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# **Elections in Jordan**

## *2016 Parliamentary Elections*

Frequently Asked Questions

Middle East and North Africa

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

2011 Crystal Drive | Floor 10 | Arlington, VA 22202 | [www.IFES.org](http://www.IFES.org)

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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### *Disclosure:*

*These FAQs reflect decisions made by the Jordanian elections authorities as of September 19, 2016, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.*

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## **What are the overall changes from the 2013 parliamentary elections?**

In 2016, Jordan changed its Elections Law to put in place a new electoral system for parliamentary elections, implementing an open-list proportional system for each of the multimember electoral districts and eliminating the single district at the national level. Under the new law, all candidates must register in specific electoral districts as part of party lists and may not run as independents. Accordingly, while under the previous electoral system voters had to mark each of their two ballot papers only once, under the new system they will be required to vote both for a party list and for candidates belonging to that list in their electoral district, all contained in one ballot booklet.

## **Who will Jordanians elect on September 20?**

On September 20, Jordanians will elect 130 Representatives to the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Parliament. This is 20 fewer Representatives than were in the previous Chamber of Deputies elected in 2013. His Majesty King Abdullah II appoints the members of the Senate, the upper house of Parliament. The number of Senators may not exceed half of the number of members of the Chamber of Deputies; therefore, the King may appoint up to 65 Senators.

The term of the Chamber of Deputies is four years from the date on which the results of the parliamentary election are announced and published in the Official Gazette. Senators also serve for four years. The King may, by Royal Decree, prolong the term of either house for a period of between one and two years.

The King also has the right to dissolve Parliament. According to Article 73 of the constitution, a parliamentary election should be held so that the new Chamber of Deputies can convene no later than four months after the date of the dissolution. The King most recently exercised that right on May 29, 2016; in this case, the deadline is September 29, 2016. If, for any reason, the election cannot take place within the four-month deadline, the dissolved Chamber of Deputies shall be reinstated and will remain in office until a new Chamber is elected. The sessions of the Senate have also been suspended until the next session of the newly elected Parliament starts.

Under Article 34 of the constitution, the King issues orders for holding elections to the Chamber of Deputies, which he did on June 8, 2016. The exact date of the election (September 20, 2016) was determined by Jordan's Independent Election Commission Board of Commissioners.

## **Who will govern Jordan after the elections?**

Executive power in Jordan is vested in the King, who can appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister and other ministers. Members of the Council of Ministers can – but are not required – to be members of Parliament.

The Chamber of Deputies does not elect the new government but does issue a vote of confidence, by absolute majority, in every new government after receiving the government's ministerial statement.

After the elections, the government must submit to the newly elected Parliament for approval a ministerial statement that outlines its policy objectives and programs. The Chamber of Deputies may also issue a motion of no confidence in the government or in one of the ministers. If the motion of no confidence succeeds, by an absolute majority vote, the government must resign.

## **What are Jordan's international and regional obligations related to democratic elections?**

Jordan has signed and ratified the following treaties that contain election-related obligations:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Additionally, as a member of the League of Arab States, Jordan has made a commitment to protect fundamental freedoms and political rights as described in the Arab Charter on Human Rights (ACHR).

## **What is the legal framework for parliamentary elections in Jordan?**

The legal framework for the Chamber of Deputies is contained in the Jordanian constitution, along with the following legislation, regulations and executive instructions:

- The Independent Election Commission (IEC) Law No. 11 of 2012 (amended 2015)
- The Parliamentary Election Law No. 6 of 2016

Other legislation related to the elections includes:

- The Political Parties Law No. 39 of 2015
- The Jordanian Nationality Law No. 6 of 1954, and amendments No. 21 of 1956, No. 50 of 1958, No. 7 of 1963 and No. 22 of 1987
- The Municipalities Law No. 41 of 2015
- The Decentralization Law No. 49 of 2015

Regulations issued by the government related to the IEC include:

