



European Union



GUIDE FOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES AGENTS

Supported by ECES

General Objective of this Guide: Ensure an appropriate preparation for political parties and candidates' agents to enable them to correctly fulfil their mission as agent (monitor) at the polling station which will contribute to the integrity of the Afghan electoral process.

Specific Objectives of this Guide:

- ✓ Help you understand your roles, rights and obligations as an AGENT/Monitor
- ✓ Help you learn the code of conduct for AGENTS of political parties and individual candidates
- ✓ Go through electoral offences, disciplinary measures and crimes
- ✓ Help you understand the role of IEC staff and other electoral stakeholders at the polling station (ECC, observers, agents of other parties or independent candidates, media, security forces) present on e-day
- ✓ Help you understand opening, voting and closing and counting procedures of e-day
- ✓ Introduce you the new Biometric Verification to the new IEC amendment to Polling and counting procedures
- ✓ Show complaints and challenges and the role of ECC
- ✓ Show you how the Results forms looks and all the elements within
- ✓ Give you background information about the Wolesi Jirga and the 2018 elections
- ✓ Give you some tips to prepare before e-day, and to monitor and report on Election day

What is your role as an AGENT? Representatives of political parties, independent candidates play a crucial role in ensuring the transparency and credibility of the Wolesi Jirga elections. On election day, national observers organisations (FEFA, TEFA, ETWA and others), as well as ECC (Electoral Complaints Commission) and Media, will be present monitoring the work of the IEC staff in polling stations.

Terminologies Article 4:12- Monitor: is a person, who on behalf of a political party, a candidate, and national and international organisations receive accreditation letter from the Commission, for monitoring an electoral process. To monitor on Election day, you must hold an IEC accreditation! An important responsibility¹ of political parties is to act as watchdogs during the election process, to protect the party's interests by closely monitoring the correctness of the procedures used during the elections. The crucial role of party representatives is to witness the entire procedure and to check for irregularities that might constitute fraud. This requires the presence of the parties during the voter registration process conducted over springtime, when the ballot boxes are sealed, during the voting process, when the ballot boxes are opened, when votes are counted, and when ballot boxes are transported.



Advantages of the involvement of party and candidate agents monitoring the election include that they contribute to the legitimacy and trust of the process. Political parties that have observed the electoral process are less likely to oppose the official results unless they have evidence of fraud.

¹ <https://aceproject.org>

Article 83/2016 Electoral Law: Rights, Obligations of Monitors (Party Agents) and Observers

Rights	Obligations
<p>Receive accreditation from the Commission.</p> <p>Observe the polling and counting process in a polling station</p> <p>Bring questionable or irregular activities to the attention of the Polling Station Chairperson and record their remarks in the polling station journal.</p> <p>Observe the counting process, sign the results form and record the figures of the results for your candidate.</p> <p>Object the eligibility of voters.</p> <p>By completing the complaint forms at the polling station, present their complaints to the Independent Electoral Complaint Commission.</p> <p>Preparation of a report on the electoral process that needs to be objective and impartial.</p> <p>No one has the right to expel the monitor or observer from the polling or counting station unless the vote counting has taken place and the ballot boxes are sealed.</p> <p>After switching on the biometric machine, an IEC must show to monitors and observers that there are no records on it.</p> <p>At the end of the process, he/she shows the number of voters recorded to the monitors and observers</p>	<p>Respect the 2016 Electoral Law and other legal documents and procedures and the Code of Conduct issued by the IEC.</p> <p>Carry the accreditation card issued by the IEC.</p> <p>Refrain from making rumours and the creation of tension.</p> <p>Not interfere in the polling and counting process or touch any polling material.</p> <p>Be objective and impartial in their observations and when preparing the report and lodging complaints.</p> <p>In case the monitor and observers are not present during the vote counting process, the PC manager will proceed with the counting process and record the absence of the monitors and observers in the polling centre journal.</p> <p>Only in case the agent/monitor does not observe his/her obligations, the Chairperson of the polling station may order him/her to leave the polling station.</p>

2016 Electoral Law: Electoral Offences and Disciplinary Measures

Cash Fine in Afghanis	Electoral Offence
5,000 up to 50,000	Use of symbol and other signs related to a candidate in polling centres Use of symbol and other signs related to the Commission and government institutions in the campaign materials
40,000 up to 80,000	Provoking or inciting individuals to commit violations
50,000 up to 100,000	Launching electoral campaigns before or after the set timeframe
10,000	Conduct of any campaigns in favour or against a candidate by a government employee
50,000 up to 100,000	Refraining from providing complaints forms to the candidates' monitors

