Law on the Election of the House of Representatives

Law N^o. (6) of 2016 [1]

Article 1 – This Law shall be called the "Law on the Election of the Chamber of Deputies of 2016" and shall enter into effect as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 2 – The following words and expressions, wherever they appear in this Law, shall have the meanings ascribed to them hereunder, unless the context indicates otherwise:

The Commission: The Independent Election Commission (IEC).

The Board: The Board of Commissioners of the Commission.

The Chairman: The Chairman of the Board.

The Department: Civil Status and Passports Department (CSPD).

Voter: A Jordanian national who has the right to elect members of the Chamber of Deputies in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Candidate: A voter whose application for candidature in a parliamentary election has been accepted in accordance with the Constitution and the provisions of this Law.

Actual voter: A voter who exercises his/her right to vote in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Deputy: A candidate who has won membership to the Chamber of Deputies in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and this Law.

Electoral district: A part of the Kingdom for which a number of seats in the Chamber of Deputies has been designated in accordance with this law and the by-law issued thereunder.

Election committee: A committee formed in each electoral district by a decision of the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Head of elections: The head of an election committee.

Polling and counting center: The location designated by the Commission within an electoral district for conducting the polling and counting processes.

Voter card: A card authorized by the Commission for each voter so that he/she may exercise his/her right to vote, regardless of whether it is the ID card issued by the Department or a card with special specifications.

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Resident: A Jordanian national whose usual place of residence is located within a certain district; such person shall not be deemed to have forfeited such residence merely by being absent, should he/she ever wish to return at any time, even if he/she has a residence outside the Kingdom.

List delegate: The person delegated in writing by all candidates in the list for the purposes of this Law.

Executive instructions: The executive instructions issued by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Law and of the Commission's Law.

Article 3

A. Any Jordanian national who became 18 calendar years of age ninety days prior to the date established for the elections shall have the right to elect members to the Chamber of Deputies in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

B. Members of the armed forces/the Arab army, General Intelligence Service, the Public Security Department, Gendarmeries and the Civil Defense shall have their right to vote suspended while they are on active service except contractors.

C. The right to vote shall be denied to:

(i) Any person who has been declared bankrupt and has not been legally rehabilitated;

(ii) Persons deemed insane, retarded or persons placed under guardianship by court's order.

D. The Department shall not include in the voter lists the names of persons whose right to vote has been suspended or denied in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Article.

Article 4

A. Once the King has issued a Decree on the conducting the elections for the Chamber of Deputies in accordance with the Constitution:

1. The Board shall, within ten days of the issuance of the Royal Decree, take decision designating a date on which polling is to be held, and the decision shall be published in the Official Gazette.

2. The Board may designate a date for polling in some electoral districts other than the date designated in the provisions of paragraph (A) of this article, if the integrity of the elections or public interest requires so.

B. Once the Board has set the date for polling, the Commission shall immediately request the Department to develop preliminary lists of the names of all persons who have the right to

vote based on each voter's place of residence in the Department's records in accordance with the electoral districts designated under this Law and the by-law issued thereunder.

.C From the date of entry into force of this Law and at the beginning of January and July each year, or at any other date set by the Board, the courts shall provide the Department with all definitive judgments regarding guardianship under court's decision and bankruptcy cases, including full names and national numbers of persons against whom such rulings have been issued.

.D The Department shall delete the names of deceased persons from the voter lists.

.E The Department shall notify the Commission, within seven days as of the date of the Commission's request as specified in paragraph (B) of this Article, that the development of the preliminary lists has been completed.

.F One day following the commission's receipt of the preliminary lists from the Department in accordance with paragraph (E) of this Article, the Commission shall publish the preliminary lists on its website and by any other means deemed appropriate; the Commission shall also provide each head of elections with the preliminary voter lists for his/her district. All heads of elections shall display the lists for seven days in the place identified in the executive instructions and shall announce the name of that place in two local daily newspapers.

.G Within fourteen days as of the day following the date of publication of the preliminary voter lists in accordance with paragraph (F) of this Article:

(i) Any person who belongs to an electoral district but does not reside therein may submit a written request to the Department to register his/her name in the preliminary list of that district;

(ii) Where there is more than one electoral district in a governorate and where a seat is reserved for Circassians and Chechens or for Christians in one or more districts in that governorate, any Circassian, Chechen or Christian voter residing in a district where there is no such seat may request in writing to register in the preliminary list of any district within the same governorate where such a seat is reserved;

(iii) Where no seat is reserved for Circassians, Chechens or Christians in a governorate in which a Circassian, Chechen or Christian voter is residing, that voter may request the Department in writing to register his/her name in the preliminary list of a district in another governorate where such a seat is reserved;

(iv) any voter who finds an error in his/her data in the preliminary lists, or who has changed his/her place of residence, may submit a written request to the Department to correct the mistake or observe the change.

