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Elections in Libya

The Constituent Assembly for the Drafting of the Constitution

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 Libya's election authorities as of February 18, 2014, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.

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Who will Libyans elect in the Constituent Assembly¹ elections?

Registered voters were to elect 60² members to the Libyan Constituent Assembly, which is charged with drafting a new permanent constitution for Libya. The 60 members will be elected from constituencies across Libya: 20 members from the East, 20 members from the West and 20 members from the South. The Constituent Assembly's composition is similar to the committee that drafted the Libyan constitution in 1951.

Special measures have been put in place to ensure representation of women and ethnic minority groups within the make-up of the Constituent Assembly. As such, of the 60 seats in the Constituent Assembly, six have been reserved for women and six for three ethnic minority groups: two for the Tabu, two for the Tawaregh and two for the Amazigh.

What is the Constituent Assembly's mandate?

In accordance with the constitutional declaration, which stipulates the transitional framework and timeline for the country's transition, the Constituent Assembly will be responsible for drafting a permanent constitution for Libya.

A draft constitution must be finalized and presented to the General National Congress³ within 120 days of the first session of the Constituent Assembly. This draft shall be put forward for a popular referendum within 30 days of being finalized.

What is the current constitutional framework in Libya?

The initial post-Gadhafi transitional governing body in Libya – the National Transitional Council – adopted a constitutional declaration on August 3, 2011. This declaration contains provisions and timelines for the modalities of the transitional period. Once approved through a popular referendum with a two-thirds approval, the permanent constitution will replace the constitutional declaration.

What is the legal framework for the Constituent Assembly elections?

The legal framework for the Constituent Assembly elections is composed of the following decrees and laws, and complemented by High National Election Commission (HNEC) regulations and decisions:⁴

¹ Officially known as the Constituent Assembly for the Drafting of the Constitution.

² The Constitutional Declaration stipulates that the Constituent Assembly should be composed of 60 members. However, only 58 seats will be filled through the upcoming elections. This is due to the Amazigh boycott of the elections, which left the two seats reserved for Amazigh candidates without contestants.

³ The General National Congress was elected on July 7, 2012, and has legislative authority in Libya.

⁴ See Resources section for full-text versions of these laws and regulations.

- **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 Amendments 1 (March 13, 2012), 3 (July 5, 2012) and 5 (April 11, 2013):** Amend the constitutional declaration by defining the composition of the Constituent Assembly and allowing for election rather than selection of the members by the General National Congress.
- **Law 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.
- **Law 13/2013 (May 5, 2013):** Specifies criteria for persons assuming prominent positions in Libya in terms of their relationship with the former regime.
- **Law 17/2013 (July 20, 2013):** Explains the election system; voter and candidate eligibility; voter registration; polling; campaigning; appeals; crimes; and observation for the election of the Constituent Assembly. The law also outlines constituency delineation in its annex.
- **Law 30/2013 (December 2, 2013):** Amends Law 17/2013 by specifying the electoral system for the Constituent Assembly elections, and determines residency and voter registration criteria. This amendment changed voter registration criteria by requiring the voter to have a national number.

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 Constituent Assembly elections. A six-member Board of Commissioners, appointed by the General National Congress on April 23, 2013, governs the HNEC.⁵

The HNEC Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the elections under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners. 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 an annex to the Constituent Assembly, in Law 17/2013. The Constituent Assembly will be elected in three regions – the East, West and South – and will be divided into 11 main constituencies. These main constituencies are further divided into 46 electoral

⁵ According to General National Congress (GNC) Decision 40/2013, the High National Election Commission was originally comprised of seven members. However, immediately after being named, one member withdrew. No new commissioner has been appointed by the GNC.

constituencies with unique races. Within each of the 46 constituencies, there will be separate races for a defined number of seats.

Women will register to run in specific constituencies but will be elected to seats that cover multiple constituencies. Therefore, the seat she will occupy will not be pre-determined and could be taken from any of the constituencies covered. In total, there will be 51 different ballots.