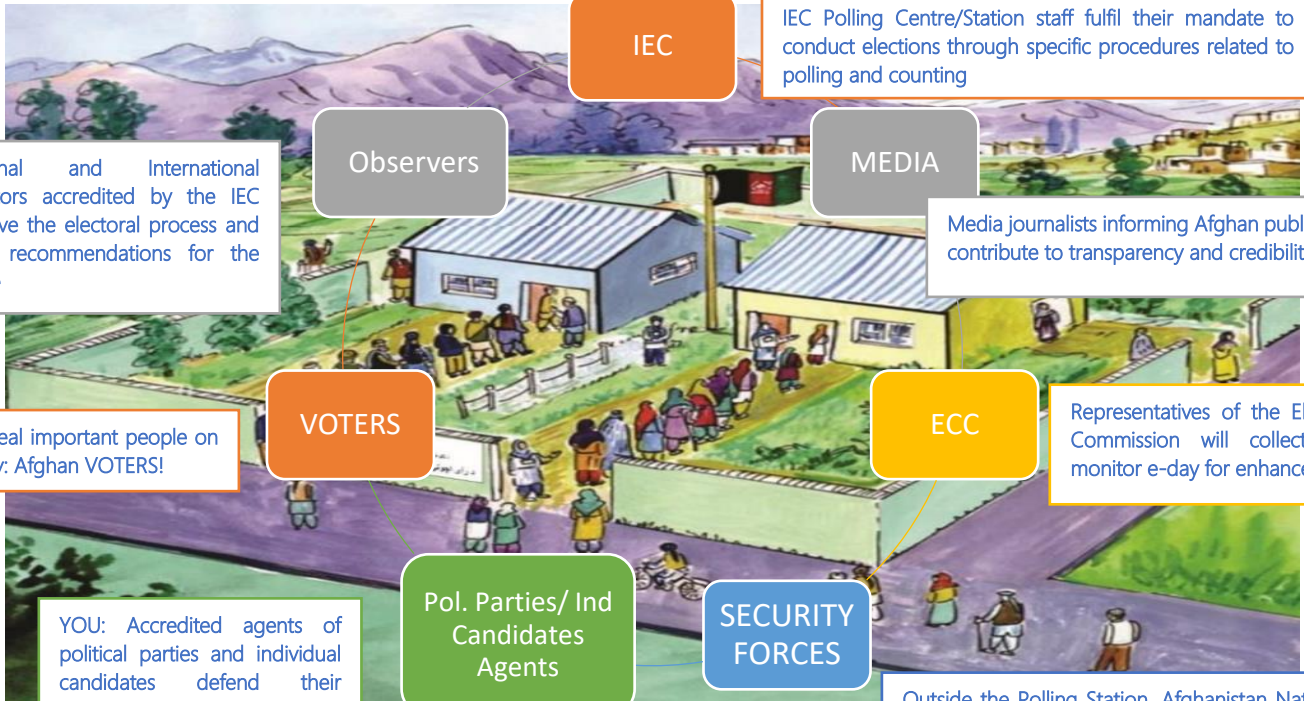
2016 Electoral Law: Electoral Crimes and Prison Stipulated

To deter fraud, electoral crimes and prison punishments have been introduced in the Criminal Code:

Prison Stipulated	Electoral Crime
At least three months	Misuse of military tools and signs including of the army, police and national security for frightening or influencing a voter, candidate and or monitor and observer in favour of or against a candidate
5 years in prison	Receiving or offering bribes to exerting influence in the electoral processes Threat, intimidation, irreverence, and exertion of pressure against a voter, a candidate, monitor, observer, media and electoral workers
Two years	Hiding the results forms and ballot papers to concealing the truth
Up to three years	Displacing, transferring or taking into possession electoral documents without a lawful permit Receiving funding from illegal sources

	Receiving or accepting financial assistance in cash or in kind from foreign citizens or states or diplomatic missions of the foreign countries based in Afghanistan
Less than one month and more than a year	Tampering with software and hardware systems of results tallying centres without legal authorisation
More than two years	Exerting violence or pressure or disrupting the security situation that leads to interruption of the electoral process
Maximum of medium-term imprisonment	Stealing or destroying electoral documents and ballot papers or sensitive electoral materials
Short term imprisonment	Voting using fake documents Using the vote of a person in his/her absence
Medium-term imprisonment of up to three years	Buying and selling of the votes Changing or replacing electoral documents including registration book, results sheets and ballot papers in favour of or against a candidate Increasing or decreasing votes in favour of or against a candidate during elections
Short-term imprisonment of not less than 3 months	Hiding or not processing, promptly, filed complaints and objections to conceal the truth
Mid-term imprisonment of up to 3 years	Preventing the participation of monitors, observers and media during the polling and counting process

PERSON ALLOWED IN THE POLLING STATION



IEC

IEC Polling Centre/Station staff fulfil their mandate to conduct elections through specific procedures related to polling and counting

Observers

National and International monitors accredited by the IEC observe the electoral process and draw recommendations for the future

MEDIA

Media journalists informing Afghan public about e-day contribute to transparency and credibility

VOTERS

The real important people on e-Day: Afghan VOTERS!