.H 1. The Department shall decide on any requests submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (g) of this Article within fourteen days as of the date of

submission; if the request is accepted, the Department shall amend the preliminary voter lists.

.2 Where the request referred to in item (1) of this paragraph is rejected, it may be appealed to the court of first instance under whose jurisdiction the district is located within a period of no more than seven days as of the day following the date on which such decision was issued. The court shall reach a decision on such cases within seven days as of the date on which the appeal was received by the court registry.

.3 The court's decision taken in accordance with provisions of item (2) of this paragraph shall be final and the court shall send copies of all decisions to the Department within three days as of the date of their issuance, and the Department shall take the necessary action to correct the preliminary lists accordingly within seven days as of the date on which such decisions were received and in accordance with the executive instructions.

.I 1. Any voter whose name is in the preliminary voter lists may lodge an objection to the Commission concerning the registration of other persons in the preliminary voter lists in his/her electoral district within seven days maximum as of the day following the date on which the lists are put on display by the heads of elections. The voter shall attach the necessary documents in support of his/her objection.

.2 The Commission shall reach a decision on objections submitted in accordance with item (1) of this paragraph within seven days as of the receipt of such objections and shall prepare a special list of decisions reached on such objections, regardless of whether they are accepted or rejected. Such lists shall be displayed for seven days by the heads of elections.

.3 The decisions of the Commission taken in accordance with item (2) of this paragraph may be appealed at the court of first instance under whose jurisdiction the relevant district is located within seven days as of the day following the date on which such decisions were put on display.

.4 Courts of first instance shall decide on the objections submitted to them in accordance with this paragraph within seven days as of the date of their receipt by the court registry and their decision shall be final. The court shall provide the Commission with copies of such decisions within three days as of their date of issuance. The Commission shall immediately send copies of such decisions to the Department in order that it take the necessary procedures to correct the preliminary lists within seven days as of the date on which such decisions were received.

.J The executive instructions shall identify any conditions, procedures or supporting documents required to implement the provisions of paragraphs (G), (H) and (I) of this Article.

K. If the Commission decides to adopt voter cards other than ID cards, the procedures for the issuance of such cards, delivery to voters and use during voting shall be set out in the executive instructions.

Article 5 – Following the completion of any procedures and dates stipulated in Article 4 of this Law and of any corrections required on the basis of decisions issued, the Department shall send the voter lists to the Commission for approval within three days as of the day following the date on which such lists were received; the Board may extend this by a justified decision for the same period.

Article 6

A. Once the Board adopts the voter lists sent from the Department in accordance with Article 5 of this law, such lists shall be deemed to be final voter lists and shall not be amended under any circumstances and the parliamentary elections shall be conducted on the basis of those lists.

B. The Commission shall publish the final voter lists on its website and through any other means specified in the executive instructions and shall provide every head of elections with the final voter lists for his/her district.

Article 7

A. For the purposes of any general parliamentary elections after this Law comes into force, the following shall be taken into consideration:

(i) The final lists for the previous parliamentary elections conducted before the enforcement of this law shall be considered preliminary lists for any parliamentary elections that follow them. The Board may issue any executive instructions deemed necessary to implement the provisions of paragraphs (c), (d), (g), (h) and (i) of Article 4 with regard to such lists;

(ii) The Commission shall update the voter lists annually through any measures it deems appropriate in coordination with the Department and in line with the provisions of this Law and the executive instructions issued thereunder.

B. The final voter lists for general elections shall be adopted for any by-elections conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 8

A. The Kingdom shall be divided into a number of electoral districts, to which one hundred fifteen seats shall be allocated in accordance with bylaw issued for this purpose provided that it includes the following:

Governorate	N°. of electoral districts
1- Amman	Five districts
2-Irbid	Four districts
3-Balqa	One district
4-Karak	One district
5- Ma'an	One district
6-Zarqa	Two districts
7-Mafraq	One district
8-Tafileh	One district
9-Madaba	One district
10- Jerash	One district
11- Ajloun	One district
12- Aqaba	One district
13- North Badia	One district
14- Central Badia	One district
15- South Badia	One district

B. In addition to the parliamentary seats stipulated in paragraph (A) of this Article, fifteen seats shall be reserved for women, where one seat shall be reserved for each governorate.

C. For the purpose of this Law, each of the three Badia districts (North, Center and South) shall be treated as a governorate.

