الانتخابات البلدية 2018

هيئة التشريع والإفتاء القانوني
Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission

الانتخابات النيابية 2018

Voters' Guide

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Introduction

As a desire to complete the grounds of democratic governance, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, as amended in 2002, guaranteed the right to vote and to contest for election, as it stipulates in Article (1/e) that **"Citizens, both men and women, are entitled to participate in public affairs and enjoy their political rights, including the right to vote and the right to contest for elections, in accordance with the present Constitution and the conditions and principles laid down by law…."**, whereas voting and nomination are considered necessary rights of inevitable necessity to implement democracy in its constitutional content.

In this sense, our electoral participation is a right and a duty at the same time. Every citizen has the right to elect his/her representative in the Parliamentary and Municipal councils; and it is a duty required by the public interest.The voter is considered the most important episode of the electoral process, considering that his/her vote is the way to ensure selection of the best candidates to represent the citizens in the council of Representatives and Municipal Councils that are able to exercise their legislative and municipal powers efficiently and effectively.

The voter's guide is intended to inform the voter of all stages of the electoral process and to clarify his/her legal rights and obligations that he/she must comply with in accordance with the laws governing the electoral process.

Prior to the Electoral Process

I. Requirements for the Election of the Council of Representative Members:

1. Shall be 20 year of age on the day of elections.
2. Shall enjoy full legal capacity.
3. Shall be a regular resident of the constituency according to the ID card. In case of his/her residence abroad, his/her last place of residence in the Kingdom of Bahrain shall be his/her constituency. If he/she has no residence in the Kingdom, then his/her family's place of residence shall be considered his/her constituency.
4. Shall not have been sentenced in a felony, or a crime breaching honor or integrity unless rehabilitated.
5. Shall not have been sentenced to imprisonment in any of the electoral crimes provided in the Legislative Decree No.(14) of 2002 with respect to the Exercise of Political Rights, unless the sentence was suspended or he/she was rehabilitated.

Legislative Decree No.(14) of 2002 with respect to the Exercise of Political Rights can be found through the Elections Website www.vote.bh

II. Requirements for the Election of Municipal Council Members:

1. Shall be 20 year of age on the day of elections.
2. Shall enjoy full legal capacity.
3. Shall be a regular resident of the constituency according to the ID card. In case of his/her residence abroad, his/her last place of residence in the Kingdom of Bahrain shall be his/her constituency. If he/she has no residence in the Kingdom, then his/her family's place of residence shall be considered his/her constituency.
4. Shall not have been sentenced in a felony, or a crime breaching honor or integrity unless rehabilitated.

5. Shall not have been sentenced to imprisonment in any of the electoral crimes provided in the Legislative Decree No. (3) with respect to The System of Election of Members of Municipal Councils, unless the sentence was suspended or he/she was rehabilitated.
6. Any GCC citizen upon whom the above mentioned conditions apply can participate in the Municipal Elections as long as he/she obtains a permanent residential address in the Kingdom of Bahrain, this also apply to others who own constructed properties or land plots in the Kingdom.

   Legislative Decree No. (3) of 2002 with respect to The System of Election of Members of Municipal Councils, as amended can be found through the Elections Website www.vote.bh

III. Voters' lists:

The Elections Supervisory Committees prepares the voters' lists in the electoral constituencies of the Governorate which comes under the Committee's jurisdiction. The following should be considered while preparing the lists:

1. The registry in the lists shall include the name of the voter, his/her ID number and his/her normal residency address.
2. The lists are to be in alphabetic order based on the official documents and records.
3. The electoral domicile shall be the place in which a person normally resides, or where he/she or his/her family was resident if he/she resides abroad.
4. The voters list must include all those eligible to exercise political rights, taking into consideration the previous participation in the elections based on the official records.
5. A voter shall not to be registered in more than one electoral constituency.

IV. Display of Voters' lists:

The voters' lists shall be displayed for 7 days at the headquarters of the following supervisory committees:

The Capital Governorate	Khawla Secondary Girls School.
Muharraq Governorate	Al Hedaya Al Khalifia Secondary Boys School.
The Northern Governorate	Hamad Town Primary Girls School.
The Southern Governorate	Al Mustaqbal Primary Girls School.

