least 23 years of age at the time of application.

⁵ The actual residence address may be:

- that indicated on the national identity card,
- habitual residence, where this is different from that indicated on the national identity card, or
- the place of the main economic activity,
- or the place of submission to a local tax related to property ownership.

⁶ Internal security forces include agents of national security, national police, national guard, and civil protection, as well as prison, re-education officers and agents of the security guards of the Head of State and of other high officials.

⁷ For the 2022 legislative elections, 9,339,756 voters were registered, compared to 9,278,541 registered in the 2022 referendum.

⁸ These conditions can be found in DL-10 and in ISIE regulatory decision No. 2023-8 of October 3, 2023, laying down the rules and procedures for standing as a candidate in local elections (Decision 8).

- Be a resident within the territory of the electoral district (*imada*) for which s/he intends to run.
- Have a criminal record free of any intentional crimes.
- Enjoy the right to stand for election, i.e. not have been criminally convicted and punished with ineligibility or deprivation of the right to vote.
- Not having held certain positions, for at least one year prior to submitting one's candidacy, in the electoral district in which s/he is standing for election (examples: member of the government, magistrates, governor, delegate, imam, president of sports structures, president or member of municipal council, municipal and regional officials and agents).
- Have paid mandatory state and local taxes.
- Submit a list of 50 endorsements from voters registered in the relevant electoral district and a summary of the electoral platform. The list of endorsements must include the signatures of 25 women and 25 men, 15 of whom must be under 35 years old. Voters are prohibited from sponsoring more than one candidate. Legalization of the sponsorship signature is not required.

Candidates for the seat reserved for the representation of persons with disabilities are subject to the same conditions as candidates to elected seats. However, they are exempt from the sponsorship requirement and must present a disability card as part of their application.

Who will be competing in these elections?

A total of 7,777 individuals applied to the regional election commissions (IRIEs) to compete in these elections. On November 14, 2023, the High Independent Election Commission published a preliminary list of 7,216 confirmed candidates. On November 28, after the litigation phase, the final number of candidates was reduced to 7,205, including 1,028 candidates for seats reserved for persons with disabilities. Of those candidates, 22.1 percent are people under age 36 and only 13.3 percent are women.

Can candidates challenge decisions on candidacies?

According to Decree-Law No. 2023-10 (DL-10), IRIE decisions on candidates' applications may be challenged before the territorially competent chamber of the Administrative Court. First-instance judgements by the chamber may be appealed to the Appeals Chamber of the Administrative Court based in Tunis, which makes an irrevocable decision. Only candidates may refer disputes to the competent courts.

Challenges must be lodged within a maximum of two days from the notification of the decision while appealing first instance decisions must also be done within two days from the notification of the contested judgment. In order for the dispute to be formally admissible to the court, the applicant must provide proof of his/her notification of the challenge to the opposing parties, such as for instance IRIEs or candidate concerned by the complaint by a bailiff before the end of the appeal period. In addition, the law requires candidates to seek legal representation during appeals.

The time limits for the competent courts to deliver their judgments (including the hearing, deliberation, and delivery of judgment) are set at a maximum of five days for first instance and six days for appeals.

The Administrative Court received 58 first instance challenges and six appeals for the 2023 local elections. The final judgements handed down by the courts upheld the decisions of the IRIEs in nearly all cases. Only one challenge was upheld, resulting the relevant IRIE changing the ranking of a final list of candidates.

What are the rules governing the electoral campaign and its financing?

The electoral law defines three separate campaign phases:⁹

- **The election period** includes the pre-election campaign phase, the official campaign, and the period of silence. The electoral silence includes the day before polling and election day until the last polling station closes. For these local elections, the electoral period began on 3 October 2023.
- **The pre-election campaign** is the period that starts two months before the election campaign. During this period, electronic media must guarantee access for all political leanings based on the principle of pluralism. For these elections, the pre-election campaign period began on 3 October and ran until 1 December 2023.
- **The election campaign** refers to all activities carried out by candidates or their supporters to publicize the election platform with a view to convince voters to elect them. The election campaign begins 22 days before the election and closes 32 hours before polling. For these local elections, the campaign period began at midnight on December 2, 2023, and will run until December 22 at midnight.