Article 9

A. Candidates for the parliamentary seats allocated to each electoral district shall be nominated through a proportional open list system.

B. Without prejudice to the provisions of item (ii) of paragraph (D) of this Article, the number of candidates in each list shall be no less than three and no more than the number of seats allocated to the electoral district.

C. The voter shall first vote for only one of the nominated lists, and then he/she shall vote for one or more of the candidates in that list.

(i) Candidates for seats reserved for Circassians, Chechens or Christians shall stand for election within lists in the districts where such seats are reserved for them.

(ii) Women candidates for seats reserved for women shall stand for election within lists. The woman candidate under the provisions of this item shall not be considered within the maximum number of candidates in the list.

Article 10 – Every candidate for membership of the Chamber of Deputies shall meet the following criteria:

A. He/she has been a Jordanian national for at least ten years; ~~He/she does not hold the nationality of any other country~~;[2]

B. He/she is thirty calendar years of age on the polling day;

C. He/she has not been sentenced for bankruptcy, where his/her legal status has not been rehabilitated;

D. He/she has not been placed under guardianship by court's order, where such guardianship has not been lifted;

E. He/she has not been sentenced to imprisonment for more than one year for a non-political crime for which he/she has not been pardoned;

F. He/she is not deemed insane or retarded;

G. He/she is not a relative of the King to the degree assigned by special legislation;

H. He/she is not a contractor for the government, an official public institution or a company owned or controlled by the government, or for any official public institution, regardless of whether such contracting is direct or indirect, with the exception of land and property leasing contracts and of shareholders in a company with more than ten members.

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[2] Constitutional Amendment – 4 May 2016

Article 11

A. The following persons shall not nominate themselves for membership of the Chamber of Deputies unless they have submitted their resignation at least sixty days before the date set for voting:

(i) Ministers and employees of ministries, government departments, and public and official institutions and commissions;

(ii) Employees of Arab, regional and international organizations;

(iii) The Mayor of Amman, members of Amman Municipal Council, and municipal employees of that Council;

(iv) Chairs, members and employees of governorate, municipal and local councils.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Article, the aforementioned persons, with the exception of ministers, must submit their resignation fifteen days before the deadline set for candidate nominations in order to stand for any by-elections conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 12

A. Any person willing to nominate himself/herself for membership of the Chamber of Deputies shall be registered in a final voter list and shall pay a non-refundable amount of five hundred dinars as revenue to the Treasury;

B. The list shall pay two thousand dinars as insurance to ensure compliance with the provisions on campaigning as stipulated in this Law. This amount shall be refunded if the application is rejected or if these provisions are not violated.

Article 13 – A person shall nominate himself/herself for membership of the Chamber of Deputies in one electoral district and one list only.

Article 14 – Candidate nomination for membership of the Chamber of Deputies shall open on the date set by the Board provided that such date must precede the polling date by at least twenty five days and shall last for three official working days. Candidate nominations submitted after the end of such period shall not be accepted.

Article 15

A. Applications for candidacy shall, in every district, be submitted in one batch, using the form approved by the Board, to the head of elections in the presence of all candidates on the list. That batch shall include the name of the list to which such candidates are nominated, the names of its members, its emblem and the name of the list delegate; candidates shall attach supporting documents and other data required in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the executive instructions issued thereunder. The candidates shall be given a receipt.

B. The name and emblem of list may be used in any other electoral district based on prior agreement between the lists submitted to the Commission.

C. During the electoral process, the list indicated in the application form submitted in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be referred to by its name and emblem.

D. The head of elections shall refer the candidate applications and the attached supporting documents and data to the Board on a daily basis by the means indicated in the executive instructions.

E. (i) The Board shall issue decisions to accept or reject an application as a whole, or one or more of the applicants on a list included in such application, or the name or emblem of such list within seven days as of the day following the date on which such application was received. Where the Board decides to reject an application for any reason, it shall give its reasons for doing so, and the Chairman or his/her delegate shall inform the applicant of the decision in the manner indicated in the executive instructions.

(ii) The list delegate or any of the applicants in such list may appeal the decision before the court of appeals under whose jurisdiction the relevant electoral district is located within three days as of the day following the date of notification. The delegate or applicant shall support his/her appeal by providing clear and definite evidence. The court shall reach a decision on the appeal within three days as of the day following the date on which the appeal was submitted. The court's decision on such appeals shall be final. The Chairman shall be notified of such decisions as soon as they are issued.