V. Ensuring that the name is listed in the voters' lists:

The voter must verify his/her name in the voters' lists and check the validity of the data concerning his/her registration therein, during the display period of voters' lists through:

1. Visiting the headquarters of the supervisory committee of his/her constituency,
2. The Elections Website www.vote.bh

VI. Objection on Voters' lists:

1. Any person, whose name is not included in the voters' list, or if there is an error in the data concerning his/her registration therein, may request the Supervisory Committee to include his/her name or to correct the details concerning his/her registration. Anyone who is no longer subject to any restrictions after drawing up the lists may request including his/her name or to correct the details concerning his/her registration.
2. Any voter whose name is registered in one of the voters' lists, may request to have the name of a voter whose name was neglected without a justifiable cause or to strike off the name of another person who was unlawfully included or to correct the details concerning the registration, in respect of the constituency's list in which the applicant's name is included.
3. Objection on voters' lists shall be submitted to the supervisory committee using the form prepared for this purpose, or through the Elections Website www.vote.bh; during the lists display period.

4. The Committee shall issue a decision concerning the objection within three days from the date of its filing, if there were no decision issued then the objection is implicitly considered rejected.
5. The person concerned shall have the right to appeal against the rejection, whether it was explicitly or implicitly made, before the Supreme Civil Court of Appeal within a maximum of three days from the date of the rejection. The Court shall decide on such appeals within seven days from the date of commencing the proceedings by an un-appealable final judgment.
6. The Supervisory Committee shall finally amended the voters' lists according to the final judgments or decisions adopted - in accordance with the preceding paragraphs -, these lists shall be deemed final and no amendments may be made thereto and there are no exceptions.

The Electoral process

I. Time of election:

The elections process shall continue from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

However, if it appears that there are voters at the Sub-committee's premises who have not cast their votes, and they want to do so, the voting shall continue for them only.

If all the listed voters cast their votes before the end of the time specified for elections, the Chairman shall announce the end of voting process after the last voter has cast his/her vote.

II. Place of election:

The election process is carried out in the following sub-committees and general committees for ballot and counting:

Sub-committees:

The Capital Governorate		
Constituency	**Headquarters of the Committee**	**Its affiliate blocks**
1	Rabia Al Adawiyya Primary Girls School.	307, 308, 309, 310, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 344, 346
2	Hauteen Primary Boys School.	301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 351, 353, 354, 356, 357
3	Al Sanabis Intermediate Girls School.	402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 592
4	Umm Al Hassam Primary Boys	324, 325, 326, 327, 333, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 373
5	Halimah Al Sadiyah Intermediate Girls	328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 334, 358,

	School.	359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364
6	Al Etihad Sports Club.	365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 405, 407, 411, 413, 419, 421, 423, 425, 701, 705, 707, 713, 711
7	Al Wafa Secondary Girls School.	709, 721, 729, 733, 816
8	Sitra Primary Girls School.	380, 381, 382, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606
9	Gharnata Primary Girls School.	607, 608, 609, 611, 623, 624, 633, 634
10	Al Taawen Secondary Boys School.	625, 626, 644, 743, 745, 815

Muharraq Governorate		
Constituency	**Headquarters of the Committee**	**Its affiliate blocks**
1	Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Institute for Technology.	225, 226, 228, 229
2	Al Busaiteen Primary Girls School.	203, 205, 206, 209, 221, 222
3	Al Muharraq Secondary Girls School.	202, 204, 208, 210, 223, 224, 227
4	Hassan Bin Thabit Primary Boys School.	207, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217
5	Ruqaia Primary Girls School.	251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 263, 264, 265, 266, 269
6	Al Dair Primary - Intermediate Girls School.	231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237
7	Al Khwarizmi Primary Boys School.	240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248
8	Al Hidd Secondary Girls School.	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 115,

		116, 117, 118, 119, 121, 128

The Northern Governorate		
Constituency	**Headquarters of the Committee**	**Its affiliate blocks**
1	Karranah Primary Girls School.	444, 450, 454, 456, 458, 460, 502, 504, 506, 508, 514, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 536
2	Jaber bin Hayan Primary Boys School	531, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 580, 582, 583,584, 586, 588, 590
3	Shaikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa Primary - Intermediate Boys School.	550, 552, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 565, 569, 587, 581, 585, 589, 591, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1006, 1009, 1010, 1089, 1095
4	Jidhafs Intermediate Boys School.	431, 433, 435, 439, 441, 447, 455, 457, 702, 704, 706, 708, 712, 714, 744
5	Saar Primary Boys School.	449, 453, 463, 465, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 505, 507, 509, 513, 515, 517, 525, 527, 529, 533
6	A'ali Primary Boys School.	730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740,742
7	Saar Secondary Girls School.	545, 547, 549, 551, 571, 575, 577, 579, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 1012, 1014, 1019, 1022
8	Hamad Town Primary Boys School.	1016, 1203, 1204, 1206
9	Ghazi Al Gosaibi Secondary Girls School	1205, 1207, 1209, 1210