What are the electoral systems used in the Constituent Assembly elections?

There will be two different electoral systems used to elect members of the Constituent Assembly. Both systems are majoritarian:⁶ 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.

Who is eligible to vote?

According to Article 8 of Law 17/2013, an eligible voter must: be a Libyan citizen; be 18 years of age or older; be legally competent; have registered to vote; and hold a national number.

The national number is a new eligibility requirement, which mandated the High National Election Commission to modify the voter registration process. This number creates 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 first time in Libya, voter registration required the voter to have a national number. To accommodate this, the High National Election Commission (HNEC) decided to use SMS technology to capture voters' national numbers and preferred polling center. This new registration process took place over two separate periods: the first was designated for SMS registration only, and the second was reserved for both in-person and SMS registration.

The first period of SMS registration took place over the whole month of December 2013. During this time, voters could send an SMS containing their national number and the number of their preferred polling center to the HNEC database. The HNEC subsequently checked the national number against the civil registry database to ensure fulfillment of the eligibility criteria. If confirmed, the voter was added to the voter registry in the polling station of choice, and received an SMS confirming his or her registration.

⁶ A majoritarian system is an electoral system in which the winner has the largest number of votes.

At the close of the first SMS registration period on December 31, 2013, a total of 1,001,910 Libyans had registered to vote.⁷

The second registration period – in-person registration – took place over one week from January 11-16, 2014. During this period, Libyans could physically visit their preferred polling center and register with HNEC staff. HNEC staff at the polling centers also used SMS technology to check national numbers of registrants against the civil registry database. During this stage, registered voters were allowed to change their polling location by submitting a form. Voters could only change their location once.

In an effort to boost the number of registrants, the HNEC allowed SMS registration to take place at the same time in-person registration occurred during the second stage of voter registration. By the end of the two-stage registration process, 1,101,025 Libyans had registered to vote.

It is important to note that there is no residence criterion for the Constituent Assembly elections. Voters could register in any location across Libya. As such, voters also decided on what location/constituency to vote in. To facilitate this, the HNEC allocated unique numbers to all 1,576 polling centers across Libya, and advertised these numbers in national media and on banners posted outside centers.

Will out-of-country voting take place in the Constituent Assembly elections?

In accordance with Law 17/2013, the High National Election Commission (HNEC) established special procedures for Libyans living abroad who wanted to vote in the Constituent Assembly elections. To implement the process, the HNEC contracted the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to establish polling locations in 13 countries:

- Canada (Calgary and Ottawa)
- Egypt (Cairo)
- 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, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.)

⁷ As per the High National Election Commission's voter register statistic webpage: <http://data.libyavotes.ly/>

Although out-of-country voting (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 was conducted through a special website created by the HNEC – www.voteabroad.ly. Eligible Libyans were able to enter their national number and register for the elections. OCV voter registration ran from December 1, 2013-February 10, 2014.

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

Out-of-country voting (OCV) took place from February 15-17, 2014. Voters registered to vote abroad were given the opportunity to choose the constituency in which they would like to vote. Voting will take place based on generic matrix ballots that will not reflect a constituency prior to being indicated by the voter.

The generic matrix ballot is a combination of several constituencies; however, voters can vote for only one constituency. The generic matrix ballot also allows voters to select candidates in women-only races and ethnic minority races.

Voters abroad were provided with lists of the candidates running in the different constituencies. This allowed voters to choose their constituency.

Who can be a candidate?

Law 17/2013 established eligibility criteria for Libyans who wish to run as candidates in the Constituent Assembly elections. To be eligible for candidacy one must be:

- Eligible to register as voter
- At least 25 years of age prior to registering
- Holder of a secondary school diploma or equivalent
- Not a member of the High National Election Commission (HNEC), employee of its central administration, sub-committees or polling centers
- Not a member of the General National Congress or the interim government
- Not a staff of the regular security apparatus or the military
- Not convicted of a crime or misdemeanour of moral turpitude, even if exonerated
- Able to meet the requirements for assuming public offices as per the Political and Administrative Isolation Law
- Seconded by 100 voters from one's constituency, provided none of the seconders vouched for another candidate
- Able to deposit a non-refundable amount of 500 LYD (\$397 USD)
- Able to abide by the code of conduct for candidates as determined by the HNEC

Candidates are not allowed to register in more than one constituency.

