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# **Elections in Libya**

## *June 25 Council of Representatives Elections*

Frequently Asked Questions

Middle East and North Africa

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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# Frequently Asked Questions

Who will Libyans elect in the Council of Representatives elections? .....	1
What is the Council of Representatives' Mandate? .....	1
What is the legal framework for the Council of Representatives elections? .....	1
Are there any special measures to ensure the election of women to the Council of Representatives? .....	2
Which institution has the mandate to conduct the elections and how is it structured? .....	2
How many electoral constituencies have been established? .....	2
What are the electoral systems used in the Council of Representatives elections? .....	2
Who is eligible to vote? .....	3
How was voter registration conducted for the Council of Representative elections? .....	3
Will out-of-country voting take place in the Council of Representatives elections? .....	4
What kind of ballot will out-of-country voters use? .....	5
Who can be a candidate? .....	5
Who registered to compete in the Council of Representatives elections? .....	6
Can internally displaced persons register to vote and run as candidates? .....	6
Will there be other special polling centers on Election Day? .....	6
What are the rules on campaigning? .....	6
What are the rules for campaign finance? .....	7
How and when will polling centers be set up? .....	7
What will the ballots look like and how should they be marked? .....	7
What are the basic rules for voting on Election Day? .....	8
Who is responsible for managing and staffing polling centers and stations? .....	8
What provisions have been made to accommodate voters with disabilities? .....	9

## Disclosure:

These FAQs reflect decisions made by Libya's election authorities as of June 23, 2014, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.

Who provides security for the polling center? .....	9
What are the basic rules for counting?.....	9
How will results be calculated?.....	9
When will results be announced?.....	10
Where will results be published?.....	10
Can the results be challenged? .....	10
What constitutes an electoral offense on Election Day and who can file a complaint? .....	10
Who is authorized to investigate electoral offenses and impose penalties? .....	10
How are complaints submitted to the High National Election Commission?.....	11
What actions can the High National Election Commission take on an administrative complaint?.....	11
Will the High National Election Commission accept all complaints?.....	11
Who will observe the Council of Representatives elections?.....	11
How does someone become an observer?.....	12
What are the responsibilities of observers? Do they have any restrictions? .....	12
What are the rights and responsibilities of candidate agents? .....	12
Who are media representatives and why are they important to the elections? .....	12
How are media representatives accredited?.....	13
What is the High National Election Commission Media Center?.....	13
When will the High National Election Commission Media Center operate? .....	13
Who can visit the High National Election Commission Media Center? .....	13
What are the next steps in Libya’s transition following the Council of Representative elections? .....	14
Resources .....	15

## Who will Libyans elect in the Council of Representatives elections?

Libyan voters will elect 200 members to the Council of Representatives (CoR). The CoR will be the interim legislative authority in Libya during the transitional period.

## What is the Council of Representatives' Mandate?

In accordance with Amendment 7 to the Constitutional Declaration of August 3, 2011 passed on March 11, 2014, the Council of Representatives (CoR) will replace the current elected General National Congress (GNC) as the new interim legislative authority during Libya's transitional period.

The CoR mandate will include deciding on the method to elect an interim President within 45 days of its first session and, once approved by a two-thirds majority of the Libyan voters, issuing the new constitution. The CoR will have 30 days from the date of promulgation of the constitution to present the law for general elections. The general elections for a legislative body must subsequently be held within 120 days from the date the general election law is issued. Once final results are approved, the first session of the new legislative authority shall dissolve the CoR.

## What is the legal framework for the Council of Representatives elections?

The legal framework for the Council of Representatives (CoR) elections is composed of the following decrees and laws, and complemented by High National Election Commission (HNEC) regulations and decisions:<sup>1</sup>

- **Constitutional Declaration (August 3, 2011):** Outlines the constitutional and legal framework governing the transitional period between the end of Libya's revolution and adoption of a new constitution by an elected government.
- **Constitutional Declaration Amendment 7/2014 (March 11, 2014):** Establishes the grounds for CoR elections, and the mandate of the new legislative body. It also reaffirms the HNEC as the body responsible for organizing the general elections.
- **The Law on the Establishment of HNEC 8/2013 (March 28, 2013):** Covers the reestablishment of the HNEC as a permanent body responsible for implementing all electoral processes in Libya, in accordance with potential election laws. It also stipulates the selection, composition, structure and powers of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman and Secretariat.
- **The Law on Political and Administrative Isolation and Amendment 13/2013 (May 5, 2013):** Specifies criteria for persons assuming prominent positions in Libya in terms of their relationship with the former regime.
- **The Law on the Election of the Council of Representatives during the transitional period, 10/2014 (March 31, 2014) and Amendment Ref. 782/2014 (Amending Article 29 of Election Law 10/2014):** Explains the electoral system; voter and candidate eligibility; voter registration; polling; campaigning; appeals; crimes; and observation for the election of the CoR.