Article 16

A. The Commission shall keep a separate record for each electoral district of all candidate applications accepted by the Board or accepted following a ruling issued by the court of appeal, to be organized according to the date and time at which such applications were submitted. The Commission shall develop a list of the names of lists and candidates for each electoral district based on those records.

B. The Chairman shall take the steps required to display on the Commission's website, in the building of the governorate, in two local daily newspapers and by any other means deemed appropriate the names of lists and candidates for each district whose applications have been accepted.

(i) A voter may object the decision of the Board to accept the application submitted for any list in that voter's electoral district or to accept any candidate on such list at the competent court of appeal.

(ii) Any objection made in accordance with item (i) of this paragraph shall be submitted within three days as of the day following the date on which the lists and candidates

provided for in paragraph (B) of this Article are put on display. The objection shall be supported with clear and definite evidence. The court shall reach a decision on the objection within three days as of the day following the date on which such objection was submitted. The court's decision shall be final, and the Chairman shall be notified of such decision as soon as it is issued.

C. The Board shall take the steps required to display any amendments introduced by decisions of the court of appeal, in accordance with the provisions of item (ii) of paragraph (C) of this Article, with regard to the lists and names of candidates as soon as it is notified of such decisions and by the same means used to display the lists and the names of candidates as provided for in paragraph (b) of this Article. Such lists and names shall be deemed to be the final candidates for the parliamentary elections.

Article 17

A. Any candidate in an electoral district may withdraw his/her candidate nomination by submitting a written request to the head of election of the relevant district.

B. All requests for withdrawal made in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) shall be submitted ten days before the designated voting day.

C. The Commission shall announce the withdrawal of any candidate within the relevant electoral district on its website, in two daily local newspapers and by any other means deemed appropriate by the Board.

D. If the number of candidates in the list is lower than the minimum number stipulated in paragraph (b) of Article 9 of this Law as a result of the withdrawal of candidacy or death of one or more candidates, the list shall be deemed to continue to meet the conditions stipulated in this Law.

Article 18 – If the number of candidates in any electoral district is found to be equal to the number of parliamentary seats allocated to that district or to the number of seats reserved for women, Circassians, Chechens or Christians, the Board shall declare those candidates to have won by acclamation upon the announcement of the final results.

Article 19 – Any requisition, objections and appeals submitted in accordance with the provisions of this Law and with the bylaw and executive instructions issued thereunder, including those that refute the constitutionality of laws and bylaws, as well as any decisions issued by the committee, commissions or courts, shall be exempted from fees and stamps, including lawyers' fees.

Article 20

A. Electoral campaigning shall be free in accordance with the provisions of this Law. It shall be permitted as of the date on which candidate nominations open in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 and shall end 24 hours before the designated polling day.

B. The rule and regulations on electoral campaigning, including rules on spending, shall be set out in the executive instructions.

Article 21

A. Official media outlets shall treat all candidates impartially and equally during electoral campaigning.

B. During electoral campaigning, all candidates must meet the following obligations:

(i) to uphold the provisions of the Constitution and the rule of law;

(ii) to respect the freedom of opinion and thought of other persons;

(iii) to protect national unity, security and stability of the country and to uphold the principle of non-discrimination among citizens;

(iv) to refrain from campaigning in ministries, governmental departments, official and public institutions, educational establishments and places of worship;

(v) to refrain from interfering in the electoral campaign of any other candidates, whether in person or through campaign aides or supporters.

Article 22

A. (1) Candidates may publish advertisements and statements containing their objectives, plans and programs, provided that such advertisements or statements explicitly bear the name of the candidate concerned. Such advertisements and statements are exempted from fees and licenses

(2) The official emblem of the State shall not be used in election meetings and advertisements or in any other type of writing, drawing or picture used for the purposes of election advertising. Furthermore, the use of loudspeakers fixed to any means of transportation is prohibited in electoral campaigns.

(3) The Council of the Greater Municipality of Amman, municipal and local councils and those acting as such, shall designate places for electoral campaigning. It is prohibited to fix or post electoral advertisements or statements, including pictures, drawings and writings, on power or telephone poles, traffic signs or other public property, or to post advertisements or electoral statements on walls, or to place such advertisements or statements in any manner that causes harm to public safety. The Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the Council of the Greater Municipality of Amman and local and municipal councils may at any time remove any item that violates the provisions of this paragraph at the expense of the relevant candidate and without warning.

(4) Speeches, statements, advertisements and other means of electoral campaigning shall not include, either directly or indirectly, insult to any other candidate or person, nor shall they incite religious, sectarian, tribal, regional or racist strife among citizens.

(5) Festivals and assemblies are prohibited at a distance of less than 200 meters from polling centers.

