Law by Decree No. 14 for 2002
Exercising Political Rights

Part 1 Political Rights

Article 1

All Citizens men as well as women enjoy full political rights in exercising:

1- to express their opinion in every referendum held in accordance with the Constitution
2- to elect members of the parliament

Citizens practice the above-mentioned rights by them selves as mentioned in this law.7

Article 2

The citizen practicing his political rights is bound by the following rules:

1-Should be 21 years of age on the day of election or referendum

2-Should of complete mental health

3-Should be a resident of the electoral district according to the CPR, in case he is living abroad the last place of residence in the Kingdom will be his electoral district, if he has no residence in Bahrain then he follows the district of his immediate Family.

Article 3

A person is prohibited from practicing political rights if he is sentenced for a crime or incarcerated, until he finishes his sentence.

Article 4

The public prosecutor will inform the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs of the outcome of the reasons for prohibition to practice political rights with in 15 days of the passing of the final judgment.

Article 5

Members of the Bahrain Defense Force, Public Security, and National Guard are governed by the rules and regulations of their work place.

Part 2 Schedule of Voters

Article 6

Every citizen eligible to vote must be listed in the voters' Schedule.

Article 7

In every Electoral district a committee is to be appointed by the order of the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs called **"The Elections and referendums Supervisory committee"** comprising of a chairman form judicial or legal body and two members one of them takes the position of the Secretary.

This committee is authorized to prepare the voters' schedules, receive and sort the applications for candidacy, prepare the candidates' schedules; to look into objections regarding the process, all in all the committee is in charge of ensuring the elections or referendums are sound and valid.

Article 8

The schedules of voters for the electoral districts are to be prepared according to the following rules:

1-The list is to be in alphabetical order based on the official documents in coordination with the Central Population Registration at the Central Statistics Organization.

2-The list of voters must include all those eligible to vote according to article 2 of this Law so as not to be deprived of his political rights during the preparation of the list of voters or during the correction stage.
The list will include the voters name and address

3-To Prepare 2 lists of voters for each electoral district, to be signed by he head of the Supervisory Committee mentioned in Article 7, and its secretary.

One copy remains with the committee the other goes to the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs.
4-The list will be displayed for 7 days atthe electoral district headquarter and public places authorized by the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs at least 45 days before the date of the elections .

Article 9

The electoral address of a person is the place he normally resides at with his family, incase the person lives abroad then his domicile is the area where his family members reside.

Article 10

A voter is not allowed to be registered in more than one electoral constituency.

Article 11

It is nor permitted to enter any corrections on the voters' schedule after the announcement of referendum or election date except changes to the schedule itself as per the rules and directives issued in the special appeals or if orders andfinal judgments are issued barring persons from exercising political rights .

Article 12

A person whose name is not registered in the voters schedule or there is an error in his details has the right to ask **The Supervisory Committee For Referendums And Elections**, as mentioned in article 7 of this law, to register his name or make the necessary corrections.
Any person, whose restrictions have been lifted after the schedules were made, can ask to be registered on the voter's schedule.

Every registered voter has the right to register the name of the person who failed without plausible reason to register his name, or the person who without plausible reason deleted his name or made changes to the details of the person, this is with regard to the schedule for the electoral district where the person is registered. This should be done within the period the schedules are displayed.

The committee will issue its decision with in 3 days of the appeal if there is no decision then the appeal is rejected.

If the committee rejects the appeal then the person can appeal before the appellate civil high court with in 3 days.
The court will issue a judgment within 7 days which can not be appealed against .

Article 13

The voters' schedules will be corrected according to the rules and final decisions as per the previous article.
Then these schedules will be final until the political rights can be exercised i.e. voting time.
A copy of the final and completed schedules will be kept at the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs in order to be presented to the General Secretariat of the Parliament.

Article 14

The committees mentioned in article 7 of this Law will be formed before every parliament ends its term.

The rules that have been mentioned in previous articles form the basis for the formation of such committees.

Part III Organizing Referendums And Elections

Article 15

The date for the parliamentary elections will be issued by a Royal Order at least 45 days before the date.

The date for the re run of elections will be decided by the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs, the date will be announced at least 30 days in advance, and the Order and the decisions should mention the opening and closing dates for nominations .
In case of a referendum the Royal Order must include the subject of the referendum and its date.

Article 16

The Royal Order and The Ministerial Decision calling on voters to the Referendum or the Elections must be announced in the official Gazette.

Article 17

The Kingdom of Bahrain according to this law shall be divided into a number of Constituencies each consisting of a number of Electoral Districts. Each Electoral District elects 1 candidate.

A decree will be passed on defining the constituencies, electoral districts and their boundaries, and the number of sub committees required to carry out the process of the elections and ballot counting.

The sub committees will comprise a chairman chosen from among the judicial body or legislators working for the State Ministries, Government Corporations and General Organizations, and two other members one of them will be the Secretary General of the committee. The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs appoints the Chairmen and members of the committees as well as their locations.

The order also decides who takes the place of the chairman during his absence or his inability to carry out the job.

The Head of the Elections Committee appoints helpers to these committees to help carry out its duties according to the need of each committee.

Every candidate for the district he is registered in, appoints an Agent to represent him with the sub- committee. The Candidate forwards the name of his representative to the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs at least 7 days before the day of the Elections.