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<sup>1</sup> See Resources section for full-text versions of these laws and regulations.

## **Are there any special measures to ensure the election of women to the Council of Representatives?**

Election Law 10/2014 put special measures in place to ensure representation of women within the make-up of the Council of Representatives. As such, of the 200 seats in the Council of Representatives, 32 have been reserved for women.

## **Which institution has the mandate to conduct the elections and how is it structured?**

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) is the body responsible for conducting the Council of Representatives elections. The Commission consists of a seven-member Board of Commissioners<sup>2</sup> (BoC) appointed by the General National Congress. The BoC's role is to oversee the implementation of the electoral process and issue executive instructions, as well as internal regulations and policies. The BoC is also responsible for certification and announcement of election results.

The HNEC Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the elections under the supervision of the BoC. The Secretariat oversees 17 electoral offices throughout Libya that will implement the elections down to the polling station level.

## **How many electoral constituencies have been established?**

Constituency delineation is determined in Election Law 10/2014. There are 13 primary electoral constituencies that are further divided into 75 sub-constituencies or electoral centers. Candidates for general seats will compete in all 75 sub-constituencies, and candidates for the seats reserved for women will compete in 27 sub-constituencies.

## **What are the electoral systems used in the Council of Representatives elections?**

Candidates for all seats in the Council of Representatives will compete under two majoritarian systems:<sup>3</sup> the first-past-the-post system will be used in constituencies with only one seat available; and the single non-transferable vote system will be used in constituencies where more than one seat is available.

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<sup>2</sup> According to General National Congress Decision 40/2013, the High National Election Commission is comprised of seven members. However, immediately after being named, one member withdrew without replacement and two members, including former Chairman Nuri Elabbar, resigned from their posts following the Constitution Drafting Assembly Elections in April 2014. They have not been replaced.

<sup>3</sup> A majoritarian system is an electoral system in which the winner has the largest number of votes. A first-past-the-post vote stipulates that the individual candidate who wins the most votes wins a seat, and single-non-transferable vote means the candidates with the most votes fill the specified number of seats available in the sub-constituency.

Of the 75 sub-constituencies in the country, 34 sub-constituencies will have only one general race ballot paper, and 41 sub-constituencies will have two ballot papers: a general race ballot paper and a special race ballot paper for reserved seats.

The number of seats in the sub-constituencies ranges from one to sixteen,<sup>4</sup> and all individual candidates will contest seats at the sub-constituency level. Voters will cast their ballots for only one candidate, and the candidates receiving the most votes will win.

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

According to Article 5 of Election Law 10/2014, an eligible voter must: be a Libyan citizen; be 18 years of age or older by the time of registration; hold a national number; and have registered to vote.

The national number is the same eligibility requirement used previously during the Constitution Drafting Assembly Elections, which resulted in a modification of the voter registration process by the High National Election Commission. This number created a legal link between the voter registry and civil registry. If a voter did not have a national number, he/she could get one from civil registration authorities during the voter registration period.

## **How was voter registration conducted for the Council of Representative elections?**

The voter was required to have a national number to register, as was previously the case for the February 2014 Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDA) elections. The High National Election Commission (HNEC) used SMS technology to capture voters' national numbers and preferred polling center. The registration process took place over two separate periods: the first was designated for SMS registration only, and the second was reserved for both SMS and in-person registration. The second period lasted for one week in the 17 HNEC District Offices.

In preparation for the Council of Representatives elections, the HNEC clarified that anyone who has previously registered for the CDA Elections would not need to re-register. Thus, the voters' register pertaining to polling centers would remain as it was. However, voters who wished to be reassigned to another polling center needed to re-register with their new preferred location.