Who registered to compete in the Constituent Assembly elections?

In total, 649 candidates registered to stand in the Constituent Assembly elections. Of these, 65 are women – 54 running for the six reserved seats for women, and 11 for ethnic minority seats.

Twenty candidates have registered to run for the ethnic minority seats – 14 candidates for the Tabu seats and six candidates for the Tawaregh seats. Since the Amazigh are boycotting the Constituent Assembly election, no candidates registered to run for the seats reserved for them.

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

For the Constituent Assembly elections, the High National Election Commission has provided 16 special polling centers for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Fifteen of these polling centers are for voters displaced from Bani Walid/Tawargha and are located in Ajdabiya, Beida, Benghazi, Ghadames, Khoms, Obari, Sabha, Sirt, Tripoli and Tobruk. The Ghadames polling center is for voters displaced within the same constituency.

Eligible candidates who have been internally displaced have also been able to register as candidates. However, only one candidate from Tawargha has chosen to do so in Benghazi.

Will there be any other special polling centers on Election Day?

The High National Election Commission has decided to put measures in place to establish polling centers for oil workers and for voters under rehabilitation.

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.

In all these special polling centers, voters will be given matrix ballots – as was done for out-of-country voting – and will, therefore, be able to vote in any constituency they choose.

What are the rules on campaigning?

The official campaign period is from December 25, 2013-February 19, 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 and end 24 hours before Election Day.

Based on Law 17/2013, the HNEC has formulated campaign regulations – HNEC Decision 46/2013 – 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 or 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 for all candidates depending on the constituency in which they are running. All candidates – winning or losing – 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. Financing the 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 donations both in-kind and cash, must be disclosed to the HNEC.

Non-compliance with campaign finance rules will result in disqualification, fines and potential jail sentences.

What are the basic rules for voting on Election Day?

In accordance with Law 17/2013, polling stations will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. on February 20, 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. The voter ID papers will then be checked against the printed voter register at the polling station. Upon identification, 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 marking 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).

How and when will polling centers be set up?

Prior to Election Day, 1,576 polling centers will be set up in Libya. Within those polling centers, approximately 3,830 polling stations will be established to accommodate up to 550 registered voters apiece. Polling centers will mostly be set up in schools 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 three different types of races in the Constituent Assembly elections. One will be for general candidates – any voter eligible to run can register as a candidate for this race, both men and women, irrespective of cultural heritage. A second ballot will be for women candidates only. A third ballot will be for ethnic minority candidates – Tabu, Tawaregh and Amazigh.

Although the Amazigh are boycotting the elections – on the basis that the number of reserved seats do not reflect the size of their population – this ethnic minority ballot will remain available.

Thus, for the Constituent Assembly elections there will be three different types of ballots: a general ballot, a special ballot and a combined ballot. The number of ballots a voter receives will depend on the constituency in which they have registered to vote.

The race for women-only seats 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.

The race for ethnic minority seats will also happen in parallel with the general races. However, in constituencies with both a general race and an ethnic minority race, voters will be given one combined ballot paper. The combined ballot paper will be divided into two sections, each containing the type of race. In these constituencies, voters can mark only one choice. Voters will have to choose to vote for either a candidate in the general race or a candidate in the specific ethnic minority race.

Each ballot will show the names of the individual candidates running in the different races. When casting their vote, voters will mark the ballot for the candidate of their choice by placing a tick/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.

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 approximately 150 polling centers – or 10 percent of all centers – to be accessible for persons with disabilities. This means they will be on the ground floor and easily accessible for wheelchairs. 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 to register to vote in these centers.