10	Al Ahd Al Zaher Secondary Girls school.	1208, 1212, 1214, 1218
11	Ibn Tufail Primary Boys School.	1046, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1216
12	Al Malikiyah Intermediate Girls School.	1017, 1018, 1020, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1037, 1038, 1041, 1042, 1044

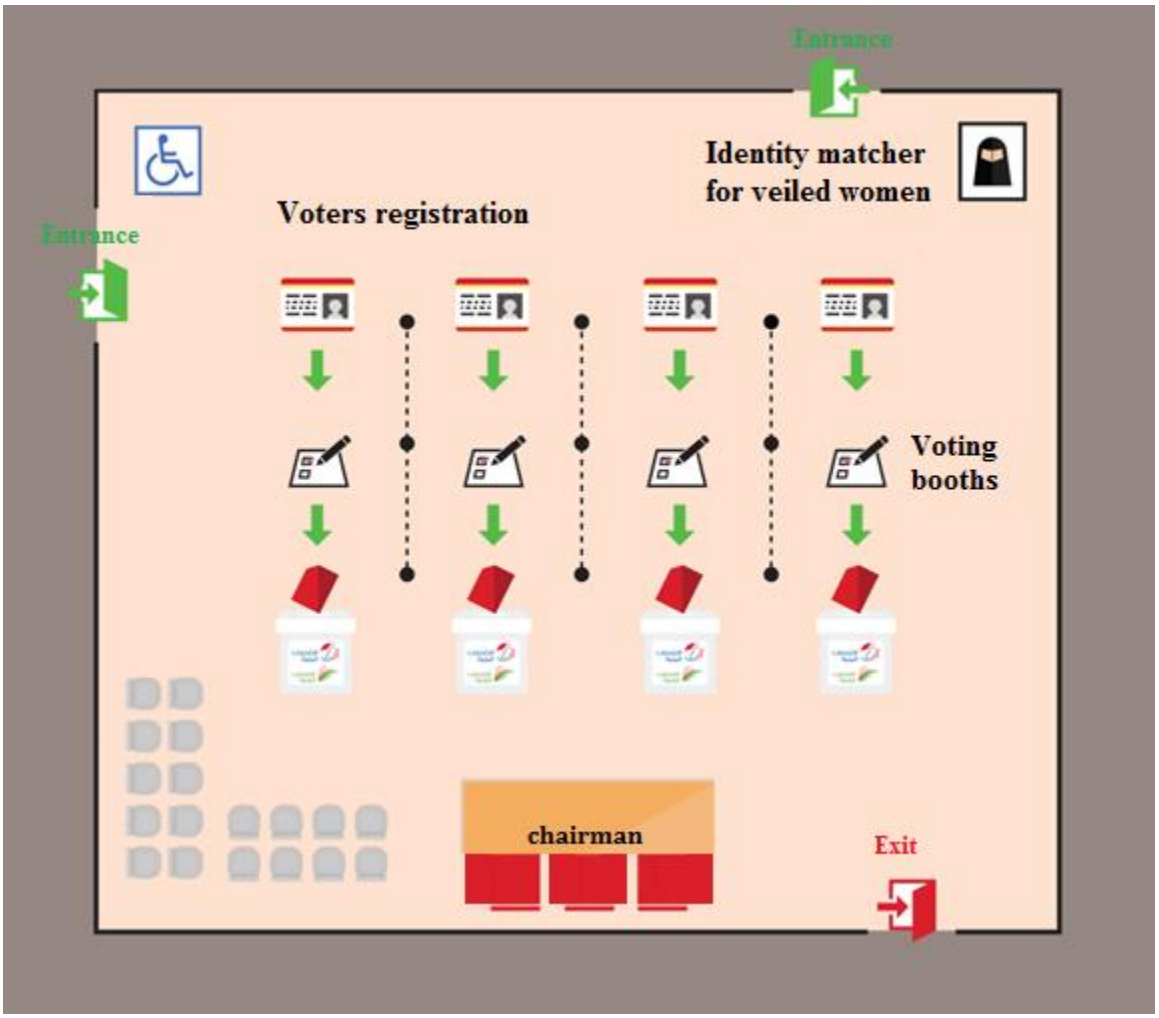
The Southern Governorate		
Constituency	**Headquarters of the Committee**	**Its affiliate blocks**
1	Isa Town Primary Boys School.	718, 720, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 810
2	Isa Town Secondary Girls School.	809, 812, 813, 814, 840, 841
3	Al Imam Malik Bin Anas Primary Boys School.	922, 933, 934, 935, 937, 941
4	East Riffa Intermediate Girls School.	643, 645, 646, 929, 931, 939
5	East Riffa Secondary Boys School.	901, 903, 905, 910, 925, 927
6	Uqba Ibn Nafi Primary Boys School.	913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 921, 923
7	West Riffa Secondary Girls School.	746, 748, 902, 904, 906, 908, 912, 920, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932
8	East Riffa Primary Girls School.	613, 614, 615, 616, 635, 636, 907, 909, 911, 942, 943, 945, 946, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 957, 958, 959, 960, 965, 981, 982, 983, 985
9	Al Zallaq primary Girls School.	944, 947, 976, 986, 1048, 1051, 1052, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064,