The registration process using SMS technology and limited in-person registration areas was open from April 30 to May 30. The total number of registered voters reached 1,509,128 Libyans, including those who previously registered for CDA Elections (1,101,025) and those who changed their location.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Election Law 10/2014 on the "Election of the Council of Representatives during the Transitional Period" consists of a table that specifies the number of seats allotted to each sub-constituency.

<sup>5</sup> The complete data on registered voters including disaggregation by gender and age are listed on the High National Election Commission's voter statistic webpage: <http://data.libyavotes.ly/>.

Of the total 1,509,128 Libyans registered, 60 percent (905,420 voters) were male and 40 percent (603,708 voters) were female. Youth voters between the age of 18 and 29 years old account for 31 percent, or 472,655, of registered voters.

Similar to the CDA elections, there was no residence criteria for registering in the Council of Representatives elections. As such, voters also decided which location or constituency to vote in. To facilitate this, as during CDA elections, the HNEC allocated unique numbers to all 1,643 polling centers across Libya (1,606 regular centers, 17 for internally displaced persons, 19 for voters working in oilfields and one at a rehabilitation center). The HNEC advertised these numbers in national media and on banners posted outside centers.

## **Will out-of-country voting take place in the Council of Representatives elections?**

In accordance with Election Law 10/2014, the High National Election Commission (HNEC) established special procedures for Libyans living abroad who want to vote in the Council of Representatives (CoR) elections. For the conduct of out-of-country voting (OCV) operations, the HNEC has established an OCV Committee. To implement the process, the HNEC also contracted the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to establish polling locations in 13 countries (pending approval of governments of host countries). These include:

- Canada (Toronto, Calgary and Ottawa)
- Egypt (Cairo and Alexandria)
- Germany (Berlin and Bonn)
- Ireland (Dublin)
- Italy (Rome)
- Jordan (Amman)
- Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)
- Qatar (Doha)
- Tunisia (Tunis)
- Turkey (Istanbul)
- United Arab Emirates (Dubai)
- United Kingdom (London and Manchester)
- United States (Denver, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.)

Although OCV will be implemented by the IOM, all decisions, regulations, procedures, materials and ballots will be approved by the HNEC in Tripoli.

Voter registration for OCV is conducted through a special website created by the HNEC.<sup>6</sup> In order to register, a person must be in possession of her/his national number and provide it as a proof of eligibility. As with the in-country registration process, OCV voters who previously registered for the CDA Elections did not need to re-register for CoR elections unless they wished to change polling location.

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<sup>6</sup> To see the HNEC's special website, please visit: [www.voteabroad.ly](http://www.voteabroad.ly).

OCV voters shall not change their polling station location more than three times for the duration of registration period. Eligible Libyans can register as OCV voters between May 22 and June 15. At the close of the OCV registration period, 10,087 voters<sup>7</sup> registered abroad.

## **What kind of ballot will out-of-country voters use?**

Out-of-country voting (OCV) will take place from June 21-22, 2014.

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) will design special ballot papers for the OCV process – one for the general seats and one for the seats reserved for women.

Eligible OCV voters may cast a vote for a sub-constituency of her/his choice. These voters will select the sub-constituency in which they wish to cast their votes at the polling station, and based on the sub-constituency of their choice, will cast either:

- One ballot paper for general race; or
- Two ballot papers if the sub-constituency of their choice has both a general and special race

These ballot papers will not contain the names of candidates; rather, they will contain a table with numbers. The numbers correspond with the candidates on the in-country ballot papers, and OCV voters will mark the number on the table that is assigned to the candidate they wish to elect.

The HNEC has published the list of all the candidates registered to contest seats in each sub-constituency on its website.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, in each polling station, there will be a polling station staff member who will:

- Help voters identify the sub-constituency for which they wish to cast their vote;
- Provide a booklet listing all the eligible candidates for that sub-constituency, in the order in which they appear on the in-country ballot paper; and
- Explain how to mark the ballot paper.

## **Who can be a candidate?**

Election Law 10/2014 established eligibility criteria for Libyans who wish to run as candidates in the Council of Representatives (CoR) elections. To be eligible for candidacy, in addition to the voters' eligibility criteria, the person running for the CoR shall be:

- At least 25 years of age prior to registration;
- Holder a university degree or equivalent;
- Not convicted of a crime or misdemeanor of moral turpitude, unless exonerated;

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<sup>7</sup> This figure includes out-of-country voters who registered for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly elections. For more, please see: <http://voteabroad.ly/stats>

<sup>8</sup> For more, please see: <http://candidates.hnec.ly>.