ECC

Representatives of the Electoral Complaints Commission will collect complaints and monitor e-day for enhanced integrity

Pol. Parties/ Ind Candidates Agents

YOU: Accredited agents of political parties and individual candidates defend their candidates interests and contribute to enhanced integrity and checks & balances

SECURITY FORCES

Outside the Polling Station, Afghanistan National Police and other security forces assigned provide security to polling centres. They can only enter Polling Stations if required by the IEC Chairperson of the Polling Station

WATCH OUT: NO IEC ACCREDITATION, NO ENTRANCE



Farida

IEC Polling Center Manager
 Receive the Material, set up the Polling station, ensure distribution of polling material, ensure the correct ballot paper package is distributed to the correct polling station
 Complete reception material form
 Ensures there is no campaign material within 100 meters from the polling station
 Make sure that the information on the ballot box stickers are completed and correctly
 At the end of the counting process, collect the polling station results in forms envelopes from each of the relevant stations and pack them in one tempered Evident Bag
 Hands over the polling centre and polling stations material including TEBs to the District Electoral Officer (DEO)



Saïd



Shalha

IEC Polling Station Chairperson
 Responsible for the order in the polling station
 Ensure that procedures are followed properly
 Records important events in the polling station journal
 Addresses the complaints and challenges raised at the polling station level
 Complete the result form and other necessary forms
 Undertakes thorough and accurate counting of the votes cast and recording of the results



Gul



Leena

IEC Ballot Paper Issuer
 The right-hand voter index is inked
 Ensures that the Tazkera of the voter has the VR certificate
 Detach a ballot from the stub, stamp the ballot on the back in the space determined for the stamp
 Explain the voter the voting process.
 Show the voter how to fold the ballot
 Explain to the voter that if the ballot is spoiled, he can get another one



Wahid



Fatima

ECC Representatives at Polling Center
 For the first time, ECC intends to deploy one ECC representative per Polling Centre to collect electoral complaints and follows the implementation of polling and counting activities by IEC polling staff.



Yusuf



Farishta

IEC Identification and inking officer

Examines the citizenship Tazkera of the voters to ensure that the photograph on the Tazkera correspond with the face of the voters
Checks the finger of both hands of the voter, to ensure that they are not already inked with indelible ink
Ask the voters to dip his/her right-hand index in the ink
Mark the Tazkera of the voter with invisible ink
BVVVVV
Find the name of the voter among the individuals on the voter list
Put a mark next to the voter name



Basir



Sahira

IEC Queue Controller officer

The IEC Queue controller officer, besides controlling that voter enters the Polling Station orderly, the will be engaged in taking biometric data.



Najib



Nooria

Monitors: Observers and Party and Independent Candidates Agents

Observe the polling and counting process in a polling station
Bring questionable or irregular activities to the attention of the Polling Station Chairperson and record their remarks in the polling station journal.
Observe the counting process, sign the results form and record the figures of the results for your candidate.
Object the eligibility of voters.
By completing the complaint forms at the polling station, present their complaints to the Independent Electoral Complaint Commission.



Sher



4 PHASES OF ELECTION DAY (E-DAY) AT POLLING STATIONS (PS)

1

Opening

At 7:00 PS opens
IEC staff present
All election materials must be in place
Voting starts

2

Polling

Voters access the PS
Identity check against Voter List and the sticker in the taskera
Biometrics taken
Fingers checked for ink
Voter collect ballot paper, walks to the voter screen and chose their candidate
Voter cast ballot

3

Closing

At 4:00 PM PS closes
Voters in queue are allowed to vote
Chairperson declare voting close and enter the time of vote closing in the polling station journal, seal the voting slot on the ballot box and record the serial number of the seals in the Polling Station journal
The Polling Station Chairperson record in the name of the persons present at the counting in the Polling Station journal

4

Counting

The PS Chairperson explains the counting process (two steps: sorting and counting)

Opening the ballot box and recording seals in the journal
Determining valid and invalid votes
Count total number of ballot papers
Count ballots per candidate into bundles of 50 and places a rubber band around
Count unused ballots
Chairperson reads aloud the results
Chairperson fills in the forms
Chairperson asks 4 monitors to write names, names of candidate represented and sign
If no monitors, the Chairperson will write "No monitors present"
The monitor of the candidates with more votes will get the green copy of the results
Results forms and materials packed and handover to PC Manager
Results displayed outside the Polling Station

Suspension of polling due to turbulences or other incidents: Upon de advice of the IEC District Election Officer or the National Police, the polling can be stopped if there's riot, violence, storm, flood or any other event which makes orderly polling impossible.

As a monitor/agent you are entitled to submit a complaint to IEC and ECC if there's something wrong. However, you need to be objective and base your challenge on the Electoral Law and procedures and make sure you do not disrupt, or cause delay the polling process.

Together with the new Voter Lists linked to Polling Stations, the use of Biometrics Verification of Voters (BVV) will be the main difference with Afghan elections in the past. Learn how it will work!

What's BVV? The IEC may adopt various measures based on the Constitution and the Election Law to pave the way for holding a free, general, secret, direct, fair and transparent elections. For the ever first time in Afghanistan, the IEC will use the Biometrics Verification of Voters (BVV) system to ensure greater transparency of the electoral process.