		1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1099
10	Durrat Al Bahrain.	961, 967, 971, 973, 987, 988, 989, 995, 997, 998, 999, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1106, 1107, 1110, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113

General Committees:

First Committee:	Seef mall.
Second Committee:	Religious Institute.
Third Committee:	Sitra mall.
Fourth Committee:	Al Hidd Intermediate Girls School.
Fifth Committee:	Bahrain International Airport.
Sixth Committee:	King Fahd Causeway.
Seventh Committee:	Hamad Town Secondary Boys School.
Eighth Committee:	Ministry of Education Hall.
Ninth Committee:	Wadi Al Sail Primary - Intermediate Boys School.
Tenth Committee:	Awali Club.
Eleventh Committee:	Bahrain International Circuit (Sakhir).
Twelfth Committee:	Askar Primary - Intermediate Boys School.
Thirteenth Committee:	University of Bahrain.
Fourteenth Committee:	Al Muharraq Sports Club

III. How to cast your vote:



1. The voter must, at the time of casting his/ her vote, bring his/her passport or any official certified document (the statement to be issued by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs if the passport is not available) and his/her identity card.
2. The Polling Station should have one or two entrances – depending on the station – through which entry order should be preserved by using the specified doors to enter.
3. The voters queue by the entrance, then they head to the Data Entry Officers in lines. One line will be allocated for women which will be looked after by one of the ladies organizers. Another line will also be allocated for voters with special needs and seniors.

There will be a female identity matcher for veiled women and an assistant to help people with special needs.

4. The Data Entry Officers will check the identities of the voters and that their names are listed in the voters' list. The officers will hand the voter the ballot papers and guide him/her to the voting booths.
5. The voter shall vote in complete privacy in the voting booths, on the ballot paper and mark (√) in the circle near the candidate's picture on the parliamentary and municipal ballot papers.
6. Voters who cannot write or read; or with special needs who cannot cast their votes by themselves on the ballot paper, should vote verbally, and the Committee chairman will mark the voter's choice in the presence of one of the committee members on the ballot paper which will be then inserted in the ballot box.
7. After the voter casts his/her vote on the ballot paper, the organizer will guide him/her to the ballot boxes. An observer will be present at the ballot boxes, to ensure that every voter inserts the appropriate ballot paper in its designated ballot box, in the following manner:
   - Parliamentary ballot papers in the red-covered boxes.
   - Municipal ballot papers in the green-covered boxes.
8. The organizer will guide the voters to the exit and ensure that they pass through the security system before leaving through the exit door.

IV. Cases of invalidation of the electoral vote:

The vote is invalid in the following cases:

1. If the vote cast in the ballot paper was conditional.
2. Choosing more than the required candidates, taking into consideration that only one candidate should be chosen in each electoral constituency.
3. Not choosing any of the candidates.
4. If the voter marks his/her choice on a paper other than the provided ballot paper.

5. If the voter writes his/her name on the ballot paper, or marks anything that would disclose his/her identity.

V. Voting abroad:

Every citizen who is registered in the voters lists and is present abroad, may cast his/her vote in the embassies, consulates or diplomatic missions of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Order on procedures for the election of members of the Council of Representatives for voters abroad, can be reviewed through the Elections Website www.vote.bh

Locations of the embassies, consulates or diplomatic missions of the Kingdom of Bahrain may be reviewed through the Elections Website www.vote.bh

VI. Counting Votes and Announcing the Result:

Counting Votes:

1. After the end of the voting process, the Ballot and Counting Committee starts the counting process in the same polling station.
2. Every candidate or his/her agent is allowed to observe the counting process.
3. The Committee starts counting votes and calculating votes received by every candidate.
4. When counting, the committee will consider the cases of which the vote is invalid.
5. It should be noted that the chairman of the Ballot and Counting Committee cannot know the winning candidate, hence cannot announce the winner, as this matter relates to the collection of votes in each of the sub-committees, the general committees and the committees abroad, the matter which is restricted to the Elections Supervisory Committee.