The 21-day election campaign is governed by the following principles:

- The neutrality of the public administration and places of worship,
- The neutrality of the national media,
- The transparency of the electoral campaign,
- Equal opportunities for all candidates,
- Respect for the physical integrity, honor and dignity of candidates and voters,
- Respect for the privacy and personal data of candidates, and
- Non-incitement of hatred, violence, intolerance, and discrimination on the basis of religion, group, family, or region.

Candidates belonging to political parties have been authorized by decision of the ISIE to campaign on behalf of their party, provided that they present the explicit prior agreement of the

⁹ See ISIE Decision No. 2023-7 of September 22, 2023 on the timetable for the election of members of local councils and the drawing of lots to select representatives of persons with disabilities to sit on local councils for the year 2023.

party's legal representative.¹⁰ Political parties are not authorized, however, to finance their candidates' election campaigns.¹¹

Throughout the election period, candidates are prohibited from engaging in political advertising involving the use of commercial marketing.¹² Also forbidden during this period are the publication of the results of opinion polls or commenting on polls directly or indirectly related to the elections.

During the campaign, candidates can publicize their platforms through public meetings, demonstrations, marches, and rallies, with advance notification to the High Independent Election Commission (ISIE). Candidates are also entitled to campaign on social media networks, but only on their own accounts and without paid advertising. Campaign methods are more limited for the local elections than for national elections. For instance, campaign messages on billboards are prohibited for local elections as is advertising on cars or buses.

Campaigning is prohibited in schools, universities, vocational training buildings, and places of worship. Also forbidden is the distribution of documents or campaign activities in public administration buildings and public companies. This prohibition also applies to private companies that are not open to the public.¹³ The law prohibits the use of state resources for the benefit of a candidate.

As of 2022, public funding is no longer available to candidates. Electoral campaigns are exclusively funded through self-financing by candidates and by private financing. Private funding comes from individual donations, although there is no cap on those donations. Private financing may not exceed 80% of the overall limit on electoral campaign expenditures. Spending ceilings are calculated based on the number of voters per electoral constituency.¹⁴ The limits vary between a minimum of 1,000 TND (circa. 323 USD) and a maximum of 17,000 TND (circa. 5,490 USD).¹⁵

Donations from legal entities (such as commercial companies, associations, or trade unions), foreign entities, and unknown sources are strictly prohibited. Also forbidden is any form of hidden financing, such as public resources, or the use of charitable activities to promote a candidate.

¹⁰ ISIE Decision No. 2019-22 of August 22, 2019, on the rules and procedures for organizing the election campaign and the referendum campaign, as amended and supplemented by Decision No. 2023-11 of November 15, 2023.

¹¹ ISIE Decision No. 2014-20 of August 8, 2014, on the rules, procedures, and methods of financing the election campaign, as amended and supplemented by Decision No. 2023-12 of November 15, 2023.

¹² The Electoral Law defines political advertising as "any advertising or propaganda against material countervalue or free of charge, using the methods and techniques of commercial marketing, intended for the public, and aimed at promoting a person, an opinion, a program or political party, with a view to attracting voters or influencing their behavior and choice, through the audiovisual media, written or electronic, or through fixed or mobile advertising media installed in places or public or private property."

¹³ Private companies open to the public include, for example, supermarkets, malls, and hotels.

¹⁴ Three thresholds are determined:

- Circa. 323 USD for every 1,000 voters for imadas with less than 2,000 voters.
- Circa. 258 USD for every 1,000 voters for imadas with a number of voters that varies between 2,000 and 5,000 voters.
- Circa. 194 USD for every 1,000 voters for imadas with a number of voters that exceeds 5,000 voters.