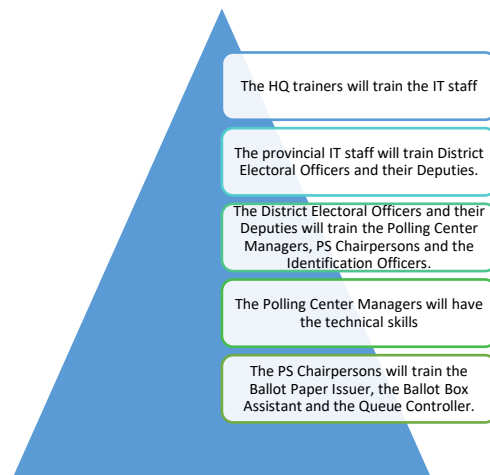
How will transparency be enhanced? The system will be able to identify duplicates based on fingerprint and facial photograph, a photo of Tazkera, and a photo of the VR certificate. Every person who has voted more than once will be identified and introduced to the Complaints Commission for prosecution by the Election Law. The first vote cast by a voter who has voted multiple times is valid, while his/her remaining multiple votes are invalidated.

How will be used? The use of the biometric machine is mandatory at each polling station and the IEC and will be configured for offline use. Voter be taken the index finger of both left and right hand, one picture and a picture of the Tazkera. Taking photos female voters is only mandatory if both hands are not available.

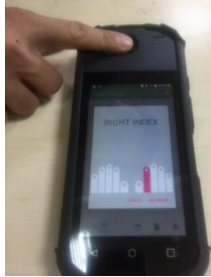
What info is captured? Province, District, Polling Center code, Polling Station code and code for the voter.

Who will capture biometric information? IEC Polling Staff at Polling Stations.

When will biometric information capture? Once the voter enters the Polling Station, the IEC Queue Controller will take the biometric data described below.



Biometric Machines



The new 22,000 Biometric machines will be used in the upcoming election as an electronic tool in which multiple types of data applications can be installed.

Before polling starts, the IEC will switch the BVV device must go to the statistics option and ascertain the monitors and observers that there are no records on it.

At the end of the process, the IEC identification officer will show the number of voters recorded to the monitors and observers

Biometric Voter Verification Kit

The Biometric Printer



The printer will be used for printing the biometric certificates for each voter.

Biometric certificate, certifying the presence of the voter, will be printed and attached on the back of the ballot paper to be used by the voter. The biometric certificate will have a unique serial number related to the particular voter and indicates that the voter's information including the following has been recorded on the biometric machine: Polling Centre code Date of voting Time of voting, Encrypted QR code

The Biometric Certificate



Once the biometric phases are completed, a biometric certificate with the adhesive QR code will be printed for every voter. One biometric certificate shall be printed per voter. Re-printing of the biometric certificate is not allowed.

Attaching the biometric certificate on the back of the ballot paper is mandatory.

At the **identification phase** (2), the IEC Queue Controller Officer, the Voter and finally the IEC Ballot Paper Issuer will be the three people involved in the biometric process.

All voters need to the tazkera bearing the VR certificate. The use of the biometric machine is MANDATORY

Carrying of communication and photography equipment by a voter at the PS is strictly prohibited, that's why the IEC body searcher will prevent voters to



The Ballot Paper Issuer will:
Remove the biometric certificate of every voter from the biometric machine printer
Prepare the ballot paper for the voter
Ink the index finger of the voter
Remove the biometric certificate from the printer
Attach the biometric certificate on the back of the ballot paper

The Voter will place first the index finger of left hand and then the right one. If not available, the thumb finger or other fingers of the same hand will be used

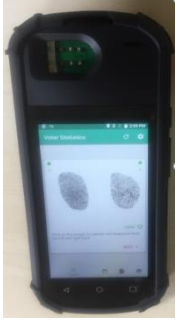


APPROXIMATELY

1

MINUTE

After completion of the biometric process, the Queue Controller Officer will press the "print" option to print the biometric certificate in the printer.



After reading the Fingerprints on the machine surface, the machine records them, the identification officer will click on "NEXT" to prepare the machine for taking facial photo of the voter.

After the Queue Controller Officer will click "NEXT" to complete taking the photos of the Tazkera and the VR certificate number.

The voter's photo will be captured with the voting screen on the background to show that it has been captured at a Polling Station. Taking photos of females will be optional in case she has been recorded two fingers



Counting: After the election day is finished at 4:00 pm, the IEC will start the phase of counting the ballot papers cast in ballot boxes in every Polling Station. This is the most important moment of election day.

Rights	Responsibilities (Don'ts)
Monitor and observers can stay in the Polling Station until the count is completed and all the material sealed and delivered from the Polling Station	Monitors, observers and media representatives are invited to observe, but you should not disrupt or cause a delay of the counting process During this process, no one from monitors and observers can touch any sensitive material
The Polling Station Chairperson cannot impose restrictions on observers or monitors unless required for maintaining order	
The IEC Polling Station Chairperson should explain each step of the process to the monitors behave politely with monitors	
Pay attention to the complaints filed by agents	
Before the commencement of the counting process, the Identification Officer will open the statistics option in the biometric machine and show and read the information recorded on it to the monitors and observers	
All ballots should be shown one by one to the monitors, observers, and their validity and invalidity announced at loud by the Polling Station Committee Chairman	
Challenge the validity or invalidity of a ballot	
The monitor of a candidate with more votes can get the green copy of the results form	