B. The Commission or any head of elections may request the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Council of the Greater Municipality of Amman, any other municipal or local council or any other body acting as such to remove any advertisement or electoral statement found in any place if it is deemed to violate the provisions of this Law.

Article 23 – Government employees, employees of official and public institutions, the Mayor of Amman, members and employees of the Council of the Greater Municipality of Amman, and the heads, members and employees of governorate, municipal and local councils are prohibited from engaging in electoral campaigning for the benefit of any candidate at their work place. It is also prohibited to use any means or assets owned by those institutions in the electoral campaign of any candidate.

Article 24 – Candidates are prohibited during their electoral campaigns from providing, or promising to provide, gifts, donations or financial or in-kind assistance, or any other benefits, to a natural or legal person, either directly or through other means. Furthermore, it is prohibited to solicit such gifts, donations or assistance, or the promise thereof, for oneself or for any other person from any candidate.

Article 25

A. An election committee shall be formed by decision of the Board for each electoral district, and the chair and members of the committee shall be appointed in the formation decision in order to perform the tasks stipulated in this Law and in the bylaw and executive instructions issued thereunder.

B. The head of elections and the members of the election committee shall take the following oath before the Chairman or any member of the Board before commencing their work:

"I swear by Almighty Allah to perform the tasks assigned to me with honesty, integrity and impartiality."

Article 26

A. The Commission shall issue a decision at least seven days before the polling day to indicate the polling centers for each district and the number of ballot boxes (polling stations)[3] in each center. Such decision shall be published on the Commission's website and in two local daily newspapers and in any other place that the Commission may deem appropriate.

B. The chair of the polling and counting committee shall announce the counting results of the ballot box (polling station) immediately after the counting process is completed.

[3] The Arabic term (Sandouk) refers to a ballot box as an item of equipment and a voting location. In the latter case it is translated as [ballot box (polling station)].

Article 27: Election shall be general, secret and direct.

Article 28

A. The voter shall vote in the polling center to which he/she is assigned within his/her electoral district.

B. The Commission shall take all the necessary measures and procedures to ensure that the election officials exercise their right to vote in accordance with executive instructions issued for this purpose.

Article 29

A. The Board shall set out the procedures for appointing the chairs and members of polling and counting committees in each electoral district. All such committee members shall be employees of the government or of public and official institutions, and they shall not have any kinship or affinity up to the second degree with any of the candidates in that district.

B. Before the chairs and members of each polling and counting committee commence work, they shall take the oath set out in paragraph b) of Article 25 before the relevant election committee.

C. If the chair of the polling and counting committee or any of its members is unable to perform his/her duties or is dismissed for any reason, the executive instructions shall identify the procedures for appointing a replacement.

Article 30 – Voting shall begin at seven o'clock in the morning of the designated day for that and shall end at seven o'clock in the evening of that day. The Board or its delegate may, if necessary, issue a decision to extend the polling time in any district for no more than two hours.

Article 31 – Any candidate or list delegate, or the person delegated by any of them in writing, may be present during the polling and counting process in the district and may observe the process; no such person, however, shall have more than one agent in every ballot box (polling station).

Article 32 – The chair of the polling and counting committee shall prevent any action in the polling and counting center deemed likely to affect the electoral process. He/she may also request any person who is committing such acts to leave the polling and counting center and may ask the security officers to escort such persons outside if they refuse to leave.

Article 33 – Voting shall be carried out on the form of ballot paper adopted by the Board. Each ballot paper shall be stamped with the stamp of the electoral district and signed by the chair of the polling and counting committee.

Article 34 – The ballot box shall be designed in accordance with the specifications approved by the Board.

Article 35 – The chair of the polling and counting committee shall, before voting opens, show to all persons present that the ballot box is empty. He/she shall then seal the box and fill in a form

of that, which shall be signed by the chair and by all members of the committee, as well as by any candidates, or their representatives, who are present and wish to sign.

Article 36 – Each ballot box (polling station) in the district shall have one or more screens supplied with pens, the relevant lists of candidates and their names in that district in accordance with Article 16 of this Law.

Article 37 – Every voter shall exercise his/her right to vote as follows:

A. When the voter appears before the polling and counting committee, the committee shall verify his/her identity and make sure that his/her name is registered in the final voter list for that district by checking the computer and the hard-copies of the list. The list shall be marked electronically and by hand to indicate that the voter has exercised his/her right to vote.

B. The chair of the polling and counting committee or one of its two members shall give the actual voter a ballot paper.

C. The actual voter shall:

(i) mark in the designated place the name, number or emblem of one of the lists standing for election in that electoral district;

(ii) mark in the designated place of one or more of the candidate names in that specific list.

