



Global Expertise. Local Solutions.
Sustainable Democracy.

Elections in Cambodia

July 28 National Assembly Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

Europe and Asia

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

1850 K Street, NW | Fifth Floor | Washington, D.C. 20006 | www.IFES.org

July 17, 2013

Frequently Asked Questions

When is Election Day and who are citizens voting for?	3
Who can be a candidate in Cambodia?	3
What are the rules on campaigning?.....	3
Who can vote in Cambodia?.....	3
How was voter registration conducted?.....	3
What is the structure of the government?	3
Are there reserved seats for women? What is the gender balance within the candidate list?	4
What is the election management body? What are its powers?	4
How many polling stations are set up on Election Day?.....	4
How were polling stations allocated to voters?	4
How will voters with disabilities cast their ballots?.....	4
What technology will be used?.....	4
Will the election management body use a media center?	5
Where is voting, counting and tabulation held?.....	5
Who may observe during Election Day?	5
When will official results be announced?	5
How will election complaints be adjudicated?	5
How will Election Day security be ensured?	6
What are the rules for campaign finance?	6
Resources	7

Disclosure:

These FAQs reflect decisions made by the Cambodian election authorities, to the best of our knowledge as of July 17, 2013. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.

When is Election Day and who are citizens voting for?

Cambodian citizens will vote for members of the National Assembly on Sunday, July 28, 2013.

Who can be a candidate in Cambodia?

A person should be: a Khmer national from birth; at least 25 years of age on the date of election; eligible to vote and registered in the voting list; have a residence in the country; and be nominated by a registered political party.

What are the rules on campaigning?

Parties may campaign from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day during the campaign period. The last day for campaigning is July 26, 2013. Political parties must notify the local election commission and authorities three days in advance of the location of any campaign rallies.

Who can vote in Cambodia?

Cambodian citizens who are 18 years or older and are current residents of Cambodia may vote in the upcoming poll. There are 9,675,453 registered voters.

How was voter registration conducted?

There is an annual voter registration and voter list checking period each September. Voter lists are posted in their respective communes (local government areas) and voters are encouraged to check the list for their name and verify the accuracy of the information, or register if their name is not on the list.

The list is closed at the end of the period until the following year.

What is the structure of the government?

Cambodia is a monarchy; there is a Senate with 57 members – elected by members of the National Assembly and local commune councilors – to serve six-year terms. Two members are elected by the National Assembly to serve six-year terms and two members are appointed by the King to serve six-year terms.

In the National Assembly, 123 members are elected by universal suffrage to serve five-year terms and local governments (commune councils) are elected by universal suffrage to serve five-year terms. National Assembly elections are held the year following commune council elections.

Are there reserved seats for women? What is the gender balance within the candidate list?

The electoral system is a closed list proportional system for each province. There are no reserved seats for women.

Of the 886 candidates on the party lists for the July 2013 National Assembly election, there are 168 women, 19 percent of the total number of candidates.

What is the election management body? What are its powers?

The National Election Committee (NEC) is comprised of nine members headed by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, supported by a Secretariat headed by the Secretary General. Each of the 24 provinces has a provincial election commission. For an election, a commune election commission is established for each of the 1,633 communes.

The NEC is responsible for organizing and managing all aspects of voter registration and the conduct of national and sub-national elections, including the appointment of officials; establishing regulations, procedures and guidelines; registering political parties to run in elections; hearing and deciding on election complaints and determining/announcing election results; and maintaining security and public order during elections.

How many polling stations are set up on Election Day?

There will be 19,009 polling stations on Election Day.

How were polling stations allocated to voters?

A few months before an election, the National Election Committee reviews the voter list and polling stations to determine if any realignment in polling station assignments is required.

A maximum of 750 voters may be assigned to a polling station.

How will voters with disabilities cast their ballots?

Voters with disabilities will vote at the same polling stations as other voters. They may be assisted in voting by a person of their choice.

What technology will be used?

Voter registration information is stored in a database maintained centrally by the National Election Committee. This database is used to create voter lists for each polling station and to produce voter information notices informing voters of their registration and polling place location.

Voting is conducted by paper ballot, and ballots are counted by hand in each polling station at the close of voting.

Will the election management body use a media center?

The National Election Committee will not use a media center during the election, but it will hold regular media briefings at its headquarters.

Where is voting, counting and tabulation held?

Voting and counting is conducted at individual polling stations; a maximum of 750 voters may be assigned to a polling station.

Tabulation of polling station results is conducted by the commune election commission (CEC) in each province, and CEC results are tabulated by the respective provincial election commissions to determine results for each province.

Who may observe during Election Day?

Proceedings on Election Day may be observed by accredited political party agents, domestic observers (usually from national nongovernmental organizations), international observers and media representatives.

Each observer must receive accreditation from the National Election Committee, or, if the observer will only be in one province, from the provincial election commissions.

When will official results be announced?

The official results of the election and the seat allocation for each province will be announced between August 14 and September 8, 2013, depending on the timing of election complaints resolution.

How will election complaints be adjudicated?

There is a hierarchy for complaints resolution and appeals starting at the commune election commission level and moving up via appeals through provincial election commissions and the National Election Committee, and finally to the Constitutional Council.

The Constitutional Council is a constitutional body mandated to interpret laws and the constitution and to examine and resolve disputes in relation to National Assembly elections (voter registration, deletion, candidate registration, party registration and election results). The body consists of nine members, each with a nine-year mandate. The King, Supreme Council of Magistrates and the National Assembly each appoint three members.

How will Election Day security be ensured?

The National Police Force will provide at least three security personnel for each polling station on Election Day.

What are the rules for campaign finance?

There are no limits to campaign contributions or expenditures. Foreigners and foreign corporations are prohibited from making contributions.

Political parties are required to keep records of contributions and expenditures and report those annually to the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Resources

- Cambodia National Election Committee website ([English](#), [Khmer](#))
- Constitution of Cambodia ([English](#))
- Law on Election of Members of the National Assembly ([English](#), [Khmer](#))
- Law on Political Party, 1997 ([Khmer](#))