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Elections in Libya

2020 Municipal Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

Middle East and North Africa

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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Frequently Asked Questions

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*Disclosure:
 These FAQs reflect decisions made by the Libyan elections authorities as of September 2, 2020, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.*

When is Election Day?

Municipal council elections in Libya are staggered, with individual municipalities holding elections on different days. The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) determines election dates in each municipality in coordination with local branch committees and the Coronavirus Committee of the Presidential Council. Election dates are announced through the CCMCE [website](#), social media and press statements.

The majority of municipal councils were elected in 2014, with the remaining elected between 2015 and 2017. With a mandate of four years, the term of the first elected municipal councils expired in 2018. In 2019, the CCMCE held 20 municipal council elections.¹

In 2020, 38 municipal elections were scheduled to be held, and 56 elections are expected in 2021. However, elections have been postponed numerous times for security and logistical reasons. The first election took place on August 18 in Ghat, with voter turnout close to 54 percent. Kikla held elections on August 25 with a turnout of 27 percent. Traghen also was scheduled to hold elections on August 25, but the seizure of ballot boxes from three polling centers by armed militia resulted in the CCMCE postponing the vote until further notice. Misrata is expected to hold elections on September 3. Election dates for El Sharqia and El Qatron have not yet been finalized. The next round of elections is due to be held by October 15 for the municipalities of Misllata, Zliten, El Khoms, El Haraba, Jadu, Kabaw, El Sayeh and Zawiya Janub.

Why are these elections important?

Since the removal of the Gaddafi regime, Libya's local-level government institutions have played an important role in promoting dialogue, supporting a peaceful political transition, building a viable democratic society and stabilizing the country. Municipal councils have a four-year mandate, the majority of which were elected in 2014-15 and have since expired. Fair and transparent elections would legitimize municipal councils to address the needs of their respective constituents and represent them. The newly elected councils can oversee the implementation of legislation, directives and the administration of their municipalities, among other responsibilities. In addition, the councils would be able to play larger roles in designing and implementing development projects in the municipalities, leading to better service delivery to the local communities.

Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?

According to Article 26 of Law 59/2012 and Article 32 of its Executive Regulation adopted through Council of Ministers Decision 130/2013, municipal councils consist of:

¹ In May 2019, the municipal election results in Sabha were annulled by the Appeals Court for failure of the police forces to secure the electoral process, failure to announce the Election Day with sufficient notice and failure to properly display voter lists. In November 2019, the Sabha primary court (second chamber) overturned the annulment due to procedural irregularities, and the elections results were announced on January 15, 2020.

- Five members in municipalities with a population of 250,000 or less and seven members in municipalities with a population of more than 250,000.

In addition, municipal councils include:

- A woman and
- A person with a disability, “from the revolutionaries” if possible.

This means that each municipality will have either seven or nine municipal council members elected. A total of 284 seats in 38 municipalities are being contested in 2020.

Figure 1: Map depicting 14 Libyan municipalities holding elections in 2020

Local elections in Libya -2020



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

The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) manages municipal council elections in Libya. The CCMCE is a public institution established under the Ministry of Local Governance through Article 37 of the executive regulation of Law No. 59/2012 issued by the Council of Ministers Decision 130/2013, which stipulates the formation of a central committee to supervise local elections composed of a chairperson and six members. The CCMCE was subsequently established in 2013 based on Council of Ministers Decision 160 of 2013, which named all members of the committee.²

² The CCMCE was established as an institution separate from the High National Elections Commission (HNEC), which manages the implementation of national elections.

To support the implementation of municipal council elections, Article 37 of Executive Regulation of Law 59/2012 by Council of Ministers Decision 130 refers to subcommittees composed of a chairperson and four members to supervise the local elections being formed by a decision of the chairperson of the Central Committee for Local Elections.

A branch committee is established by the CCMCE in each municipality in advance of municipal council elections. The subcommittee determines whether security and the spread of COVID-19 provide a safe environment for elections to take place. Stipulations of the CCMCE's responsibilities can be found in Article 2 of GNA Presidential Council Decision 6/2020.

What are the municipal councils' powers and responsibilities?

The role, prerogatives and competencies of municipal councils are defined by Law 59/2012 concerning the System of Local Administration, and its Executive Regulation adopted through Council of Ministers Decision 130/2013.