¹⁵ See Decree No. 2023-737 of December 1, 2023 relating to the setting of the ceiling on election expenses for the 2023 local council elections.

Who controls campaign financing?

Both the election commission and the Court of Accounts (CoA) exercise oversight on campaign financing.

During the electoral campaign, the ISIE will deploy 2,200 field controllers who will monitor campaign activities, assess their costs, and record any violations. They monitor compliance in collaboration with various public bodies, including the Central Bank of Tunisia. The ISIE is entitled to refer violations of the rules to the Public Prosecutor. The ISIE may also annul the election results of a winner in case of violation provided that this violation has had an impact on integrity of the electoral operation and on the results of the elections.

For its part, the CoA controls incomes and expenditures allocated to the campaign of each candidate after the announcement of the final results. It may impose financial and/or electoral sanctions on candidates who have breached certain rules on funding. According to article 100 *bis* of the electoral law, the CoA is obliged to hand down its final decisions relating to financial and electoral offenses within a period not exceeding the first year of the elected council member's term of office. Anyone convicted by an irrevocable ruling of the CoA for having committed financial or electoral offenses is no longer eligible to stand in local and municipal elections.

What are the principles and rules governing media coverage? Who monitors the media during the election campaign?

Throughout the election campaign, the media are required to:

- Demonstrate neutrality;
- Respect the principle of equality and guarantee equal opportunities between candidates;
- Respect the physical integrity, honor and dignity of candidates and voters;
- Not infringe upon the privacy of candidates and their personal data;
- Comply with the requirements of public safety and national defense; and
- Not disseminate or publish calls for hatred, violence, fanaticism, and discrimination based on religion, race, group, or family.¹⁶

During the election period, candidates have the right to campaign through national public and private electronic media. While the principle of equality is established for media coverage, in practice it cannot be respected due to the large number of candidates. Some public and private media outlets organized a draw to determine the candidates who will take part in debates, those who will be entitled to direct free airtime and those whose campaign activities will be covered by the news. Only a limited number of candidates will have access to the various radio and TV programs. The media are prohibited from engaging in political advertising and from broadcasting or publishing any biased media coverage for the benefit of a candidate.

Since the amendment of the electoral law by Decree-Law 2023-8 of 8 March 2023 (DL-8), the role of the Independent High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HAICA) in monitoring the

¹⁶ See Article 4 of ISIE Decision No. 2018-8 of 20 February 2018 on the rules and conditions to be observed by the media during the election campaign and the referendum campaign, as amended and supplemented by Decision No. 2023-13 of 15 November 2023.

electronic media during the campaign has been limited to guaranteeing the pluralism and diversity of the audiovisual media, as well as removing any obstacles that are incompatible with the principle of equity between candidates in access to the audiovisual media (Article 65 of the electoral law). Henceforth, monitoring the conduct of the electronic media and the written and electronic press is primarily the responsibility of the election commission. To this end, two monitoring units have been set up within the ISIE, one to monitor the electronic media and the other to monitor the print and electronic press. A third monitoring unit has also been set up to monitor activities on social networks during the campaign period.

Where and when will voters cast their ballots?

For the 24 December local elections, the ISIE plans to open 4,685 voting centers, each consisting of one or more polling stations. The voting center consists of a president and one or more ISIE information officers. The president maintains order within the center. S/he ensures coordination and logistical operations as well as facilitates the work of poll workers.

A total of 8,174 polling stations will be available to voters.¹⁷ Each polling station is composed of a president and two members. The number of poll workers is approximately 34,325. The president of the polling station ensures that the voting and counting process runs smoothly and is responsible for maintaining order within the polling station. Poll workers carry out, among other tasks, checking the identity of voters, inking their index fingers, handing over ballot papers and monitoring the ballot box. They count the ballots in polling stations immediately after the close of voting and in the presence of observers and representatives of the candidates.