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 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. In January 2014, a new deputy was appointed by the Prime Minister to focus on electoral security. A generic security plan was also developed and sent to 17 police directorates.

This security plan currently calls for 25 police officers allocated to each polling center, recognizing that there are other facilities and processes that must be protected: High National Election Commission offices, warehouses, transport, etc.

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 ballot 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 known?

Preliminary results will be announced by the High National Election Commission (HNEC) as soon as they are known for each constituency. According to Article 22 of Law 17/2013, preliminary results shall be announced within 10 days of Election Day.

The final results will be announced after the legal timelines for complaints and appeals against the preliminary results have lapsed. According to Article 27 of Law 17/2013, final results shall be announced within 25 days of preliminary results.

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 within 72 hours of their announcement. Local courts have 72 hours to make a decision on a challenge and their ruling can be appealed at a primary court within 72 hours. The primary court will issue its final decisions on complaints and appeals within 72 hours of receiving them.

What constitutes an electoral offence on Election Day?

An electoral offence 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 Law 17/2013. Examples of

electoral offences on Election Day include vote buying, campaigning during the silence period, multiple voting and voting despite ineligibility.

Who is authorized to investigate electoral offences 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 take 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.

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
- 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.

How are complaints submitted to the High National Election Commission?

According to the High National Election Commission (HNEC) regulation on electoral complaints – HNEC Decision 47/2013 – 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 72 hours of the violation or the HNEC decision being challenged. Upon receiving the complaint, the HNEC has 72 hours to make a decision on it.

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 HNEC Decision 47/2013. An HNEC decision to reject a complaint can be appealed at the local court that covers the area within which the incident occurred. HNEC will be referred directly to the courts or relevant authorities in cases that are not within its jurisdiction.

Who will monitor the Constituent Assembly elections?

Observers of the Constituent Assembly 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 649 candidates registered by the HNEC are entitled to nominate 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.

Because of security concerns, as of writing, there have not been any international observation missions fielding observers in a systematic manner. So far, only the Carter Center and the European Union have sent core teams.

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, non-political 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 77/2013. 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 Constituent Assembly election.

As the HNEC prepares for the election, the center will allow the HNEC to provide timely information and explain the electoral process. 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 High National Election Commission (HNEC) Media Center is located at the HNEC compound in Tripoli. The center will become operational on February 15, 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 Constituent Assembly elections?

According to the constitutional declaration as formulated by the National Transitional Council, the Constituent Assembly will be given four months to create a draft constitution, which will then be presented to the General National Congress (GNC). The draft constitution will then be put for a public referendum within 30 days. If approved by the public, it will lay down the basic rules for the election of a permanent legislative body in Libya. If refused by the public, the draft goes back to the Constituent Assembly for redrafting within 30 days.

In response to public pressure, in early February, the GNC formulated and adopted a roadmap for the future transitional period, which envisions a peaceful transfer of power to an elected permanent legislative authority before the end of 2014. This roadmap stipulates that the Constituent Assembly will be given 120 days to prepare a draft constitution for referendum. Halfway through this period – after 60 days – the Constituent Assembly must deliver a progress report to the GNC stating if it is possible to

finalize the draft constitution within the given timeframe. If possible, the work will continue, and new legislative elections will be held after the popular adoption of the a constitution. If not possible, the work will continue in the Constituent Assembly, but the GNC will enact an election law and call for legislative elections immediately. Irrespective of the progress made by the Constituent Assembly, there will be elections for a new legislature before the end of 2014.

Resources

- National Transitional Council Constitutional Declaration and Amendments ([Arabic](#))
- High National Elections Commission Website ([Arabic](#))
- Map of Electoral Constituencies ([Arabic](#))
- Election Law 8/2013: Establishment of the HNEC ([Arabic](#))
- Election Law 17/2013: Constituent Assembly Elections ([Arabic](#))
- The Political Isolation Law ([Arabic](#))
- HNEC Regulations related to the Constituent Assembly elections ([Arabic](#))