According to Law 59/2012, the municipality is the main unit of local administration responsible for providing services to citizens. The municipality is in charge of establishing and managing public utilities related to urban planning, organization, buildings, health and social affairs, water, lighting, sanitation, roads, bridges, local transportation, public hygiene, gardens, public recreation areas, real estate, public markets and construction permits for tourism and investment projects. Article 27 of Law 59/2012 stipulates the powers of the municipal councils:

- Oversee the implementation of legislation and directives related to municipal affairs and follow up on work progress in accordance with the legislation in force;
- Oversee the administration of the municipality and its activities; follow up on the execution of the decisions thereof and oversee the work progress in municipal branches and localities within its jurisdiction;
- Propose municipal regulations;
- Propose and implement the budget; determine the expenditure priorities within the municipality; follow up on the disbursement and its conformity with the legislation in force; approve the final account of the municipality;
- Invest, develop and advance municipal resources to improve the quality of local services; grant initial approval for investment and charity permits;
- Propose the allocation of approved investment credits;
- Propose the imposition, modification, exemption and abolition of fees of a municipal character, determine the collection process and collect the fees;
- Follow up on development projects in the municipality; submit reports to the provincial council; handle small and medium projects within the municipality's jurisdiction; conduct feasibility studies;
- Follow up on the activities of executive units and assess their performance and the proper execution of work in the municipality;

- Provide localities with necessary administrative and technical units to perform their functions and assist with financial support to localities whose resources are not sufficient to meet their needs, within the limits decided by the council;
- Propose partnerships with other municipalities in the province to establish or manage other business or utilities; and
- Other functions vested in the municipality by laws and the executive regulation of those laws.

How does the election management body disseminate information about the elections?

The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) communicates with the public through its [website](#) and social media accounts, especially [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), established at the central level and for all branch committees.

Furthermore, the CCMCE produces various outreach materials – e.g., posters, banners and billboards – that are distributed by the branch committees.

How is the election management body protecting the elections and voters from COVID-19?

Due to the emergence of COVID-19 in Libya, the Committee on Coronavirus, under the direction of the Presidential Council, has been authorized to determine the election date based on public safety considerations. As a result, the start of local elections initially planned for April 2020 was delayed several times. The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) has developed new procedures, procured personal protective equipment (PPE) and sprayable anti-fraud voter ink, adapted its voter education messaging and added polling stations to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure for voters, observers, agents, candidates and polling staff.

Polling staff will wear PPE such as gloves, masks and visors to minimize the spread of virus. Voters will have their temperature checked prior to entering a polling center. The number of voters per polling station will be decreased and a distance of 1.6 meters will be enforced for voters during queueing and voting. Instead of dipping voters' fingers into ink before voting, polling staff will use a spray bottle to apply an indelible ink sensitive to ultraviolet light. Each voter will be given his or her own pen. Hand sanitizer will be provided for voters and polling staff. The polling station layout will also be rearranged to minimize voters' contact with curtains, doorknobs, desks and other surfaces. These surfaces and the objects in the polling station will be frequently disinfected.

In addition to precautions on Election Day, the CCMCE has issued a number of public service announcements providing information about COVID-19 and encouraging voters to wear PPE and not to go to polling stations if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Voters in self-isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19 will not be able to vote. The CCMCE provided video trainings for poll workers on the steps that must be followed during the electoral process to avoid spreading the virus.

What is the legal framework for conducting the elections?

The rules governing the municipal council elections are included in a number of different laws and executive decrees.

A total of 120 municipalities have been established in Libya pursuant to Law 59/2012. Articles 7 and 9 of Law 59 provide that each municipality will have a council elected by its citizens for a four-year term. Each municipality is one constituency.

Council of Ministers Decision 161/2013 set the “principles and procedures” for municipal elections and required that the five or seven “general” members of the municipal councils would be elected by the single nontransferable vote system, whereas the members for the two reserved seats would be elected by first past the post (FPTP). Decision 161 also covered voter registration, candidate nominations, election campaigning, polling, counting and electoral crimes.

The Presidential Council (PC) of the Government of National Accord issued Decision 1363/2018, setting new regulations for municipal council elections and repealing Decision 161. Among other changes, Decision 1363 introduced a new electoral system for municipal elections, whereby all members of each municipal council would be elected by party block vote (PBV). Under the PBV system, voters cast a single vote for closed lists of candidates. The list winning the most votes in a municipality wins all seats.