- The IEC Financial System Regulations No. 11 of 2012
- The IEC Supplies Regulation No. 41 of 2012
- The Civil Service bylaw No. 32 of 2013
- Tender Instructions No. 1 of 1994 and their amendments
- Instructions for Regulating Tenders Procedures and Participation Conditions Issued in Accordance with Stipulation of the Supplies Regulation No. 32 of 1993

In addition, the IEC issued executive instructions, regulating key procedural and operational aspects established by Jordan's legal electoral framework. To date, these include:

- Executive Instructions No. 1 of 2016 on the development of the voter list
- Executive Instructions No. 2 of 2016 on the formation of committees
- Executive Instructions No. 3 of 2016 on the accreditation of local observers
- Executive Instructions No. 4 of 2016 on the accreditation of international observers
- Executive Instructions No. 5 of 2016 on the accreditation of local and international journalists
- Executive Instructions No. 6 of 2016 on electoral district candidacy
- Executive Instructions No. 7 of 2016 on guidelines for electoral campaigns publicity
- Executive Instructions No. 8 of 2016 on the accreditation of agents and delegates of election lists
- Executive Instructions No. 9 of 2016 on polling, counting, and results summation
- Executive Instructions No. 10 of 2016 on the announcement of results and objections thereto

## **Who can vote in Jordan?**

According to the Elections Law, all Jordanian citizens who were 18 years or older on May 21, 2016, have the right to register to vote. The Interpretation Bureau interpreted that provision to enfranchise all citizens who were 17 years old as of 90 days before the Election Day, a measure that is estimated to have enfranchised approximately 200,000 additional first-time voters. The new law also enfranchises certain categories of people who were previously excluded, such as civilian members of the Armed Forces, General Intelligence, Public Security and Civil Defense, and election officials on active duty on Election Day. As stipulated in the Election Law, persons who were declared bankrupt or insane by courts of law are not entitled to vote. At present, there are no provisions for out-of-country voting; Jordanians who reside outside of Jordan cannot register to vote, unless they also have residency in Jordan, and they can only vote in person at their district of registration within Jordan.

## **What is the structure of the electoral system?**

According to the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives of 2016, the 130-member Chamber of Deputies will be elected as follows:

- A total of 103 non-reserved seats are filled proportionally from open lists of candidates in 23 electoral districts. Each governorate is considered an electoral district with the exception of Irbid, which is divided into four districts, Zarqa (two districts), and Amman (five districts). Additionally, there are three Bedouin districts: one for each region of the country (North, Central, and South).
- Nine seats are allocated to Christians in the following districts: Irbid's third district, Ajloun, Zarqa's first district, Amman's third district, Balqa (two seats), Madaba, and Karak (two seats).
- Three seats are allocated to Chechens and Circassians in the following districts: Zarqa's first district, and Amman's third and fifth districts.
- Fifteen seats are reserved for women candidates. They are filled by whichever female candidates wins the highest share of the vote in her electoral district, without winning a seat through the open list proportional representation contest. For example, the capital (Amman) governorate has five electoral districts. To determine who wins this seat, the percentage of votes each woman

candidate (who did not win seats directly) received will be calculated by dividing the votes she received by the total number of actual voters in the district where she competed. The woman with the highest percentage of votes in her respective district will win the reserved seat.

Each candidate must be nominated through a proportional open list system and cannot run independently. Each list must have at least three candidates for each district and no more candidates than there are seats in each district (this does not include the candidate running for the reserved women's seat).

Voters vote for one of the nominated lists in their districts. Within the selected list, a voter may vote for one or more of the candidates on that list, or may also choose not to vote for a specific candidate; this allows the voter to express preference for specific candidates within the list and allows voters to decide where the candidates will be placed on the list (first, second, etc.) Since district seats are allocated to lists based on the percentage of the vote won, the higher up the list a candidate is, the more likely that person is to secure a seat.