E. The actual voter shall put the ballot paper in the designated ballot box, which must be visible to the committee and to all persons present.

F. The actual voter shall put his/her finger in the designated ink.

G. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of this Article, the Board may decide to conduct the polling and/or counting process electronically, for which the terms and conditions shall be set out in special executive instructions issued for that purpose.

Article 38 – The executive instructions shall specify the method of voting to be used by any voters who claim to be illiterate or unable to write in a way that would maintain the secrecy of his/her vote as stipulated in Article 67 of the Constitution.

Article 39 – The executive instructions shall identify the procedures to be used to enable persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote.

Article 40 – The polling and counting committee shall decide on any objections submitted by the list delegates, candidates or their representatives regarding the implementation of the polling rules in accordance with the provisions of this Law and with the executive instructions issued thereunder. The decisions of the committee shall be enforced with immediate effect, provided that they are written down in the form designated for such purposes.

Article 41 – Following the completion of the polling process, the polling and counting committee shall, for each box, fill in a form in two copies to be signed by the chair and members of the committee, and by any candidates, or their agents, who are present and wish to do so. The form shall include the following information:

(a) the name of the polling center;
(b) the number of the ballot box (polling station);
(c) the number of ballot papers received by the committee;
(d) the number of voters who exercised their right to vote;
(e) the number of ballot papers used in the voting and the number of the unused, cancelled or invalidated ballots, and the reasons for that.

Article 42 – The polling and counting committee shall open each box before the persons present and shall count the ballots found inside. The chair of the committee or any of its members shall read the ballot in a clear voice, show it clearly to the persons present and write down the votes obtained by each list and by each candidate in the lists on a visible board before the persons present.

Article 43

A. The ballot paper shall be considered invalid:
(i) if the paper is not stamped with the stamp of the electoral district or is not signed by the chair of the polling and counting committee;
(ii) if it contains words or additions that refer to the name of the actual voter;
(iii) if it is not possible to identify which of the candidates or lists have been marked;
(iv) if more than one list is indicated.

B. Notwithstanding Article 9 Paragraph (c) the ballot paper shall not be considered invalid:
(i) if a list is marked it without marking the names of any candidates in that list.
(ii) if the name of one or more candidates in the list is marked without marking the list's name.

C. The mark set out in the items (i) and (ii) of Paragraph (b) shall be counted as a vote to the list and to each candidate marked.

D. If it appears, after counting the votes, that the number of ballots stamped and signed by the chair of the polling and counting committee is more or less than the number of actual voters at that ballot box (polling station) by more than 3 percent, the chair of the committee shall immediately notify the head of elections, who shall in turn advise the Chairman so that the Board shall issue a decision on the matter in accordance with the executive instructions developed by the Commission.

Article 44 – The polling and counting committee shall decide on the objections submitted by candidates or their agents during the counting process; such decisions shall be enforced as soon as they are issued, provided that they are written down in a form designated for that purpose.

Article 45

A. After the end of the counting process, the polling and counting committee shall fill in a form, whose format is approved by the Board, in five copies; It shall be signed by the chair and the members of the committee and by any candidates, or their agents, who are present and wish to do so.

B. The form shall contain the following information:

(i) the name of the polling center;

(ii) the number of the ballot box;

(iii) the number of ballot papers received by the committee;

(iv) the number of actual voters at the box;

(v) the number of votes won by each list;

(vi) the names of candidates and the number of votes won by each candidate in each list;

(vii) the number of blank and invalid ballots and the reasons for invalidity;

(viii) the names of list delegates candidates' agents and observers.

C. The actual voter lists, all used and unused ballot papers, and all ballot papers deemed invalid or blank shall be attached to the form and packed in an envelope for immediate delivery to the head of elections.

Article 46

A. The winners of parliament seats shall be determined as follows:

(i) Each list shall be awarded seats in the district in proportion to the number of votes that it won out of the total number of actual voters in that district in relation to the number of seats allocated to the district.

(ii) The winners of the seats referred to in item (i) of this paragraph shall be determined on the basis of which candidates received the highest number of votes in each list; except the candidates stipulated in Article 9 (D/i) of this law.

(iii) The winners of the seats referred to in Article 9 (D/i) shall be determined on the basis of which candidates received the highest number of votes in the electoral district;

(iv) The Winner of the seat reserved to women in each governorate shall be determined based on the highest number of votes won by the woman candidate of the total number of actual voters in her district. If the governorate is divided into more than one district, the winner of the seat shall be determined on the basis of the highest proportional number of votes won by any woman candidate in her district compared to the districts in that governorate.