On January 7, 2019, the PC issued Decision 18, repealing Decision 1363. The main changes made by Decision 18/2019 compared to Decision 1363/2018 are:

- Decision 18/2019 reverts to a parallel electoral system with three categories of seats in each municipality: the “general” seats to be elected by PBV from closed lists; the seat reserved for women, elected by FPTP; and the seat reserved for a person with a disability, also elected by FPTP. There are consequential amendments to the provisions for candidate nominations, the ballot paper, vote counting and the declaration of the results.
- Decision 18/2019 states that a certificate issued by the civil registry office may be used to establish residency and eligibility to vote in a municipality (Articles 1 and 9).

In July 2019 an appeal was heard at the Tripoli Court of Appeal challenging the procedure by which the PC issued Decision 18. The Tripoli Court of Appeal subsequently annulled the PC decision on the basis that it should have been initiated by a proposal from the minister of local governance instead of being issued directly by the PC.

In March 2020, the PC passed Decision 6/2020, which retained the main changes introduced by Decision 18/2019 but overcame the procedural irregularities that lead to the annulment of Decision 18/2019 by the Tripoli Court of Appeal.

What electoral systems will be used?

Presidential Council Decision 6/2020 stipulates that municipal councils are to be elected through a parallel party-block-vote and first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system based on three categories of seats: general, women and persons with disabilities.

General Seats Elected by Party Block Vote

The electoral process for the general seats, set by Decision 6/2020, is as follows:

- Lists of candidates are nominated in each municipality according to the number of seats in that municipal council (Article 1). Candidates may not be related “up to the fourth degree” of consanguinity and lists must reflect the social and regional diversity of the constituency (Article 6). The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections Subcommittee for each municipality will receive the candidate nominations and verify their eligibility (Article 16).³ Each list must submit a name and a symbol that will appear on the ballot (Article 19).
- Each list must also include a specified number of “reserve” candidates in order of preference for filling vacant seats (Article 6). There must be at least three reserve candidates, and they should not exceed the number of the general category seats.
- The ballot papers in each municipality contain the names and symbols of the lists nominated arranged in order of their candidacy applications (Article 35) and “a place to be marked with a sign indicating the list chosen by the voter” (Article 35). Decision 6/2020 does not specify whether the ballot paper shows the names of the individual candidates for each list for the information of voters.
- A voter marks one list on the ballot paper (Article 34). The list winning the most valid votes in a municipality is awarded all the general seats in that municipality (Article 46), which are filled by the candidates it has nominated.

Reserved Seats Elected by First Past the Post

Each municipality has one seat reserved for a woman and one seat reserved for a person with a disability, each directly elected by the voters by FPTP (Article 1). This parallel system ensures a guaranteed minimum representation of women and persons with disabilities in each municipality.⁴ Candidates for these seats submit their nominations to the subcommittee for the municipality, along with a name and symbol. The subcommittee verifies the candidates’ eligibility and approves the name and symbol.

³ Article 15 excludes the following from candidacy: members of the CCMCE, its subcommittees, judicial bodies, statutory bodies and the army. In addition, Article 35 of Decision 130 establishes a two-term limit for municipal councils.

⁴ Decision 6 does not prohibit women and people with disabilities from being elected to the general seats through the lists.

Separate ballot papers will be used for the election of candidates to the two categories of reserved seats (Article 35). The voter votes for one candidate in each category, and the candidate with the highest number of votes is declared the winner (Article 46).

How are mayors for each municipality elected?

The mayor, who acts as the head of the municipal council, is not directly elected by the voters. According to Article 26 of Law 59/2012, the mayor is elected by the newly elected council members by secret ballot.

Who is eligible to vote?

To be eligible to vote in the municipal council elections, a voter must:

- Be a Libyan citizen entitled to all of his or her civil rights unless the deprivation is due to a political case against the former regime;
- Have full legal capacity and be least 18 years old by the voter registration period; and
- Be registered in the final voter register of the constituency in which he or she has the right to vote.

Furthermore, Article 9 of Decision 6 stipulates that a voter must be registered with the civil registration authority of the municipality where he or she is voting.