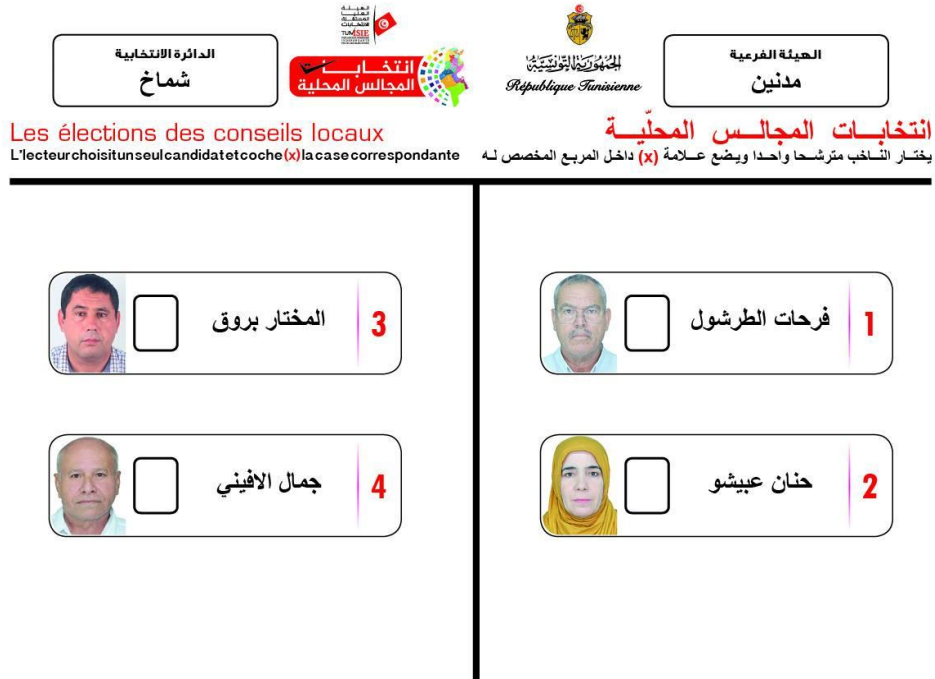
Each citizen can find out the polling station to which s/he is assigned by dialing *195* followed by the national identity card number. A message is then sent to the voter indicating the electoral district and the voting center to which s/he belongs, the polling station in which s/he is registered, and his/her ranking on the voters' list in the polling station.

Voting starts at 8.00 a.m. and ends at 6.00 p.m. throughout the country. Voters who are inside the voting center at the time of the close of voting are allowed to vote.

What will the ballot paper look like?

There will be a different ballot for each of 2,155 electoral districts. Each ballot paper will contain the number, name, and photo of each candidate. Candidates are classified vertically in several columns. In front of the name of each candidate there will be a box in which the voter will have to clearly mark her/his choice. The voter can only choose one candidate, otherwise the ballot will be considered invalid.

¹⁷ The number of polling stations decreased drastically since the 2022 legislative elections, which included 11,311 polling stations. Consequently, the number of poll workers is down from 45,600. This decrease of the number of polling stations is due to the increase of the maximum number of voters per polling station from 1,000 to 1,600 voters.



Sample of paper ballot: to be used for candidates running in Chamekh (Medenine)

How will voters with disabilities vote?

The electoral law enshrines the principles of personal and secret voting for all voters, including those with disabilities. To this end, it provides that polling stations must be accessible so that voters with disabilities can exercise their right to vote. The ISIE can adopt specific measures for the benefit of persons with disabilities, especially those who are blind or have low vision and those with physical disabilities that prevent them from writing. On Election Day, these two categories of voters have the right to receive assistance from a voter of their choice who can assist them in casting their ballot, if the following requirements are met:

- The voter presents a disability card;
- The assistant must be a voter;
- The assistant must be either the spouse or a relative of the voter with a disability. In addition to the national ID card, the assistant must also present an official document proving the relationship to the voter. The voter may also, in the absence of such an assistant from his or her family, ask the president of the polling station to instruct one of the voters present at the polling station to assist him or her in voting; and
- The same assistant may not accompany more than one voter with a disability.