After the counting, Polling Station staff will pack all the election material. The ballot papers will be packed in Tempered Evident Bags (TEB) and then put into the ballot box which will be sealed. The Polling Station Chairperson will collect the biometric machines hand them over to the Polling Center Manager along with the result forms and other sensitive materials, for movement to the HQ. Pack the machine and place it in the relevant box, place the box in the TEB which was used for the voter's list, and seal it. The biometric printer shall be placed in the blue boxes, separately. The complaint forms will be packed into C4 envelopes, and all the complaints forms envelope will be put into an A3 envelope (the back of this envelope should be completed with the name of the province, district, polling centre, polling centre code and the polling station number. All the material should be handed over to the District Electoral Officer. Only the DEO is entitled to deliver the material to the IEC provincial office.

VALID VOTE

When the intention of the voter is clear

Have a validating stamp on the back of the ballot

There is any mark (except a mark identifying the voter) in a box and it is the only mark

There are 2 marks but in the same line dedicated to one candidate

A mark made in blank box for a candidate touches other boxes of other candidates but the greater portion of the mark is within the box of a candidate

The ballot is torn but all the boxes for all candidates are still intact and there is a clear mark for one candidate

A mark is made on the picture/ logo/ or name of the candidate

INVALID VOTE

When the intention of the voter is not clear

The intention of the voters is not known

The ballot paper that contains writings that leads to vagueness in the intention of the voter

The ballot is torn which result in complete removal of candidates details including the box of the candidates

The ballot papers lacking the biometric certificate will be considered as invalid and counted as invalid votes.

The identity of the voters is disclosed

A ballot where the voters has marked more than one candidate

A mark indicating a choice for one candidate has been altered, erased or crossed out and another choice has been made

When the mark of the voter does not showed for which candidate he was voting

There is no validating stamp on the back of the ballot

The greater part of the mark is between two boxes of candidates.

Challenges and Complaints: Electoral challenges and complaints are an essential element of democratic elections. The Electoral Complaints Commission is responsible for deciding objections and complaints about the electoral process related to electoral negligence, violations and crimes to secure electoral justice, credibility and transparency.

Objection or complaints can be submitted at the headquarters in Kabul or any of the ECC provincial offices, and in this elections, from ECC Representatives at Polling Centres. Also, each provincial office and the ECC itself has the power to investigate a matter on its initiative. Election integrity requires that the IEC, the ECC and the justice system be willing to address complaints without undue delay effectively. It also requires that the complainant be willing to use the official complaints mechanisms and abide by the resulting decision².

Prevention or refraining from providing forms and circulation of complaint and objection is deemed violation in accordance to the article 98 of the elections law.

the case, the candidate, objector, complainant and or defendant are not satisfied with the decision of the provincial complaints commission, within 3 working days after the publication of the decision, they may in person or through their competent representative file their objection with the Central Complaints Commission

ECC Kabul, Provincial ECC and complaints lodged at the Polling Centre and Polling Station through ECC Representatives or IEC PC Manager or IEC PS Chairperson on the Election Day. Also, online through the ECC website.

the polling station chairperson or the polling centre manager will be the authority to receive the electoral complaints. These authorities shall with full honesty pack those complaints in the specific envelopes provided for this purpose, and keep them safely, and at the end of the process shall send them to the respective provincial electoral commissions.

Negligence: It refers to unintentional and accidental acts performed by the voter, candidate, election worker, monitor, observer, media and other persons involved in the elections process.

² <https://aceproject.org>

Violation: Intentional acts including all the acts and omissions that have been stipulated as an electoral violation in article 98 of the elections law.

1) **Objection:** accredited agents/monitors may challenge a voter's right to vote with the IEC Polling station Chairperson, but the objection must be made before the ballot is issued to the voter. A voter may be challenged based on not fulfilling the eligibility criteria:

- > Has the Afghan citizenship
- > Has the age of 18 years on Election Day
- > Has not been deprived of his/her civil rights by order of the law or an authorised court
- > His/her name is registered on the voter list
- > His/her Tazkera without the voter registration sticker

2) **Complaint:** accredited monitors can raise their concern to the IEC Polling Station Chairperson if they observe that the polling and counting process is not taking place in accordance with the election law and electoral procedures. They can also refer their complaint to the ECC Representatives at the Polling Center if present. If a challenger is not satisfied with the decision of the IEC Polling station Chairperson, he/she may file a complain form from the ECC representative available at each Polling Centre. The monitor should request the complaint form from the ECC Representative or the PS Chairperson. Once filled, complaints should be placed in an envelope and sealed. The PS Chairperson will complete the required information on the back of the envelope. The PS Chairperson will place the envelope in the Complaint form from the Polling Station. This envelope will be packed with the sensitive material and will be forwarded to the ECC by the IEC after the election.