When is voter registration taking place and how can voters register?

The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) is responsible for conducting voter registration ahead of municipal council elections and has registered voters continuously since late 2018. The closure of the voter register is announced by the CCMCE in specific municipalities on an individual basis according to the timing of the elections. For the August 18 municipal election in Ghat, registration ended on August 8.

Voters who registered during previous elections do not need to reregister unless they want to change their municipality or polling place. Voters who have not yet registered are required to register via text message with the CCMCE. This is done by sending a text message to the CCMCE voter registration number – 11711 – containing “national number # polling center number.”

The CCMCE publishes lists with polling center names and numbers widely through the media and on its website. Stickers are also available in schools and the branch committees.

Can names on the voter register be contested?

Following the voter registration period, the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) branch committee in the respective municipality will publish the preliminary voter register for public scrutiny. During the publication period, citizens who registered but do not find their names on the preliminary register can submit an objection to the CCMCE branch committee. Furthermore, any interested party can submit an objection to the names included in the preliminary voter register to the

CCMCE branch committee. Both types of objections must be submitted within 48 hours of the publication of the preliminary voter register, and the CCMCE branch committee will – if relevant – notify the person in question within 24 hours of receiving the objection and issue a decision on the objection within 48 hours of the notification. In both cases, the branch committee will issue a decision on the objection within three days of its receipt.

The decision of the CCMCE branch committee can be appealed to the CCMCE in Tripoli within 48 hours of the receipt of the decision. The CCMCE in Tripoli will issue a final decision within three days of receiving the appeal.

How many registered voters are there?

The final voter lists are made publicly available in each municipality prior to Election Day and are also published at polling centers across the municipalities. Because voter registration is ongoing, there is no fixed number of registrants. Approximately 1,199,670 voters are currently registered across 117 municipalities.

Who is eligible to run as a candidate?

The law allows for nomination of lists for general seats and individual candidates for the seats reserved for women and persons with disabilities, with the latter being “from the revolutionaries” if possible.

According to Article 8 of Law 59/2012, a candidate must:

- Be a Libyan citizen entitled to full civil rights, unless the deprivation is due to a political case against the former regime;
- Be legally competent and at least 25 years old;
- Not assume any other official job or position during his or her term as a council member;
- Submit a financial disclosure for himself or herself, his or her spouse and children, including a complete account of movable and immovable property, before taking office as council member;
- Not have been dismissed from a state job through disciplinary action, unless such dismissal is due to a political case against the former regime;
- Be of commendable conduct and good reputation and believe in the principles and goals of the 2011 revolution.
- Not have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor that contravenes morality or ethics, unless he or she has been rehabilitated;
- Not have been previously affiliated with the Revolutionary Guard Corps, revolutionary committees or the Internal or External Security Forces; and must not have tortured, killed or harmed the opponents of the former regime or assumed a high leadership position in that regime, unless he or she participated in the 2011 revolution;
- Not have illegally acquired any state-owned funds or any money from any person by bribery or during the exercise of the duties entrusted to him or her within the institutions of the former regime;

- Be registered in the electoral register of the municipality in which he or she is being nominated (Council of Ministers Decision 130/2013, Article 34);
- Not be a member of the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections or one of its branch committees (Government of National Accord [GNA] Presidential Council Decision 6 of 2020, Article 15);
- Not be a member of the judicial bodies, the National Army or statutory bodies (GNA Presidential Council Decision 6/2020, Article 15); and
- Not be a candidate for more than one municipal council nor a candidate in more than one of the three categories (GNA Presidential Council Decision 6/2020, Article 17).

Candidates on the list for general seats and candidates running for the reserved seats for women and persons with disabilities must each select a name and a symbol upon submission of the application of candidacy. This is based on Decision 59/2012 but stipulated in Decision 6/2020.

How many candidates will be running?

The following schedule summarizes the number of candidates lists and individual candidates registered in six municipalities as of June 29, 2020.