Non-reserved seats are allocated to lists according to the percentage of votes they won, using a "largest remainder" seat-allocation system. For each district, the number of votes for each list will be divided by the total number of votes cast and then multiplied by the number of seats in that district to determine how many seats each list receives. Each list receives a number of seats equal to the whole number after this calculation. Any remaining seats will be allocated to the lists with the largest remainders. The seats for each list will be filled by the candidates on that list who receive the highest number of votes.

The winners of the seats reserved for Christians, Chechens and Circassians will be filled by the candidates for those seats that receive the most votes in their district.

## **How are citizens informed about the new voting and candidacy systems?**

In order to adequately inform voters and candidates about the changes to the electoral system, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) implemented a Voter Information Campaign (VIC) to increase public knowledge and awareness of the electoral system and to promote participation in the elections. The VIC contains two elements: promotion and education.

The promotional element of the VIC consists of a kingdom-wide advertising campaign. The IEC utilized advertisements in major areas of each region including city circles and government buildings and attached inserts to newspapers. They ran television and radio advertisements that targeted not only the general voting public, but also that explained the counting and polling systems for each electoral district.

The educational element of the VIC consists of direct outreach to local stakeholders as well as engagement with voters. The IEC held outreach sessions with civil society organizations that gave the organizations access to members of the IEC. Additionally, the IEC held university outreach sessions to engage young voters and hosted a booth at the Jerash Festival, allowing the general public an opportunity to directly communicate with the IEC.

## **How many ballot booklets will each voter receive?**

Each voter will receive one ballot booklet, containing all candidate lists competing in the electoral district where the voter is registered.

## **What do the ballot booklets look like?**

The ballot booklet includes all lists competing in an electoral district, with a list on each page. Information provided includes: the name of each list, a number for each list, the logo of each list and a box next to each list where the voter should make a mark to indicate which list they choose. Additionally, the names and photos of the candidates for that list are displayed in alphabetical order, with a box next to each candidate where the voter can indicate their selected candidates.

The sequential order of the various lists in each ballot booklet was determined by the date and time of the submission of their registration documents.

## **Who is eligible to be a candidate?**

Candidates for the Chamber of Deputies must have held Jordanian citizenship for a minimum of 10 years, and must be at least 30 years old on Election Day.

Candidates also must not have been declared bankrupt without having been rehabilitated, placed under custody that has not been lifted, sentenced for more than one year for a nonpolitical crime and not pardoned, or declared “insane or demented.” Relatives of the King are also not allowed to run as candidates. In addition, government ministers who wish to run must have resigned from their position at least 60 days prior to Election Day. Public servants, as well as Chairmen and members of municipal councils, must resign their positions at least 60 days prior to the date for submitting the application for candidacy.

## **What is the role of the Independent Election Commission? How has that role changed since the last election?**

Prior to 2012, elections in Jordan were conducted under the supervision of committees headed by the Minister of Interior at the national level, and officials from the Ministry of Interior at the governorate and electoral-district levels. This changed with the establishment of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) under the Independent Election Commission Law No. 11 of 2012, which was endorsed by the Senate on March 29, 2012, and promulgated in accordance with Article 67 of the constitution. The IEC subsequently oversaw the January 23, 2013 parliamentary elections.

As part of the ongoing reform of key legislation, the IEC’s mandate has expanded to include conducting not only parliamentary elections, but also governorate council and municipal elections. The IEC has financial and administrative independence.



## **How was voter registration conducted?**

For the purpose of holding the 2016 parliamentary elections, the Civil Status and Passports Department (CSPD) developed the Preliminary Voter Lists (PVL), which are comprised of the following:

- The Final Voter Lists (FVL) of the 2013 parliamentary elections
- Names of eligible persons not registered in the 2013 FVL according to the voters' place of residence in the CSPD's records
- Persons who were ineligible during the 2013 elections and became eligible after the reasons for their ineligibility or the suspension of their right to vote ended
- Persons who were younger than 18 years old on December 1, 2012 but have since turned 17
- Persons whose place of residence is not identified or who are living out of the country and do not have a place of residence in it

The PVL do not include those persons who are ineligible to vote.