- Not a member of the High National Elections Commission, or its sub-committees or polling centers;
- Able to meet the requirements for assuming public position as per in-force laws;
- Seconded by 100 voters from his/her constituency on an official endorsement list signed by the voters and certified by a notary public;
- Able to deposit a non-refundable amount of LYD\$ 500 (Libyan Dinars) into the Commission bank account or any of its accounts in its branches. This amount shall be transferred to the public treasury; and
- Able to abide by the code of conduct for candidates as determined by the High National Election Commission.

Candidates are not allowed to register in more than one sub-constituency (electoral center).

## **Who registered to compete in the Council of Representatives elections?**

In total, 1,714 candidates registered to stand in the Council of Representatives elections. A total of 1,565 candidates including three women are running for general seats, and 149 candidates are running for the 32 seats reserved for women.

## **Can internally displaced persons register to vote and run as candidates?**

For the Council of Representatives elections, the High National Election Commission has provided 17 special polling centers for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Eligible persons who have been internally displaced were also able to register as candidates.

## **Will there be other special polling centers on Election Day?**

In addition to polling centers for internally displaced persons, the High National Election Commission has decided to put measures in place to establish polling centers for oil workers and for voters in rehabilitation centers.

As such, 19 polling centers have been established in oil fields in Ajdabiya, Ghadames, Jadu, Obari, Sirt, Tobruk and Zawiya. One polling center has been established in a rehabilitation center in Benghazi.

## **What are the rules on campaigning?**

The official campaign period is from June 4, 2014 to June 23, 2014. The High National Election Commission (HNEC) announced the campaign period would officially begin 48 hours after the publication of the final list of candidates, which took place on June 02, 2014, and will end 24 hours before Election Day.

Based on Election Law 10/2014, the HNEC has formulated campaign regulations stipulating that electoral campaigning must not contain anything that affects national unity or leads to discord or conflict among voters. Further, mosques, schools, colleges, institutes and military camps may not be

used for campaigning. It is also prohibited to abuse power and use public offices to engage in any campaigning activity to influence voters in favor of any candidate.

On Election Day, no candidate may distribute or have others distribute campaign literature or print advertising. It is not permissible for any government staff, including local councils, political organizations and civil society organizations, to publish advertisements or distribute campaign literature on Election Day.

## **What are the rules for campaign finance?**

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) has defined expenditure limits<sup>9</sup> for all candidates depending on the sub-constituency in which they are running. All candidate – winners or losers – are required to submit financial reports specifying their campaign income and expenditure no later than seven days after Election Day.

Candidates may accept financial donations from Libyans, but are forbidden from receiving any support or funds from foreign or illegal sources. The donations received by candidates shall not exceed the expenditure ceiling specified by the HNEC for each candidate's sub-constituency. Financing an election campaign by means of public funds, ministries, treasuries, government companies, institutions or bodies is also strictly prohibited.

Candidates must open a bank account for the sole purpose of receiving and disbursing funds related to financing their campaigns. All sources of financing, including both in-kind and cash donations, must be disclosed to the HNEC.

Noncompliance with campaign finance rules will result in disqualification, fines and potential jail sentences.

## **How and when will polling centers be set up?**

Prior to Election Day, 1,643 polling centers will be set up in Libya. Within those polling centers, approximately 4,000 polling stations will be established to accommodate up to 550 registered voters each. Schools will be primarily utilized as polling centers and divided into female and male stations; each center will have a unique numbered code.

## **What will the ballots look like and how should they be marked?**

There will be two different races for the Council of Representatives elections. One will be for general candidates – any voter, man or woman, eligible to run can register as a candidate for this race. A second ballot will be for women candidates only.

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<sup>9</sup> A full list of campaign expenditure limits for each sub-constituency is detailed in High National Election Commission (HNEC) Decision 77/2014.

The race for seats reserved for women will take place in parallel with the general races. Thus, in constituencies with both a general and women's race, voters will be given two ballots: one general ballot; and one special ballot for the women's race list. In these constituencies, voters mark their choice on each ballot.