Figure 2: Numbers of candidates lists and individual candidates registered as of June 29, 2020

Municipality	General Category	Women	Persons with Disabilities	Total
Misrata	224 (15 lists)	7	6	237
Kikla	56 (6 lists)	3	5	64
Ghat	59 (6 lists)	6	9	74
Traghen	27 (3 lists)	4	3	36
El Qatron	50 (5 lists)	3	5	58
El Sharqia	50 (5 lists)	4	2	56
Total	468 (40 lists)	27	30	525

After the exhibition and challenges of candidates, the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections will publish a final list with the full names of the candidates for each municipality. This list includes the names and the symbols of the candidate lists for the general category as well the names and the symbols of candidates for categories reserved for women and persons with disabilities before Election Day (Government of National Accord Presidential Council Decision 6/2020, Article 21).

What provisions are in place that support the electoral rights of women and persons with disabilities?

Law 59/2012 stipulates measures to ensure the representation of women and persons with disabilities in municipal councils across Libya. Article 26 states that each municipal council must include at least one woman and one person with disabilities, the latter “from the revolutionaries” if possible.

For the first time, three women registered as candidates in the general category in these elections: one in Kikla and two in Ghat. Another woman is also running as a candidate for the seat reserved for the revolutionaries with disabilities.

Priority access at the polling stations will be given to voters who are older, pregnant or have disabilities. The electoral regulations allow voters with disabilities or who are illiterate and unable to vote independently to be accompanied by an assistant following approval by the polling center chair. Voting by proxy or mail is prohibited (Government of National Accord Decision 6/2020, Article 34).

Can decisions on candidate nominations be appealed?

Applications for candidacy must be submitted to the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) branch committees during the dates set by the CCMCE along with the required documents according to Law 59/2012 and its regulations.

If a candidate does not appear to meet the requirements, the committee will notify him or her and remove the name from the list. After the end of the candidate nomination period, the CCMCE branch committee will publish the preliminary lists of candidates in that municipality.

Candidates whose application for nomination are refused by the CCMCE branch committee can submit an objection to the CCMCE within 48 hours from the date of being notified. The CCMCE in Tripoli will then review the documentation and the CCMCE in Tripoli will issue a final decision within three days of receiving the appeal.

Figure 3: Process for objecting to rejections of candidate nominations



Following publication of the preliminary list of candidates, any interested party can submit an objection to the nomination of any candidate to the CCMCE branch committee within 48 hours. The branch committee will notify the candidate in question within 24 hours of receiving the objection and issue a decision within 48 hours of the notification.

The CCMCE branch committee's decision can be appealed to the CCMCE in Tripoli within 48 hours of receiving the decision, and the CCMCE in Tripoli will issue a final decision within three days of receiving the appeal.

Figure 4: Process for objecting to candidate nominations



What are the principles and rules governing the election campaign?

The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections is responsible for publicly announcing the electoral campaign period and the campaign rules and regulations. All candidates have the right to express their opinions and present their electoral platform without contradicting public order.

All electoral campaign activities must end before the 24-hour “silence period” before Election Day.

In accordance with Presidential Council Decision 6/2020, candidates are prohibited from campaigning in places of worship, universities, scientific institutes, public and private schools and buildings occupied by ministries, departments and public institutions or that are under the supervision of the state. In addition, workers in public institutions are prohibited from campaigning for any candidates on their work premises. Decision 6/2020 lists other prohibitions:

- Carrying out acts or making any statements that would impede other candidates' campaigns;
- Defaming and slandering other candidates;
- Placing posters in any place or public sites other than those allocated for this purpose by the CCMCE branch committees;
- Using the logo of the state in bulletins, announcements, writing, drawings and electoral images;
- Resorting to any incitement or slander of other candidates, or stirring up ethnic, tribal or family feuds among citizens;
- Showing a lack of respect for public order and morals;
- Giving in-kind gifts or materials, or other benefits, to purchase votes or influence voters;
- Using words that constitute an incitement to crimes or disturbance of public security or using expressions that provoke hatred and discrimination;
- Financing electoral campaigns with money or assistance from a foreign country or a foreign entity or conducting campaigns through foreign media;
- Receiving any support or use any government materials; or
- Resorting to acts that lead to any incitement or defamation of other candidates or stirring up tribal strife.

What are the rules for campaign finance?

The electoral campaign is funded through self-financing and private donations – both monetary and in-kind. Campaign contributions from a single individual or entity cannot exceed 20 percent of the expenditure limit. Government and foreign financing and the use of foreign media are strictly prohibited.