B. In the event that seats cannot be entirely filled with whole numbers in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a/i) of this Article, the largest remainder method shall be used to fill such seats.

C. If there is tie between two or more lists or candidates, the chair shall conduct a draw among such lists or candidates, the results of which shall be written down in a form to be signed by the chair and by the candidates, or their agents if any.

Article 47 – The Election Committee shall:

A. Compile the votes won by each list;

B. Compile the votes won by each candidate of each list;

C. Fill in a form in five copies that records the results and send one copy to the Commission, together with copies of all decisions made by the committee and other documents related to the election process in the district in question.

Article 48

A. The Board shall form one or more special committees to verify the preliminary election results of each electoral district, announce the names of the winners of the parliamentary seats in each district and submit them to the Chairman to present them to the Board.

B. The chair of the special committee shall announce before all persons present the names of the women winners of the seats reserved for women. This shall be an announcement of the preliminary results for these seats.

C. The Special Committee shall fill in a form of all procedures it has taken and the preliminary results it reached in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article and shall submit the form to the Chairman to present them to the Board.

Article 49 – If the Board finds any problem in the polling or counting processes in a polling center that could affect any of the preliminary results of the electoral district, it may, where appropriate, cancel the election results in that center and re-conduct the polling and counting processes in that center at the time and in the manner that it deems appropriate.

Article 50

A. Once the Board decides to approve the preliminary results of the elections in the electoral districts, the results shall be deemed to be final in those districts.

B. Once the Board decides to approve the preliminary results of the elections for seats reserved for women, the results shall be deemed to be final for women reserved seats throughout the Kingdom.

Article 51

(a The Board shall announce the final election results, which shall be published in the Official Gazette.

(b The Chairman shall issue an election certificate to each winner in the elections.

Article 52 – The Commission shall keep the ballot boxes, the various types of forms of the election committees and the ballot papers for one year after the announcement of the final results.

Article 53 – The validity of any member in the Chamber of Deputies may be challenged in accordance with the provisions of Article 71 of the Constitution.

Article 54– Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 53 of this Law:

A. If a seat in the Chamber of Deputies becomes vacant for any reason, the vacant seat shall be filled by a candidate from the same list as the winner of the vacant seat shall replace the winner, based on the number of votes obtained by each candidate in that list. If this cannot be achieved, the vacant seat shall be filled by a candidate from the next highest list, based on the percentage of votes obtained.

B. If a seat reserved for women in the Chamber of Deputies becomes vacant for any reason, it shall be filled by the woman candidate that obtained the next highest proportion of votes in accordance with Article (46/a/4) of this law.

C. If Circassians and Chechens or Christians reserved seat in the Chamber of Deputies becomes vacant for any reason, it shall be filled by the candidate following the winner of the vacant seat directly with the highest number of votes obtained in his/her districts.

D. If it is not possible to fill the vacant seat in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this Article, it shall be filled through by-elections to be held in the district of the member who vacated that seat without being governed by the minimum number stipulated in Article 9 (b) of this law and within no more than sixty days as of the date on which the Chamber of Deputies notifies the government or the Commission of the vacancy of the seat.

E. Members of the Chamber of Deputies referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of this Article shall fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the period for which the absent member was due to hold that seat.

Article 55

A. Unauthorized persons are prohibited from entering polling centers under the provisions of this Law; the chair of the polling and counting committee may immediately evict any person who violates this provision from the center.

B. If the offender refuses to leave the polling center, he/she shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one month and not more than six months or to a fine of not less than one hundred dinar and not more than three hundred dinar, or to both penalties.

Article 56 – Any person who commits any of the following acts shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than three months and not more than one year or to a fine of not less than two hundred dinar and not more than five hundred dinar, or to both penalties:

carrying a firearm, even if it is licensed, or any instrument that jeopardizes public safety and security at any polling center on the election day; (a)

falsely alleging to be illiterate or unable to write; (b)

committing any of the acts prohibited under Article (21/A), Article 22 or Article 23 of this Law. (c)

Article 57 – Any person who commits any of the following acts shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than six months and not more than three years or to a fine of not less than five hundred dinar and not more than one thousand dinar, or to both penalties:

retaining, seizing, hiding or spoiling the voter card of another person without the right to do so; (a)

impersonating another person with the intention to vote in an election; (b)

exercising one's right to vote more than once; (c)

affecting the freedom of the election process or hindering the election process in any way; (d)

tampering with, stealing or destroying any ballot box, voter list or ballot paper, or preventing a ballot paper from being inserted in a ballot box, or committing any act with the intention of affecting the integrity and secrecy of the election process; (e)

entering the polling center with the intent to influence the will of voters, buy votes, influence or delay the election process, or to harm any of the election officials. (f)