دارالانشاء

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

دارالانشاء

Independent Electoral Complaints Commission

You can fill an online form: <http://iecc.gov.af>

Case No. (only for ECC):

Complaints Form

F2

Elections (Mark it) Provincial Council Presidential DC WJ

Subject (Mark it) Other Preliminary Results Vote Count Polling Campaign

Polling station: Polling Center:
When did it happen (time)? On which date did it happen?

Complainant: Father name:
Mobile No. Male Female
Address (Province, District, Nahia):
Tazkera or Voter Registration card number:
Who are you? Candidate Agent Voter Other

Defendant: Father name:
Mobile No. Male Female
Address (Province, District, Nahia):
Candidacy number or Tazkera no.:
Who is he? Candidate Agent Voter Other

Provide brief information regarding the complaint (subject, details, location, date)
.....
.....
.....

Defendant: Any natural or legal person subjected to a complaint.

(Refer to the back of the page)

Complainant: Person (maybe you) who lodges a complaint in writing against natural and/or legal persons regarding electoral violations, negligence and crimes.

The information you are providing to the ECC, will be safe with us, and will not be shared with anybody else.

Other information related to the complaint:

The Complainant should be fully aware of the contents of his/her complaint. Shall clearly write the subject matter of the objection or complaint according to the elections law. Shall fill the objection and complaint form according to the relevant guideline. Shall hold identity documents and/or his/her electoral registration certificate at the time of filing the complaint/objection. Shall provide the accurate (information of the) profile and address of the defendant. Shall provide enough evidentiary proofs to prove his/her objection and complaint.

List of the documents provided (if available):

Evidentiary proofs: Written document, photo, voice, signs and marks which are provided by both parties of the case in relation to objection and complaint.

I acknowledge that the information provided that.

Case registration date: .../.../...
Time:

Name of the person lodging the complaint:
Job/Title:
Signature:

The Provincial Electoral Complaints Commissions are the preliminary authorities for addressing of the electoral complaints. In exceptional cases, the Central Complaints Commission can be the preliminary authority for addressing of the electoral complaints. The Central and Provincial Complaints Commissions are obligated to share the results of their adjudications and decisions on the electoral objections and complaints, through their own media channel the website of this organization. The Complaints Commission will enact necessary sanctions, in cases of violations, in accordance to the provisions of the law.

This complaint is recorded by the ECC staff, and/or (by the polling station chairperson or polling center manager on the E-Day)

Case no. (Only for the ECC)

C

Complainant:

Respondent:

Case Registration staff's name:

Job title:

Signature of the case registration staff:

Date:

Time:

Location:

What is electoral integrity? Electoral integrity refers to international standards, global norms and values governing the appropriate conduct of elections that apply universally to all countries throughout the electoral cycle, including during the pre-electoral period, the campaign, on polling day, and in its aftermath.

- Key principles of electoral integrity are Inclusiveness, Transparency and Accountability, Law enforcement, Confidence and Credibility.
- Independence, impartiality, professionalism are the values that should apply IEC and ECC in all phases of election day.
- But also, you as a political party or individual candidates, domestic observers, security force and justice system and all electoral stakeholders should abide by these principles and contribute to credible Afghan elections
- While the electoral process in Afghanistan has achieved many important milestones, fraud irregularities, specially ballot-stuffing has somewhat hampered the credibility of the electoral process and the trust of the Afghan people.
- The IEC and the ECC are putting renewed efforts to ensure better elections through several anti-fraud measures such as tracking systems, barcodes for ballot papers and ballot boxes, ballot boxes numbered seals. Three new features, voter lists of 600 voters linked to a specific Polling Station, deployment of ECC representatives at Polling Centres and the use of biometrics, intends to contribute to better elections. However, at its root, electoral integrity is a political issue because integrity depends on the commitment of Afghan election stakeholders to respect the genuine will of voters. It is not enough to reform institutions; citizens need to be convinced that changes are real and deserve their confidence.

Fraud Risk management: Anti-fraud measures include fraud deterrence me built on international best practices and specific lessons learned from previous / these different elements: Fraud prevention / fraud deterrence. Fraud identification / fraud detection. Fraud correction (invalidation of fraudulent results, prosecution of lawbreakers)

Voter List linked to a Polling Station: For the first time in Afghanistan, IEC will be using voters list of 600 citizens assigned to a specific Polling Station which eases IEC work and is an extra safeguard to deter ballot stuffing.

The use of biometrics: One of the novelties of the 2018 Wolesi Jirga is the use of biometric authentication on election day. Following a presidential decree, IEC polling staff will use biometrics to take 2 fingerprints and a picture (mandatory only for men) after each voter has cast the ballot. Biometrics are intended to avoid both double votings by the same person and ballot stuffing. This anti-fraud measure intends to be an extra safeguard to enhance electoral integrity in addition to the voter list linked to a polling station, the two types of ink (one visible on the finger and one invisible on the Tazkera), tracking systems and seals, among others, implemented by the IEC.

ECC Representatives at Polling Centres: The approximate 5100 ECC representatives deployed into PCs on e-day would have one main function:

- Collect complaints directly from voters, political party and candidate agents or observers (and support them to fill in complaints as needed) against e-day operations (in 2014 polls, only 150 complaints were collected by IEC polling staff and handed out to ECC).