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) and local heads of elections published the PVL on June 24, 2016. The PVL was displayed in IEC headquarters in Amman and IEC district offices throughout Jordan as well as on the IEC website. Voters could then request modification to the PVL if their data was incorrect or if they belonged to a certain category of residents allowed to register to vote in districts where they were not residents. This included voters who could register to vote as a "son of a district" if the voter, the voter's father or the voter's grandfather had been born in the district where the voter wanted to apply to vote. A married woman could register to vote in the district where her husband (and in some cases her father-in-law) was a "son of the district." Also, since not all districts included seats for Christians or Circassians and Chechens, a voter could register to vote in a district where there was a relevant seat for the voter's group if there was not one in the district where he or she was a resident. Voters in the Bedouin districts had to be among the families listed in an annex to the law.

Decisions made by the CSPD regarding registration of voters could be appealed at the Court of First Instance that had jurisdiction over the electoral district where the voter is registered. Voters could challenge both their own registration (e.g., if they were registered in the wrong district, or if they were not included on the preliminary voter register) and the registration of other voters.

Based on the decisions of the courts, the IEC issued a FVL for the 2016 parliamentary elections that included 4,139,733 voters.

## **How are voters allocated to polling centers and polling stations?**

All polling centers are located in schools. While in previous elections, voters were able to decide at which polling center they wished to vote, the new Elections Law states that each voter is assigned to a certain polling center in the district.

Polling centers are announced no later than a week before the Election Day, along with information detailing the number of polling stations within each center. To assign voters to polling stations (each

located in a separate classroom in a school), the Independent Election Commission (IEC) divided voters for each polling center alphabetically. There are a total of 1,483 polling centers with 4,843 polling stations.

In 2015, the IEC conducted an assessment of nearly 4,000 facilities, including schools and other potential facilities, for their suitability as polling and counting centers in each governorate. The IEC determined the polling centers for this election based in part on the results and recommendations of this assessment.

## **How were candidate and list registration conducted?**

Registration for lists and candidates took place from August 16-20, 2016.

Lists and candidates in each of the electoral districts were required to simultaneously submit their applications to the head of the District Election Committee in the local district where the list and candidates wanted to register. Candidate and list applications had to be submitted in a single batch in the presence of all candidates on that list. The batch included the name of the list, the names of the list's members, the list's emblem, the list's delegate and the supporting documents and required data for each candidate. District Election Committees sent these applications to the Independent Election Commission (IEC) headquarters at the end of each day of the registration process. A committee formed of IEC staff members then reviewed the applications before submitting them to the Board of Commissioners for a final decision on whether candidates met the criteria for application. By the end of the candidate nomination period, the IEC received applications for 230 lists which included 1,292 candidates. Among them, 24 are Chechens and Circassians, and 65 Christians. Of the total number of candidates who were registered in the 23 electoral districts, 1,033 were male and 259 female.

Candidates, list delegates and voters could file appeals at the Court of Appeals in each electoral district regarding IEC decisions on the registration of lists and candidates.

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

The Election Law and Executive Instructions No. 7, related to campaigning, guarantee the right of candidates and lists to initiate election campaigns and publicity. This law provides three types of restrictions to elections campaigns for candidates and lists:

- **Duration:** Election campaigns start with the period of candidate nomination and end on the day before elections. Hence, for this election they start on August 16, 2016, and end on September 19, 2016.
- **Location:** Candidates are prohibited from using ministries, government offices, public buildings and institutions, educational establishments, and places of worship for the purpose of campaigning. Candidates can hang their posters in the streets provided that they do not cover traffic signs or electricity and telephone poles, or use publicly-owned properties.
- **Content:** Candidates are obligated to adhere to the provisions of the constitution and respect the rule of law. Their campaigns must respect others' freedom of opinion and thought, uphold

national unity, protect the security and stability of the country and practice nondiscrimination among citizens. They should also refrain from disrupting other candidates' election campaigns, whether in person or through their campaign supporters.