Each ballot will show the names of the individual candidates running in the different races. When casting their votes, voters will mark the ballot for the candidate of their choice by placing a tick or checkmark in the box next to their choice. Only one choice may be marked on each ballot. Ballots with written remarks or unclear choices will not be counted.

## **What are the basic rules for voting on Election Day?**

In accordance with Election Law 10/2014, polling stations will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on June 25, 2014. Voters must bring an identification document to the polling center where they are registered to vote.

The following documents are considered valid for identification on Election Day:

- A family booklet (if it contains a picture of the holder)
- A passport
- A personal ID card
- An official identification document

Upon entering the polling center, voters will be directed to a polling station that contains their voter registration number. Once in the polling station, voters will be checked for traces of voter ink. Voters whose fingers show traces of voter ink will not be allowed to vote. If the voter does not have traces of voter ink, his/her voter ID papers will be checked against the printed voter register at the polling station. The voter will be asked to sign next to his or her name in the printed voter register.

Based on their constituency, voters will be given one or two ballots and instructions on how to vote before they proceed to mark their ballot(s) behind the voting screen. Polling staff will confirm that the marked ballots are folded and stamped with the High National Election Commission stamp. Voters will then have their index finger inked to show they have voted, and will place their ballots in the respective ballot box (one for each ballot box, where two ballots are given).

## **Who is responsible for managing and staffing polling centers and stations?**

The Ministry of Education will provide all polling staff. Each polling center will be composed of a number of polling stations depending on the number of voters registered in the center.

The polling center staff will include a polling center chair and two polling center queue managers. Each polling station, within the polling center, will have a separate team of polling station staff. The polling station staff will consist of: a polling station manager, who will oversee a polling station queue manager; an identification officer; a ballot paper issuer; and a ballot box controller/inking officer.

## **What provisions have been made to accommodate voters with disabilities?**

The High National Election Commission has identified 196 polling centers – or approximately 12 percent of all centers – to be made accessible for persons with disabilities. This means they will be on the ground floor and easily accessible to wheelchair-users. Sign language interpreters will be available to the degree possible. A list of these centers was published before voter registration to allow persons with disabilities who register to choose an accommodating polling location.

Illiterate voters and voters with disabilities who are not able to mark their ballots may use a companion to help them mark and cast their vote. Companions providing assistance may be anyone the voter trusts and who will respect the secrecy of the voter, such as a friend or relative. If an illiterate voter or a voter with disabilities does not have a companion, the polling station manager will be allowed to assist the voter.

## **Who provides security for the polling center?**

The Ministry of Interior, through the Libyan National Police, will provide security for polling centers. The High National Election Commission (HNEC) further developed a security plan that was shared with all HNEC field offices. The plan was also sent to 17 police directorates to safeguard polling stations on Election Day.

This security plan currently calls for 25 police officers at each polling center, recognizing that there are other facilities and processes that must be protected including the HNEC offices, warehouses, and transport of sensitive election materials.

The security plan covers polling, registration of voters, movement of materials, large campaign events, retrieval of materials, and announcement of results.

## **What are the basic rules for counting?**

Immediately after the polls close, the Polling Station Committee will start sorting ballots and counting votes in the polling station. In stations with more than one race, there will be two ballot boxes; each box will be counted separately. Specific results and reconciliation forms have been designed for each race and will be used by the High National Election Commission polling staff to report the results from their polling station.

As per international standards, ballots will be counted as valid if the intention of the voter is clear to the counting staff. Furthermore, during the sorting and counting of ballots, observers, candidate agents, media representatives and accredited guests will be allowed to stay in the polling station to observe the process. However, their presence is not a requirement.

## **How will results be calculated?**

Result sheets will be transported to the tally center at the High National Election Commission (HNEC) for immediate data entry. Two different data entry clerks will enter data to ensure accuracy. HNEC audit

teams will investigate any discrepancies in the number of votes cast, and the number of valid, invalid and spoiled ballots.

## **When will results be announced?**

The High National Election Commission will announce preliminary results as soon as they are known for each constituency. According to Article 26 of Election Law 10/2014, preliminary results shall be announced within 15 days of Election Day.

The final results will be announced after the legal timelines for complaints and appeals against the preliminary results have lapsed.

## **Where will results be published?**

Polling station results will be publically posted at polling centers immediately following the completion of the count at that polling station. Constituency and nationwide results will be announced first at the High National Election Commission (HNEC) Media Center, and then published on the HNEC website.