Preparation for e-day and Reporting: To function effectively as a political party or individual candidate agent, you and your team need to bear in mind a few things and to follow the instructions below and fill in the attached forms.

Before Election Day

1. MAKE SURE YOU'RE ACCREDITED BY THE IEC AS A MONITOR FROM YOUR PARTY OR CANDIDATE
2. Learn the 2016 Electoral law and procedures thoroughly. The websites of IEC <http://www.iec.org.af> / <https://www.facebook.com/IECAfghanistanOfficial/> and ECC iecc.gov.af add Facebook in DARI contain a wealth of information about the whole electoral process. We hope this guide will help you as well on your endeavour.
3. Learn about your right to file a complaint and how to use the ECC form.
4. Make sure that the voter list at the polling station is publicly displayed 15 days before the elections so that voters can see it.
5. Establish contact with IEC and ECC and observers deployed in your Polling Centre.
6. Prepare a checklist with key questions to be a monitor on Election Day.
7. Establish with your political party or candidate a reporting system so that you can regularly report on e-day
8. Be sure you have organized your transportation for Election Day and are updated on the security in your area.

Preparations for Election Day

1. Make sure you have your IEC accreditation and Tazkera with you
2. Print checklists with key questions to be a monitor on e-day.
3. A certificate issued by your political party or candidate containing your full name the number and name of the assigned polling station, where you will conduct your observations.
4. Paper and pencil, food and water. If possible, you may want to take with you a camera, a flashlight and a calculator.

You must arrive at 6:30 a.m., 30 minutes before the opening of the polling station, to establish contact with IEC and ECC and observe the preparations of IEC staff for opening the station.

Example of a simple Checklist for Agents: What to observe/report?

Province			District		Time PC opened	
Polling Station			Polling Centre		Time PC closed	
YES	NO	Did the PS open?				
YES	NO	Where all election materials available?				
YES	NO	Was the biometric device at the Polling Station?				
YES	NO	Where all IEC staff present? Was the ECC Representative present?				
YES	NO	Where party agents of other parties/candidates? From which?				

YES	NO	Is there any security issue? Are security forces present?				
YES	NO	Is IEC checking the identity on voters and checking for ink on the fingers? Is the voter on the Voter List?				
YES	NO	Is the biometric device is used to capture fingerprints and pictures? Explain how				
YES	NO	Are there any complaints lodged to the ECC or IEC? Explain the issue				
YES	NO	Is there any situation of irregularity or fraud that affects your candidate or the process? Explain				

YES	NO	Is the counting done in front of monitors, observers or ECC? Are you present?				
YES	NO	Are the results filled in the form and displayed outside the PC? A green copy of the results is given to the winner?				
YES	NO	Is there any situation of irregularity or fraud that affects your candidate or the process? Explain				

Number of Ballots		Valid Votes		Invalid Votes	
Blank Votes		Votes for your Candidate		Votes for other candidates	

House of the People ولسی جرگه <i>Wolesi Jirga</i>	
Type	
Type	Lower house of the National Assembly
Structure	
Seats	249
	
Political groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independents (165) • Jamiat (17) • PIUPA (11) • Junbish (10) • Republican (9) • Hezb-e Wahdat (7) • National Islamic Front (6) • Afghan Millat (4) • Islamic Dawah (4) • Islamic Movement (4) • National Solidarity Party (4) • Hezbi Islami (1) • National Islamic Unity (1) • National Movement (1) • National Solidarity Movement (1) • National Sovereignty (1) • National United (1) • Naveen (1) • People's Islamist Movement (1)
Elections	
Last election	Afghan parliamentary election, 2010
Next election	Afghan parliamentary election, 2018

2018 Wolesi Jirga Elections

The House of the People or Wolesi Jirga is the lower house of the bicameral National Assembly of Afghanistan, alongside the upper House of Elders (Mesharano Jirga). The House of the People is the chamber that bears the greater burden of law-making in the country. It consists of 249 delegates directly elected by single non-transferable vote (SNTV). Members are elected by district and serve for five years. The Constitution guarantees at least 68 delegates to be female. Kuchi nomads elect 10 representatives through a Single National Constituency. The House of the People has the primary responsibility for making and ratifying laws and approving the actions of the president.

Roles of the Wolesi Jirga representatives: The role of Parliament Members should play in community leadership, and strategic decision making is a common feature across the world. Parliament Members need to adapt to an evolving and rapidly changing environment.

Political representative: the ability to connect with all different groups (youth, elder, women, ethnic, religion, profession...) living in your constituency/province and represent everyone fairly, and to balance local concerns with the political demands of your political party or group.

Community advocate: be a skilled advocate for people from different backgrounds, cultures, and values who live in your constituency; analyse the areas of improvement in your community and have the confidence to speak freely and advocate the government on behalf of your co-residents.

Community leader: involve yourself and engage with community development skills – support local projects and initiatives and educate people about local participation; be a good communicator – explain what political decisions and structures mean to constituents and community organisations.