The Independent Election Commission has appointed staff to monitor the election campaigns. Violations will be reported to the Board of Commissioners, which may request that the offending publicity be removed or suspended at the expense of the concerned candidate or list.

## **What are the rules on campaign resources and campaign financing?**

The Elections Law outlines several offenses regarding access to resources and campaign finance:

- It is prohibited to use any means or assets owned by the government or municipalities in the election campaign of any candidate.
- Employees of the government and official and public institutions; the Mayor of Amman; and Directors, members and employees of municipal councils are not allowed to campaign or endorse a campaign for any candidate in their places of work.
- Candidates are not allowed to receive monetary or in-kind support from other countries, foreign governments, international organizations or foreign subjects.
- Candidates are prohibited from accepting monetary support from known "suspicious" sources.
- Candidates are prohibited from presenting or promising to present any gifts, donations, cash or in-kind assistance, and the like to any natural or legal person, directly or through others. No person shall be allowed to ask for gifts, donations or assistance or to promise that any candidate will give them.
- It is prohibited to recruit children to assist in conducting campaigns in a manner that would put them at risk.

Violations of the above may be punishable by any of the following: imprisonment for a period of not less than three months and not more than one year; a fine of not less than 200 Jordanian Dinar and not more than 500 Jordanian Dinar; or both penalties.

List commissioners or their candidates must declare sources of funding for their list and candidate campaigns as well as channels of spending. Additionally, lists may not spend more than five Jordanian Dinars per voter in each of the Amman, Irbid and Zarqa districts and three Jordanian Dinars for all other governorates. Lists must open a separate campaign bank account and provide the IEC with a detailed report on resources and areas of spending upon request.

The Independent Election Commission, local election committees, and the presidents of the voting and canvassing committees have the authority to enforce these provisions.

## **What rules should media follow during the electoral campaign? Is the IEC using a media center?**

The Elections Law and Executive Instructions No. 7 address the role of the media in relation to election campaign periods. The Independent Election Commission (IEC) introduced Executive Instructions No. 5

(related to accreditation of media representatives and journalists) to cover the rights and obligations of journalists during other phases of the electoral process, including polling and counting day. The executive instructions also specify obligations for official media only.

Concerning the role of the media during campaigns, the Elections Law and executive instructions stress that media outlets shall deal with all candidates fairly and equally. Public media has to abide by the following requirements:

- Ensure neutrality and impartiality toward any candidate or electoral list;
- Respect the freedom of voters in expressing their opinions and choosing their representatives freely (media shall not broadcast any material that would influence voters' choices or the progress of the electoral process);
- Equality in dealing with all candidates and electoral lists regarding free campaigning as well as giving all candidates and electoral lists the same prices and rates for paid electoral advertisements; and
- Observation of the principles of neutrality and objectivity (media shall not succumb to pressure from any governmental authority, candidate or list that would affect the progress of the electoral process).

The IEC has established a Media Center in Amman, which provides a space for local and international media and observers, allowing the IEC to directly communicate with the media. It is the focal point for all IEC public communications throughout the election period.

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

Polling stations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (voters still waiting in the queue at the closing time are allowed to vote). Voters will cast their ballots in the polling station to which they are assigned. The ballot should be cast in person, and proxy voting is prohibited. To cast ballots, a voter must be on the voter list for that polling station and will be required to present his or her national ID card to the polling officials in that polling station.

Each voter's identity number will be entered into a computer terminal that is linked to a central network; the voter will be marked as having voted on both the electronic register and on a printout of the voter register in the polling station. The Independent Election Commission has also decided to use indelible voter marking ink as an additional safeguard against possible multiple voting.

Each voter will receive a ballot booklet. Voters will mark next to the name, number or emblem for one of the lists standing for election in that district, and will also mark next to one or more of the candidate names in that list. An illiterate voter can mark next to the photo of the candidate of his or her choice.