Announcing the Results:

1. The candidate shall get the outright majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast in the election; if this majority is not achieved by any of the candidates in the constituency, then a re-election will be held between the two which have gained the highest number of votes.

2. The Election Supervisory Committee in each governorate reviews the minutes of the Ballot and Counting Committee and the ballot papers received from the various sub-committees, general committees and the committees abroad; and calculates the counting results. Then, the Committee chairman announces the results of the elections of all the electoral constituencies belonging to his/her area, and the number of votes received by each candidate.
3. The Supreme Committee for General Supervision of the Soundness of Elections shall undertake the final declaration of the final result of the election of the Council of Representatives.

VII. Supervising the Ballot and Counting Stations:

It is the duty of the chairman of the ballot and counting committee to maintain order in the polling stations, and to this effect he/she may be assisted by the public security forces if necessary.

The chairmen of the committees set forth in the law have the authority delegated to the law enforcement officers with regard to the crimes committed or attempted to be committed in the headquarters of these committees

VIII. Voters' Rights and Duties:

Voters' Rights:

1. The right to object to voters' lists.
2. The right to nominate for membership of the Council of Representatives and the Municipal Councils if the conditions required by law are met.
3. The right to cast his/her vote and to elect candidates in complete secrecy and freedom.
4. The right to refrain from disclosing the information concerning his/her right to vote for any party, it is not permitted to ask him/her about the candidate he/she wishes to elect.
5. Not to be subjected to an improper electoral campaign, in terms of type, time or place.
6. Not to influence his/her choices by tangible and intangible gifts.

7. The right to receive assistance from the chairman of the ballot and counting committee if he/she cannot vote by himself/herself.

Voters' Duties:

1. To ensure that he/she cast his/her vote, and must urge other voters to participate in the elections, as the right to vote is a constitutional right, and a national duty required by the public interest.
2. To ensure that he/she chooses his/her representative objectively and wisely, away from personal whims and desires, and that he/she chooses the best candidates to represent the citizens in the Council of Representatives and Municipal Councils that are able to exercise their legislative and municipal powers efficiently and effectively.
3. To reach the polling station within the time specified on the election day.
4. To bring his/her passport or any authorized official document (the statement to be issued by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs if the passport is not available) and his/her identity card when he/she is going to vote.
5. To refrain from performing acts that disturb the conduct of the electoral process, hinder others from casting their votes, or that are contrary to the electoral laws.
6. To refrain from campaigning for any candidate within the polling station.
7. To refrain from using anything that might influence the vote of other voters.
8. To deal with the employees polling station with due respect, and to execute their instructions.
9. To leave the polling station after casting his/her vote, unless he/she is a candidate or an agent to one of the candidates.

IX. Electoral Crimes

A person is sentenced to imprisonment for a period not more than 2 years and fined not more than 2000 Bahraini Dinars or to one of these two penalties 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' lists or intended by any means to add a name to the lists or delete it in breach of the law.
2. Forged, falsified, disfigured, hid, destroyed or stole a voters' list, a nomination form, a ballot paper or any document related to the election process with the intention to change the results.
3. Has voted in the election knowing that he/she is not eligible to vote, or that he/she does not meet the requirements to vote, after the lists were finalized.
4. Disrupted the freedom of election or its procedures by using force or threat or disturbance or take part in demonstrations or gathering.
5. Used his/her right to vote more than once on the day of election or impersonated someone else.
6. Insulted any of the committees mentioned in the law or any of its members while they were carrying out their duties.
7. Published or broadcast false statements about the conduct of a candidate or his/her morals intending to influence the outcome of the election.

Contents

Introduction……..…..1

Prior to the Electoral Process……2

I. Requirements for the Election of the Council of Representative Members……..……2

II. Requirements for the Election of Municipal Council Members……..……2

III. Voters' lists……..……...3

IV. Display of Voters' lists. ……..……...4

V. Ensuring that the name is listed in the voters' lists. ……..……4

VI. Objection on Voters' lists. ……..……...4

The Electoral process……..……...6

I. Time of election……..……6

II. Place of election……..……6

Sub-committees……..……6

General Committees……10

III. How to cast your vote……...11

IV. Cases of invalidation of the electoral vote……...12

V. Voting abroad……13

VI. Counting Votes and Announcing the Result……13

Counting Votes……..13

Announcing the Results……13

VII. Supervising the Ballot and Counting Stations……14

VIII. Voters' Rights and Duties……..14

Voters' Rights……...14

Voters' Duties……...15

IX. Electoral Crimes……...15

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Done by

The Legal Committee For

Elections 2018

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