## **Can the results be challenged?**

Only registered candidates can challenge preliminary results. These challenges must be submitted to a local court (partial court) within 72 hours of their announcement. According to Article 29 of Election Law 10/2014, local courts have three days to make a decision on a challenge, and their ruling can be appealed before the Chief of Primary Court within five days. The primary court will issue its final decisions on complaints and appeals within five days of receiving them. The ruling shall be final and binding for the HNEC to implement.

## **What constitutes an electoral offense on Election Day and who can file a complaint?**

An electoral offense is any violation of a regulation passed by the High National Election Commission (HNEC) or Law 8/2013. All electoral offences are further stipulated in Election Law 10/2014. Examples of electoral offenses on Election Day include vote buying, campaigning during the silence period, multiple voting and voting despite ineligibility.

## **Who is authorized to investigate electoral offenses and impose penalties?**

Administrative complaints related to High National Election Commission (HNEC) decisions or HNEC's implementation of the electoral process can only be submitted to one of the 17 HNEC District Offices by voters, candidates, or candidate agents within 72 hours of the occurrence of the incident.

Upon submission, the HNEC District Office Complaints Committees and the HNEC Central Complaints Committee will deal with the complaint and make a decision within 72 hours. The HNEC may also initiate its own investigation if it determines there is sufficient evidence that a violation has occurred. All decisions taken by the HNEC can be appealed at the relevant local court.

The appropriate local court will also deal with all non-administrative complaints and appeals. The decisions of the local courts on electoral complaints can be appealed at the relevant primary court. The decisions of the primary courts are final and shall be implemented by the HNEC.

## **How are complaints submitted to the High National Election Commission?**

According to the High National Election Commission (HNEC) regulation on electoral complaints, administrative complaints must be submitted in writing to any HNEC District Office using the HNEC complaints form.

Forms will be available at all HNEC District Offices, and complaints must be submitted within 48 hours of the violation or the HNEC decision being challenged. Upon receiving the complaint, the HNEC has 48 hours to make a decision on it.

## **What actions can the High National Election Commission take on an administrative complaint?**

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) may take a number of different actions based on administrative complaints submitted by voters, candidate or candidate agents, including:

- Dispel a candidate if the rules of the electoral campaign or campaign finance have been breached;
- Order a recount of a polling station if fraud is detected;
- Cancel the result of a polling station; or
- Take administrative proceedings against an HNEC employee.

HNEC decisions on administrative complaints will be communicated directly to the person who submits the complaint, and will be published at the HNEC District Office that received the complaint.

## **Will the High National Election Commission accept all complaints?**

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) may decide to reject any complaint that does not comply with the HNEC Decision 68/2014 on the Regulation on Electoral Dispute Resolution. An HNEC decision to reject a complaint can be appealed at the local court that covers the area within which the incident occurred. The HNEC will refer cases directly to the courts or relevant authorities if they are not within its jurisdiction.

## **Who will observe the Council of Representatives elections?**

Observers of the Council of Representatives elections will include representatives of domestic civil society and international organizations; agents of candidates; and media. Observers are accredited by the High National Election Commission (HNEC) to monitor the electoral process, including registration, campaigning, polling, counting and tabulation of results. Only the 1,714 candidates registered by the HNEC are entitled to nominate candidate agents to observe the elections.

## **How does someone become an observer?**

Members of domestic civil society organizations must be registered with the Ministry of Culture and Civil Society. Organizations will appoint an authorized representative who will submit a completed application form for accreditation to a High National Election Commission (HNEC) District Office. The HNEC District Office will subsequently issue HNEC accreditation cards.

The HNEC Accreditation Unit of the Central Administration Office in Tripoli will accredit international observers, international media and special guests of the HNEC. International observers should represent a recognized governmental or nongovernmental body or organization whose main tasks include election observation.

## **What are the responsibilities of observers? Do they have any restrictions?**

To perform their job effectively, observers must follow the High National Election Commission (HNEC) Observer Code of Conduct, which is based on internationally recognized standards and best practices. They must also behave in a neutral, nonpolitical manner. Further, they must not participate, in any way, in the election campaigns of any candidate or political entity.

Observers are responsible for their own transportation, accommodation and security. They must display their HNEC accreditation cards at all stages when observing the electoral process.