To create a more level playing field, the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) sets spending limits for candidates' campaign activities and acceptable campaign-related expenditures, which will be published on the CCMCE's [website](#) and social media accounts. The spending limits will vary between municipalities depending on each municipality's size and number of registered voters. The spending limit is 3 Libyan dinars (approximately USD 2.15) per registered voter per candidate list and 1 Libyan dinar (approximately USD 0.72) per voter per candidate for the reserved seats for women and persons with disabilities.

Candidates are subsequently required to submit a financial statement to the CCMCE branch committees that details all support received, its source, nature and all campaign expenditures within 15 days after preliminary election results are announced. Branch committees are responsible for verifying compliance with campaign finance rules. In case of violations, the branch committee has the right to cancel the nomination of the candidate in question (Article 28 of Presidential Council Decision 6/2020).

What is a polling center? What is a polling station?

A polling center is the location – typically a school – where voters cast their vote. The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) determines the number and locations of polling centers in each municipality. Each polling center has a polling center chair responsible for organizing and managing the center and liaising with security personnel outside the polling center. The polling center chair coordinates among polling stations and conducts logistical operations, while facilitating the work of polling station chairs and polling staff.

The polling station is the location where the voter will find the ballot boxes and be issued the ballot paper. The CCMCE determines the specifications and number of polling stations within each polling center according to the number of registered voters in that municipality. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the number of registered voters per polling station is limited to 450.

In Libya, polling stations are segregated by gender – i.e., all polling centers have dedicated polling stations for women and men.

What are the voting procedures?

Election Day is considered a public holiday within the municipality. Voting begins at 9:00 a.m. and the polling center closes at 6:00 p.m. The Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) may, at the request of the polling center chair, extend the polling period for up to two hours.

The CCMCE is responsible for determining the procedures for polling, sorting and counting in polling stations and centers. Voting by proxy or mail is prohibited.

Upon entering the polling center, the voter must go to the polling station to which he or she is assigned. The voter lists are posted in the polling centers to help voters identify the correct polling station where he or she is registered.

Each polling station has four staff – a polling station chair, an ID controller, a ballot issuer and a ballot box supervisor. When the voter enters the polling station, the ID controller verifies their identity through a photo ID and finds the voter’s name on the voter list for that polling station. The voter must then sign the voter list and ink her or his right-hand index finger using an ink spray to abide by COVID-19 safety measures before the ballot issuer stamps and hands him or her the three ballots. Each ballot must be stamped on the back to be valid.

The voter marks the ballots in a voting booth to guarantee the secrecy of the vote. If the voter makes a mistake, he or she is entitled to another ballot. In this case, the voter must return the spoiled ballot to the polling center chair, who places it in a designated envelope. Finally, the voter places the three marked ballot papers in the corresponding ballot boxes, which have red, blue and yellow lids. This is done under the scrutiny of the ballot box supervisor, observers, representatives of candidate lists, polling station agents and others present in the polling station. The voter must then immediately leave the polling station.

Voters who are inside the polling station at 6:00 p.m. are still allowed to vote.

Where will voting, counting and aggregation of results take place?

Voting and counting will take place in the polling stations. The polling station staff will open the ballot boxes, count and tabulate the ballots immediately after polling stations close and in the presence of observers and candidate representatives. The polling staff will open, sort and count one ballot box at a time, and the polling station head will fill in the results and reconciliation form, recording the number of votes cast, votes spoiled, invalid votes and votes for each candidate list and individual candidate.

When counting is complete, a copy of the results and reconciliation form for each ballot box in each polling station will be publicly posted at the polling center. Election observers will not receive a copy. The sensitive material from each polling station – e.g., used and unused ballots and the results and reconciliation form – will then be packed in tamper-evident bags and sent to the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) branch committee.

The consolidated results from each municipality will then be forwarded to the CCMCE headquarters in Tripoli for verification and announcement of the preliminary election results.

When will official results be announced?

Once the litigation period for the results is over, the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) will announce the official results. The announcement will include the following:

- The total number of voters registered in the municipality;
- The total number of voters participating in the elections;

- The total number of ballot papers found in the ballot boxes;
- The total number of valid, invalid and blank ballot papers found in the ballot boxes;
- The names and symbols of the candidates within the three categories and the number of votes obtained for each in descending order;
- The date and time of audits carried out of the sorting and counting process; and
- The signature of the chairperson and CCMCE members.