## **How many poll workers will be in each polling station? What will their main duties be?**

Each team is composed of six officials – namely, a polling and counting committee of three members and three additional staff members:

- A Chairperson is responsible for managing and supervising the process of polling and counting inside the polling station, as well as for signing and stamping ballot papers and maintaining order in the polling station.
- Two members are responsible for checking voters' IDs, checking that they are on the printed voter list, recording voters' names on the voter registers and ensuring that each ballot is stamped and signed before it is handed to a voter.
- A data-entry clerk verifies whether the name of a voter appears on the electronic voter register, electronically marks the voter on the list to confirm his or her eligibility and, at the end of the counting process, enter the results of the polling station in the electronic results data entry system.
- One assistant is responsible for organizing the queue of voters into and out of the polling and counting station and ensures that voters, before being allowed into the polling station, do not already have electoral ink on their fingers.
- A second assistant monitors the ballot boxes, ensuring that voters place the ballot paper in the ballot box and that they dip their fingers in the ink before leaving the polling station.

## **When are polling centers set up?**

The Independent Election Commission District Office Committee is responsible for setting up all polling centers in the week prior to Election Day. Polling and Counting Committees receive all materials one week before the Election Day.

## **What are the poll workers' first duties on Election Day?**

Poll workers must arrive at their polling and counting station by 6:00 a.m. on September 20, 2016. They must check sensitive electoral materials stored in the ballot boxes to ensure all materials have arrived prior to polling, and count the ballot booklets to ensure they have sufficient amounts for that polling station's needs. They also need to ensure that the data-entry system is functioning properly. The Chairperson of the polling and counting committee empties the ballot boxes, shows them to all who are present and seals them with uniquely numbered seals. A form is then completed for each ballot box which includes a record of the seals' numbers and a confirmation that the ballot boxes are empty.

## **What are the steps for voting?**

For the voting process, Polling and Counting Committees follow this sequence of steps:

- Verify the identity of the voter by examining their identity card (if the voter is a veiled woman, a woman in the polling and counting committee verifies her identity)
- Make sure that the name of the voter appears on the voter list for that polling and counting station
- Mark the printed copy of the voter list and asks the voter to place their signature next to their name
- Place a mark on the electronic version of the voter list to confirm the voter's eligibility
- Make sure that the index finger of the voter's left hand is not stained with the indelible ink
- Hand the voter one stamped and signed ballot booklet, reminding the voter that they must first vote for a list and then for that list's candidates of their choice.

Once a voter has received the ballot booklet, they follow these steps:

- Proceed to the voting screen
- In secrecy, mark the ballot paper in the designated place, selecting the name, number or emblem of one of the lists standing for election in that electoral district and then mark, in the designated place in that specific list, one or more of the candidate names
- Fold the ballot booklet to protect the secrecy of the vote
- Leave the voting screen, proceed to the ballot box, and deposit the folded ballot booklet
- Dip the index finger of their left hand in the indelible ink

At this stage, the Chairperson of the polling and counting committee returns the ID card to the voter, who then leaves the polling station.

## **Can a voter who is not registered vote?**

No, only voters who are on the voter list and in possession of a valid ID card on Election Day can vote. A voter can only vote at the polling station to which he or she has been assigned.

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

The 2015 polling and counting center assessment examined the accessibility of potential facilities to accommodate voters with disabilities. The Independent Election Commission (IEC) shared the findings of the assessment with the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Education, since both ministries are working on the accessibility of all polling centers from the inside and outside of the center. As of Election Day, many more polling and counting centers should be fully accessible for voters with disabilities than were available in 2013.

Voters with disabilities are given priority, as are elderly voters. In addition, a voter with a disability can bring an assistant which he or she freely chooses to help the voter mark a ballot booklet, if necessary. Each assistant can only assist one voter, and the index finger of the right hand of such an assistant is inked to ensure that this person provides assistance only once. If a voter does not have an assistant, they can request that the Chairperson of the polling and counting committee provide assistance.