What are the procedures for drawing lots for persons with disabilities?

The ISIE is responsible for organizing the drawing of lots to select members of local councils representing persons with disabilities. The drawing of lots will take place on Election Day at the regional tabulation centers. The regional electoral bodies (IRIEs) are responsible for the smooth running of the lot, which will be conducted in public. Candidates for seats reserved for people with disabilities or their representatives may attend the drawing of lots. A report will be drawn up by a bailiff for each draw.

Who will observe the local elections?

The Electoral Law permits observation of the elections by national and foreign observers, as well as candidate representatives. To carry out their duties, observers must obtain official accreditation from the ISIE. Applications for accreditation close no later than one week before Election Day. For these elections, the deadline is 17 December 2023. The ISIE accredited 3,165 persons until 27 November, including 900 journalists (842 Tunisian journalists and 58 foreign journalists) and 2,265 election observers (2,225 national observers and 40 international observers). There is no international election observation mission deployed for this election.

When and how will the preliminary and final results be calculated and announced?

Counting takes place at the polling stations and starts immediately after the close of voting in the presence of observers and representatives of the candidates. At the end of the count, a copy of the minutes of the counting is posted outside the polling station. Observers do not receive copies. The minutes must also be published on the ISIE's website.

At the same time, tabulation centers will compile the results of all polling stations for a number of constituencies. The tabulated results are then transmitted to the ISIE Board for verification and proclamation of the preliminary election results.

The ISIE has a maximum of three days after election day to announce the preliminary results of the first round. It will therefore announce the results no later than Wednesday, December 27. The detailed preliminary results must be published by polling station on the ISIE website. On the same day, the ISIE announces the results of the draw for reserved seats.

Once the litigation period relating to the preliminary results has ended, the ISIE has 48 hours to announce the final results. According to the electoral calendar, the final results of the elections and drawing of lots must be officially announced no later than Saturday 27 January 2024. On the same day, the ISIE announces the date of the second round in constituencies where no candidates obtained more than 50 percent of the votes in the first round. Final results must be published on the ISIE website and in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Tunisia.

Can the election results be challenged?

The preliminary results may be contested to the Appeals Chamber of the Administrative Court located in Tunis within three days following the ISIE's publication of the results. For local elections, only candidates can challenge the results and only in the constituency in which they ran. The complaint must be submitted to the appeals court by a cassation lawyer and accompanied by evidence and proof of the notification of the challenge raised against the ISIE and/or any other related party. The Appeals Chamber shall conduct the hearing within three days from the filing of the challenge. The judgment must be delivered within five days following the hearing.

First-instance judgments rendered by the Appeals Chamber may be appealed before the Plenary Assembly of the Administrative Court. The appeal must be lodged within three days from the notification of the first instance judgment. The first president of the Administrative Court shall schedule the hearing within three days. The judgment on the appeal shall be rendered within seven days from the date of the hearing. The judgment rendered on appeal is final and cannot be challenged further.

About IFES in Tunisia

Since 2011, IFES has been at the forefront of supporting Tunisia's democratic transition. Through strategic partnerships with civil society organizations and government entities, IFES has played a pivotal role in fostering a democratic culture that values transparency, inclusivity, and participation. Key partnerships include: collaborating with the High Independent Authority for Elections (ISIE) to autonomously manage electoral processes that are inclusive, credible and transparent and; engaging with various institutions including the Court of Accounts, Ministries of Education and Social Affairs, media professionals, and civil society groups. IFES' current funding partners in Tunisia include the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). IFES previously received funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Disclosure

These FAQs reflect decisions made by the High Independent Election Commission as of December 19, 2023, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any International Foundation for Electoral Systems policy or technical recommendations.

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