Is election observation allowed?

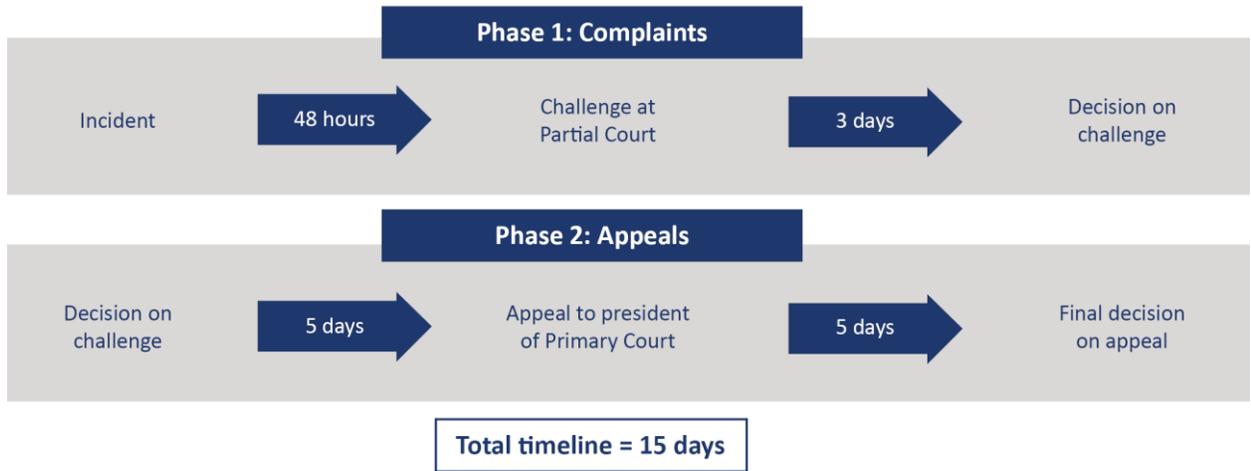
Observation by national and international observers is allowed per Article 27 of Council of Ministers Decision 130/2013 and Article 50 of Government of National Accord Presidential Council Decision 6/2020, which also states that agents of candidates and candidate lists can observe the elections. Furthermore, according to law, the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) must facilitate observation to underpin the credibility and integrity of the elections.

Observers and agents must apply for and obtain official accreditation from the CCMCE. No international observers are expected to observe the upcoming municipal elections. Due to COVID-19 concerns, generally only one domestic observer is allowed per polling station.

How will election disputes be adjudicated?

All aspects of the municipal council electoral processes can be contested through the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE) and the judicial system. Within 48 hours from the announcement of the preliminary results by the CCMCE, any stakeholder with an interest in the outcome of the elections has the right to submit a complaint about the results in front of the Partial Court in the municipality – which is the lowest level court in Libya. The assigned judge must issue a decision on the complaint within three days. If the decision by the Partial Court does not satisfy the contestant or other stakeholders, it can be appealed within five days of its issuance at the respective Primary Court. The president of the Primary Court shall issue a decision within five days of receiving the appeal. The decision of the Primary Court is final and shall be communicated to, and implemented by, the CCMCE. The process of contesting electoral results is based on Presidential Decree 404/2019 on the Procedures for Objections and Appeals in Municipal Council Elections.

Figure 5: Process for adjudicating election disputes



Resources

- [Law 59/2012 on the System of Local Government](#)
- [Council of Ministers' Decision 130/2013 on the Executive Regulation of Law 59/2012](#)
- [Council of Ministers' Decision 160/2013 on the Establishment of the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections \(CCMCE\)](#)
- [Council of Ministers' Decision 161/2013 on the Basic Regulations for Municipal Council Elections](#)
- [Presidential Decision Decree 18/2019 on Amendment of the Basic Regulations for Municipal Council Elections](#)
- [Presidential Decision 6/2020 on adopting the Basic Regulations for Municipal Council Elections](#)
- [Presidential Decree 404/2019 on the Procedures for Objections and Appeals in Municipal Council Elections](#)
- [CCMCE website](#)
- [CCMCE Facebook page](#)
- [CCMCE Twitter profile](#)