The HNEC reserves the right to revoke the accreditation of an observer who violates the code of conduct, Libyan electoral laws or HNEC regulations.

## **What are the rights and responsibilities of candidate agents?**

Candidate agents may observe the electoral process and report on whether or not it was conducted in accordance with the laws. They also protect the interests of their nominated candidate in the electoral process. Candidate agents can:

- Observe all stages of the electoral process
- Raise questions about the violation of a law or regulation with High National Election Commission (HNEC) officials; if the agent is dissatisfied with the response by HNEC officials, he/she may file a written complaint

## **Who are media representatives and why are they important to the elections?**

Media representatives are journalists, reporters, bloggers and editors of print and electronic media outlets. Accredited media representatives ensure the public is informed about the different stages of the electoral process, including voter registration, candidate nomination, campaigning, polling, counting and tabulation of results.

In order to report on each aspect of the electoral process, both national and international media representatives are encouraged to become accredited by the High National Election Commission (HNEC). Only accredited media representatives will be allowed access to registration centers, polling centers, the tally center and the HNEC's Media Center.

## **How are media representatives accredited?**

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) has issued a regulation on the accreditation of media representatives (HNEC Decision 65/2014). The regulation states that to become fully accredited, representatives of media organizations must complete the HNEC application form.

National media representatives must provide identification. International representatives should belong to a media outlet registered with relevant government authorities. Through the international media's authorized representative, they must submit an official letter from their media outlet, two personal passport-size photographs, a copy of their passport and a copy of their visa.

All representatives must sign the HNEC Code of Conduct for Media. National media organizations must submit all documents to an HNEC accreditation officer at any of the 17 HNEC District Offices in Libya, where accreditation cards will be issued. The HNEC Accreditation Unit in Tripoli is responsible for the accreditation of international media organizations.

Media representatives may not belong to a political party or entity. They must not participate, in any way, in election campaigns for the benefit of any individual or political entity.

## **What is the High National Election Commission Media Center?**

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) Media Center will be the focal point of communication between the HNEC, journalists and the public regarding the Council of Representatives election. It is located at the HNEC compound in Tripoli.

As the HNEC prepares for the election, the Center will allow the HNEC to provide timely information, explain the electoral process, and announce election results. The Media Center is a way for the HNEC to increase transparency, trust and credibility of the electoral process and results.

## **When will the High National Election Commission Media Center operate?**

The center will become operational on June 21, 2014, and will close down approximately 10 days after or when final results are announced. Hours of operations will be built around media events, press conferences and daily statements.

## **Who can visit the High National Election Commission Media Center?**

Accredited media, observers, agents, High National Election Commission (HNEC) staff and guests of the HNEC may visit the HNEC Media Center. Visitors must show accreditation cards to gain access. Accreditation desks will also be established at the media center to accredit journalists on-site.



## **What are the next steps in Libya's transition following the Council of Representative elections?**

According to the amendment to the constitutional declaration as proposed by the February Committee and passed by the General National Congress (GNC) on March 11, 2014, the Council of Representatives (CoR) will determine whether the interim President will be elected through direct or indirect ballot within 45 days.

Once the draft constitution is finalized by the Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDA), it will go up for referendum within 30 days, and must be approved by a two-thirds majority of those who vote in order to be approved by the CoR. If rejected, the CDA will re-draft the constitution and put it again to referendum within 30 days from the announcement of referendum result.

Once the constitution is passed, the CoR will issue a new law for general elections based on the new constitution within 30 days, and general elections shall take place within 120 days after relevant regulating laws are passed. Throughout the transitional period, the High National Election Commission (HNEC) will remain the body responsible for organizing the general elections under the supervision of the judiciary and observation of international and regional organizations. Once the HNEC approves general election final results, the new Legislative Authority will convene within 30 days of the date the CoR approves results, and the first session of the Legislative Authority shall dissolve the CoR.

## Resources

- National Transitional Council Constitutional Declaration ([Arabic](#))
- High National Elections Commission Website ([Arabic](#))
- Map of Electoral Constituencies ([Arabic](#))
- Law 8/2013: Establishment of the HNEC ([Arabic](#))
- Election Law 10/2014: Council of Representatives Elections ([Arabic](#))
- Law 13/2013: The Political Isolation Law ([Arabic](#))
- HNEC decisions and regulations related to the Council of Representatives elections ([Arabic](#))