Service transformer: understand the complexity of the public services provided to your community; have the confidence and ability to hold service providers to account and the ability to understand

From: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_the_People_\(Afghanistan\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_the_People_(Afghanistan))

local problems and use this knowledge locally and strategically in local action planning; setting and monitoring service standards.

Place shaper: being a local example or role-model that people feel they can turn to; can shape the community environment – the ability to identify priorities, work with officers and service providers to address public realm problems,

Knowledge champion: be the primary source of local intelligence flowing between your province and voters and the Wolesi Jirga, and the link with Ministries and Agencies in Kabul; have the skills to collect and analyse local information and use it in benefit of the community.

Representation: Eligible voters elect Wolesi Jirga candidates. Wolesi Jirga members must represent their constituents on a wide range of issues: governing in the best interest of the entire constituency, as policymakers; shaping their community's future, as strategists or making the most of available funds, as budget overseers. Thus, while representing citizens, Wolesi Jirga members must obey the Afghan law, but also to abide by ethical values and principles. Wolesi Jirga members must also deal with a range of requests and complaints from their constituents which they need to find ways to deal with, preferably in conjunction with the administration. That's why communication skills will help you to represent your community better.

Accountability: Wolesi Jirga members are accountable to both the community and their constituents. Political accountability is the accountability of the government, civil servants and politicians to the public and legislative bodies such as a congress or a parliament. In ethics and governance, accountability is answerability, blameworthiness, liability, and the expectation of account-giving. While there are internal rules and regulations as mechanisms to hold Wolesi Jirga members accountable, for modern leaders, accountability is the acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility for actions, decisions, and policies that affect your constituents' lives. This encompasses the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resulting consequences. In politics, transparency is used as a means of holding public officials accountable and fighting corruption.

WJ (Parliamentary) Elections Candidates from the 34 Provinces of Afghanistan*

Nº	Province	Women candidates	Men candidates	Political Parties candidates	Independent candidates	Percentage of women	Percentage of men	Total Candidates	Seats Per Province	DQC
1	Badakhshan	8	68	3	73	10.50%	89.50%	76	9	0
2	Badghis	9	26	2	33	25.70%	74.28%	35	4	1
3	Baghlan	12	76	5	83	13.63%	86.36%	88	8	1
4	Balkh	22	63	15	70	25.88%	86.36%	85	11	0
5	Bamyan	11	29	7	33	27.50%	72.50%	40	4	1
6	Daykundi	8	33	8	33	19.51%	80.49%	41	4	0
7	Farah	3	39	0	42	7.14%	92.86%	42	5	0
8	Faryab	19	43	15	47	30.64%	69.36%	62	9	0
9	Ghur	5	25	4	26	16.66%	83.33%	30	6	0
10	Helmand	9	83	0	92	9.78%	90.22%	92	8	0
11	Herat	28	133	10	151	17.39%	82.61%	161	17	0
12	Juzjan	4	26	3	27	13.33%	86.67%	30	5	0
13	Kabul	119	685	37	767	14.80%	85.20%	804	33	10
14	Kandahar	13	99	6	106	11.60%	88.40%	112	11	2
15	Kapisa	8	27	1	34	22.85%	77.15%	35	4	2
16	Khust	2	53	2	53	3.63%	96.37%	55	5	1
17	Kunarha	3	28	1	30	9.67%	9.33%	31	4	1
18	Kunduz	17	73	13	77	18.88%	81.12%	90	9	1
19	Laghman	4	20	3	30	12.12%	87.87%	33	4	0
20	Logar	5	30	0	35	14.28%	85.71%	35	4	3
21	Nangrahar	18	119	10	127	13.13%	86.86%	137	14	1
22	Nimroz	3	9	0	12	25%	75%	12	2	0
23	Nooristan	7	11	1	17	38.88%	61.11%	18	2	4
24	Paktia	5	73	2	76	6.41%	93.58%	78	5	2
25	Paktika	8	25	0	33	24.24%	75.75%	33	4	0
26	Panjshir	2	10	0	12	16.66%	83.33%	12	2	0
27	Parwan	11	17	1	27	39.28%	60.71%	28	6	1
28	Samangan	6	25	3	28	19.35%	80.64%	31	4	0
29	Sarepul	4	29	7	26	12.12%	87.87%	33	5	1
30	Takhar	12	61	6	67	16.43%	83.56%	73	9	1
31	Uruzgan	9	16	3	22	36%	64%	25	3	0
32	Wardak	9	31	7	33	22.50%	77.50%	40	5	2
33	Zabul	6	18	1	23	25%	75%	24	3	0
34	Ghazni	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0
35	Kuchi	8	35	2	41	18.60%	81.39%	43	10	0
36	Sikh	0	1	0	0			1	1	0
Total:		417	2139	178	2386	16.26%	83.39%	2565	250	35
Political Parties' Candidates Percentage				6.93%						1.34%
Independents Candidates Percentage					93.06%					

* Table developed by ECES using information from IEC and ECC websites

Have a great election day, represent your independent candidate or political party professionally, and make your contribution to the Afghan electoral process and democracy!

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of the document are the sole responsibility of the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