Article 18

The Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs heads a Supreme Committee to supervise the validity of Referendums and Parliamentary Elections all over the Kingdom and to look into all matters forwarded to it by the committees mentioned in article 7 of this law.

The Supreme Committee comprises a large number of judges and legal consultants appointed by the Minister of Justice and Islamic affairs.

The Supreme Committee is assisted by the Central Statistics Organization which will carry out the preparations for the Referendum and Elections and supervise all the necessary technical works.

Article 19

It is the duty of the chairman of the committees mentioned in this law to maintain the order in its Premises if need be with the help of the Public Security Forces.
These forces are not to enter the committee premises without the permission of the Chairman of the committee.

Candidates or their Agents can enter the premises of the Sub committees.

Article 20

The General Secretary of the Committee will take down the notes and decisions of the committee to be signed by the Chairman of the Committee and the General Secretary.

Article 21

The process of voting in the Referendum or Election will continue from 8 am to 6 pm. if in any district there are voters who have not cast their ballot then the process will continue in that district only.

If all voters registered in the schedules have completed the process ahead of time then the chairman can declare the end of voting after the final voter casts his ballot.

Article 22

Every voter has to present the subcommittee, at the time of casting his vote, with papers proving his identity through a CPR card, incase a CPR is not available an ID card or a passport.

Article 23

The referendum or Election will be held in open and direct secret ballot. The vote is carried out by ticking a prepared ballot card in a special voting room.
The voter can not make more than one choice in the referendum or election.

An illiterate voter, or a blind person or those with special needs can give their ballot verbally before the Chairman of the Committee and a member, who will tick the choice of the person and put the ballot in the box.

Article 24

When the designated time for voting ends the chairman of every sub-committee will announce the end of the voting process after making sure every voter listed has cast his ballot, and register it in a report to be singed by the chairman and the general secretary so the committee can then begin the ballot counting.

Every candidate or his agent is allowed to observe the process of counting but not the deliberations of the committee.

Article 25

Any citizen registered in the voters schedule living abroad has the right to cast his vote in the Referendum or Election in the normal procedure or through electronic means according to the directives of the Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs.

Article 26

Votes that are conditional, or marked more than once or marked on a paper other than the ballot card or a ballot card carrying a mark that indicates the identity of the voter will be disqualified and void.

Article 27

Every sub-committee has the right to take a decision in all matters that concern the process of Referendum and Elections and in the validity or invalidity of a voter to cast his ballot.

The committee will hold secret deliberations with the Chairman and its members, any decision will be a result of an outright majority.

The decisions are to be registered in the minutes along with the reasons and signed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the committee.

Article 28

The chairman of the sub committee for the electoral district will announce the result of the election and the number of votes received by each candidate, the chairman and the secretary sign the register of the results and the register along with the ballot papers are to be sent to the supreme election committee mentioned in Article 8, which will take over the task of announcing the final results and to inform the winners of their membership to the parliament.

The General Secretariat of the Parliament will after the announcement of the results issue certificates of membership to the winners .

Article 29

The chairman of the supreme committee mentioned in Article 8 of this law will announce the results of any referendum after he has received the poll registers form all the sub committees.

Part 4 Offense in The Referendum and Election process

Article 30

Without superceding any other severe punishment that the penal law stipulates or any other law, a person can be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not more than 6 months and fined not more than 500 Bahraini Dinars or any of the above if found guilty of committing any of the following acts:

1- Intentionally gave a false statement in any of the documents presented for matters related to the voters' schedules or intended to by any means add a name to the list or delete it in breach of this law.
2- Falsify, disfigure, hide, destroy or steal a voters' schedule, a nomination form, a ballot card or any document related to the process of referendum and elections with the intention to change the results.
3- Has voted in the referendum or election knowing that he is not allowed because he did not meet the conditions, after the schedules were finalized.
4- Disrupted the freedom to vote in a referendum or election or the process by using force or threat or disturbance or take part in demonstrations or gathering.

5- Used his right to vote more than once on the day of election or impersonate someone else.
6- Degraded any of the committees mentioned in this law or any of it's' members while they were doing their duty.
7- Published or broadcast false statements about he topic of the referendum or the conduct of a candidate or his moralsintending to influence the outcome of the referendum or election.

Article 31

Without superceding any severe punishment set down by the Penal law or any other law imprisonment for a period not less than 1 year and a penalty of 1000 Dinars or any of the above , will be passed on any public official concerned with the referendum and election process found of guilty of the offences mentioned in article 30.

Article 32

It is not permitted to discontinue the execution of the penalty mentioned in the last two articles.

Article 33

Any person found guilty of intention or participation in the offenses in this law will be sentenced for committing the full crime .

Article 34

The Criminal Suit will be passed over and no civil appeals will be heard in the crimes mentioned in this law, after a period of 6 months from the date of the results of the referendum or the election or form the date of the last legal process in the matter.

Article 35

The chairmen of the committees mentioned in this law have the full power of any Judicial Authority with regards to the offenses committed in their premises or are intended to be carried out in the location.

Part 5 : Final Declaration

Article 36

The Law By Decree No. 10 for the year 1973, regarding the election of the National Council is now rendered void and any other laws contravening the principles of this law are null.