## **What provisions exist to accommodate illiterate voters?**

The Independent Election Commission is printing ballot booklets with the logo of each list and a photo of each candidate. These features make it easier for illiterate voters to mark the ballot paper next to the photo of the logo of the list and the photo of their chosen candidate(s). Additionally, illiterate voters requiring assistance may be assisted by a person of their choice.

## **When does counting take place?**

Counting of votes takes place at the polling stations immediately after the close of the polls. Voters still waiting in the queue at closing time are allowed to vote.

## **Who counts the votes?**

The six polling officials assigned to the polling station are responsible for counting votes. All national and international observers, media representatives, candidates and list representatives are allowed to observe the vote counting process.

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

The Chairperson of the polling and counting committee or any of its members reads the vote on each ballot paper aloud and shows how each voted ballot paper is marked to the persons present through the use of a camera connected to a screen. Each vote is recorded on a whiteboard visible to all present, and the voted ballot papers are placed in a separate pile for each list. After all the votes have been counted, the ballot papers for each candidate and each list are counted again, and the total has to be compared with the total on the whiteboard.

After counting the votes, the counting officials compare the number of ballot papers with the number of voters who voted in that polling station. In case of any discrepancy, the head of the District Election Committee and Independent Election Commission (IEC) headquarters must be immediately notified. If there is a discrepancy of more than 3 percent of the total number of ballot papers assigned to that polling station, the IEC must investigate the problem.

## **Are election results publicly displayed? Where are results tabulated?**

Five copies of the results form for each electoral district will be completed. One copy will be posted on the door outside the polling station, and observers, candidate representatives and the media will be allowed to photograph this form.

One copy of each result form will be put in a separate envelope to be given directly to the head of the District Election Committee at the results center in each electoral district. The other three copies will be

placed in a tamper-evident bag, which will also be transported to the results center in the electoral district, where it will be retained.

The election results will be entered into the database on the computer terminal (inside the polling station), which is linked to a nationwide network. The data will immediately be transmitted to the District Election Committee and to the Independent Election Commission headquarters in Amman.

## **How are results tabulated?**

Preliminary results for the local electoral districts are tabulated by each District Election Committee after receiving the results forms from the Polling and Counting Committees. At the results centers in the electoral districts, the results will be entered a second time (after the first entry by the Polling and Counting Committees) into the results database. The results will also be added up by a group of tabulation staff who will calculate the results using calculators. In addition, the results will be written by hand on a whiteboard visible to all present. The totals of all four of these calculations must match.

## **Who announces the election results?**

Preliminary results for the local electoral districts are announced by the head of each District Election Committee after the completion of results tabulation at the results center in each election district.

The Independent Election Commission Board of Commissioners will also appoint a special committee that has three tasks related to the finalization of results:

- Audit and review the preliminary results of the elections of the electoral districts to ensure that there are no inconsistencies;
- Allocate the seats reserved for the lists in an electoral district in proportion to the votes won by each list and announce the names of the winners of the parliamentary seats; and
- Identify and announce the names of the women winners of the seats reserved for women.

The Board of Commissioners is responsible for certifying the final results, which will be published in the Official Gazette.

## **Who monitors the elections?**

Candidates and appointed delegates from electoral lists are allowed to be present at the polling station when it opens as well as during polling and counting. Domestic civil society organizations and international observers can be accredited to monitor the elections.



## **What is the role of the judiciary in the electoral process? How are disputes adjudicated?**

Depending on the type of complaint and/or violation, different authorities are responsible for adjudicating disputes.

Decisions by the Independent Election Commission (IEC) on voter registration can be appealed to a Court of First Instance, whose decisions are final. Decisions by the IEC on candidate and list registration could be appealed to a Court of Appeal, whose decisions are final.

Electoral crimes are dealt with by the public prosecutor according to the penal code. Article 64 of the Elections Law designates IEC staff members as judicial police in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In this capacity, they can cite any electoral crime committed in violation of the electoral law and must hand this information over to the public prosecutor.