Article 58 – Any committee member appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Law or the Independent Election Commission Law so as to develop, organize or revise the voter lists, conduct the polling or sorting processes or counting of the votes, or any employee tasked with performing or supervising any of those processes in accordance with the provisions of this Law, who commits any of the following acts shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one year and not more than three years or to a fine of no less than five hundred dinar and no more than three thousand dinar or both these penalties:

deliberately inserting the name of any person who does not have the right to vote in accordance with the provisions of this Law into any voter list, or deliberately deleting or refraining from inserting the name of any person who has the right to register as a voter in such lists in accordance with the provisions of this Law; (a)

inserting false information in a candidate nomination application or announcement about such application, including with regard to any of the data provided therein or the date of its submission, or in any form produced in accordance with the provisions of this Law, or in any objection submitted with regard to voter lists, or in any other document produced in accordance with the provisions of this Law; (b)

(c) seizing, hiding, forging, damaging, tearing or defacing any documents pertaining to the election without the right to do so;

(d) delaying without legal grounds the start of the polling process, stopping such process without justification before the time established in accordance with the provisions of this Law, or slowing down any procedure in order to hinder or delay the process;

(e) not opening the ballot box in the presence of the candidates or their representatives before the beginning of the polling process in order to make sure that the box is empty;

(f) reading a ballot paper in a way that contradicts or falsely reflects its contents;

(g) refraining from implementing any provision of this Law pertaining to the processes and procedures related to the polling or counting of votes, or violating any provision of this Law with the intention of influencing any results of the elections determined in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 59

A. Any person who commits any of the following acts shall be sentenced to hard labor for not less than three years and not more than seven years:

(i) giving, lending, offering or promising to give, either directly or indirectly, a voter an amount of money, benefits or other rewards for the purpose of making that voter vote in a certain manner, abstain from voting or influence other persons to vote or refrain from voting;

(ii) accepting or requesting, either directly or indirectly, an amount of money, loans, benefits or other rewards for oneself or for another person for the purpose of voting in a certain manner, refraining from voting or influencing others to vote or refrain from voting.

B. (i) Any person who commits any of the acts stipulated in item (ii) of paragraph (a) shall be pardoned from the penalty stipulated in paragraph (a) of this Article if he/she discloses such act or confesses to having committed such act to the competent authority before the case is referred to the court.

(ii) Any person who presents malicious information with the intent to harm or entrap a candidate shall be sentenced the penalty stipulated in paragraph (a) of this Article.

Article 60 – Any person who seizes or attempts to seize a ballot box either before or after the ballot papers therein have been counted shall be sentenced to temporary hard labor for not less than five years and not more than ten years or to a fine of not less than one thousand dinar and not more than five thousand dinar.

Article 61 – Any person who violates the provisions of this Law for which no penalty has been specified shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one month and not more than six months or to a fine of not less than one hundred dinar and not more than three hundred dinar, or to both penalties.

Article 62

A. Nothing in this Law shall prevent the application of any stricter penalty stipulated in any other law.

B. Any person who is an accomplice or accessory to, or who instigates anyone to commit the crimes specified in this Law shall be sentenced the same penalty stipulated for the perpetrator.

Article 63 – The statute of limitations for all election crimes specified in this Law shall expire three years after the date on which the final results of the relevant election were announced.

Article 64 – For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Law, the Chairman and members of the Board, the heads and members of election committees, the chairs of the polling and counting committees and any other committees established under the provisions of this Law, shall be deemed to be judicial police in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and shall hold, by virtue of this position, the power to seize the perpetrators of any crime committed in violation of the provisions of this Law.

Article 65 – This Law shall abrogate Law No. 25 of 2012 on the election of the Chamber of Deputies; the executive instructions issued thereunder shall, however, remain in effect until substituted in accordance with the provisions of this Law. The rules and procedures, based on which the members of the current Chamber of Deputies were elected, shall be deemed valid and legal when this law is enacted until the end of the term of that chamber for any reason.

Article 66

A. The Council of Ministers shall issue bylaws as necessary to implement the provisions of this Law.

B. The Board shall issue executive instructions and any other instructions as necessary to implement the provisions of this Law and the regulations issued thereunder.

Article 68 – The Prime Minister and the ministers are charged with implementing the provisions of this Law.

Approved by Parliament on 9 March 2016

Royal Decree Issued on 13 March 2016