

The Kingdom
of Bahrain's
Elections
“Questions
& Answers”

Darib

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Decree establishing the Institute

Decree No. (39) of 2005 AD (First Three Articles)

on establishing and organizing the

Bahrain Institute For Political Development – BIPD,

amended by Decree No. (41) of 2008 and Decree No. (81) of 2009.

We, Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, after reviewing:

- The Constitution

-The Municipalities Law promulgated by Decree-Law No. (35) of 2001;

-Decree-Law No. (3) of 2002 regarding the Municipal Council members' election regulation;

-Decree-Law No. (14) of 2002 regarding the exercise of political rights;

-Decree-Law No. (15) of 2002 on the Consultative Council and the Council of Representatives;

-Decree-Law No. (54) of 2002 on the internal regulations of the Council of Representatives;

-And Decree-Law No. (55) of 2002 on the internal regulations of the Consultative Council, based on the proposal of the Prime Minister;

Accordingly, we have decreed the following:-

Article-1-

A specialized institute for training called the "Bahrain Institute for Political Development" - BIPD shall be established under the Shura council, and referred to in this decree by "Institute".

Article-2-

Within the framework of constitutional and legal foundations and principles, the Institute aims to achieve the following purposes: -

1. The spread of the democratically culture, the support and the consolidation of the sound democratic principles..
2. Providing training programs, studies and research on the constitutional and legal areas to different groups of people, and in particular the following::
 - a) Members of the Consultative Council and the Council of Representatives after coordination with the two Councils.
 - b) Members of municipal councils after coordination with these councils.
 - c) Employees in state ministries, public and private bodies and institutions, and civil society institutions.
3. The political awareness among citizens shall be spread and developed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the principles of the National Action Charter.
4. Scientific research in the field of political systems and constitutional law shall be supported and developed.
5. The Representative experience shall be supported by explaining its mechanisms, and methods of work, and clarifying the regulatory and legislative role of the legislative authority.
6. The experience of municipal councils and their role in serving the country and the citizen shall be supported.
7. The principle of legality and the rule-of-law shall be established.
8. Programs related to human rights studies shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the principles of the National Action Charter.
9. Centers and associations based on the protection of human rights shall be supported.
- 10.The foundations, frameworks and principles of the modern reform project of the Kingdom of Bahrain shall be taught in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the principles of the National Action Charter.
- 11.The culture of dialogue and exchange of opinion shall be promoted and disseminated.
- 12.A qualified person to engage in political work shall be prepared.

Article-3-

The Institute carries out all the tasks and powers necessary to achieve its purposes and, in particular, the following:-

1. Identifying training programs, studies and research that tailor to different groups of people.
2. Training courses on democratic culture should be held for different groups of people.
3. Seminars and various meetings should be held for all groups of the people, in order to develop awareness of participation in political life in all its forms.
4. Documents, principles, research, constitutional information, etc. should be collected, published, and preserved, which may help spread the culture of democracy.

1

Who is entitled to vote?

Each individual meets the following conditions is entitled to vote, as follows:

1. He/she shall have reached the age of twenty full Gregorian years on the day of the election.
2. He/she shall be fully competent.
3. He/she shall be a regular resident of the electoral district in which he/she wants to elect, according to what is evident in the identity card. If the voter resides abroad, the last place of residence in the Kingdom of Bahrain will be considered his/her electoral district. However, if he/she does not have a place of residence in the Kingdom, it shall be considered, in this case, the place of residence of his/her family.
4. He/she shall not be convicted of a felony or convicted of a crime involving breach of honor or trust, unless getting the rehabilitation.
5. He/she shall not be sentenced to imprisonment for any of the electoral crimes stipulated in the law of exercise political rights No. 14 for the year 2002, unless the sentence is suspended or getting rehabilitation.

First: The voter

It is the lists that contain the names of everyone who has the right to vote and has registered himself in the voter register.

2

What are the voter lists?

How to check my name in the voter list?

3

The Election Integrity Supervision Committee in each electoral district displays the names of the voters belonging to it therein for seven days, in the headquarters and public places specified by the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, provided that this procedure takes place at least forty-five days before the date set for the election. In respect to the parliamentary elections, as for the Municipal elections, the Municipal Councils Election Committee displays the names of the voters at the headquarters of each of the municipalities affiliated to the municipal electoral areas and in other places determined by the municipal administration for seven days, provided that this procedure takes place before the date set for the elections of members of municipal councils for at least forty-five days.

“ “
A voter is not entitled to register in more than one electoral district.” ”

4
Is it permissible to register in the electoral lists in more than one electoral district?

5
Can the voter object to voter lists for Representative elections?

“ “
Anyone whose name is not included in the voter list, or if there is a mistake in the data related to his registration, has the right to request the Supervision Committee for the integrity of the elections to register his name or to correct the data related to his registration, name, or data. Each voter whose name has been included in one of the voters' lists may request the inclusion of the name of the one whose name was unjustly neglected, the deletion of the name of the one who was unjustly included, or the correction of the registration data, all of this about the list of the electoral district in which the applicant is registered.” ”

First: The voter

“

He has to file for registration in the list or request correction in its information in the proper form made for that specific request, within the voter list display period, which is seven days from the day of the display. The committee shall issue its decision on the application within three days from the date it was submitted to it. The lapse of this period without issuing a decision will be considered an implicit decision of refusal.

”

6

How Can I file my objection?

7

What are the consequences if my application is rejected?

“

The person concerned has the right to appeal against the rejection of the application, whether the rejection was explicit or implicit, before the Civil High Court of Appeal within a maximum period of three days from the date of its issuance, and the court shall decide on those appeals within seven days from the date of filing the case with a final verdict that is not subject to appeal.

”

What about voter lists for municipal councils?



Anyone whose name is not included in the voter list, or if there is a mistake in the data related to his/her registration, has the right to ask the Municipal Councils Election Committee to register the name or correct his/her data related. Furthermore, those who have been released from the impediments to enjoying the right to vote after issuing the voter list are entitled to apply for registration in the list by requesting the inclusion of their name or the correction of their data. The application for enrollment in the lists, or correcting the data contained therein shall also be submitted on the form prepared for this purpose, within the period of presentation of the lists, which is seven days from the date of presentation. The committee shall issue its decision on the application within three days from the date of application submission, and the lapse of this period without issuing the decision is considered an implicit decision of rejection in the implementation of the general rules established in this regard. Thus, the person concerned has the right to appeal against the rejection the application, whether the rejection was explicit or implicit, before the civil circuit of the Civil High Court of Appeal within a maximum period of three days from the date of its issuance, and the court shall decide on those appeals within seven days from the date of filing the case with a final Verdict that is not subject to appeal. The Election Supervisory Committee shall finally amend the voter lists in accordance with the final rulings, or decisions issued, and these lists will be considered final.



“

It is not permissible to make any amendment to the voter lists after the call for elections, except concerning a correction in the lists, in implementation of the decisions and rulings issued in the appeals related to registration therein, or based on declaration of the issuance of final rulings, or decisions that lead to the deprivation of the exercise of political rights.

”

9

Is an amendment for the election lists can be carried out after calling for elections?

Who can take a copy of the voters' names? When can he/she do it?

10

“

A candidate may only obtain one official copy of the voter list in the electoral district in which he is nominated, provided that it shall be after submitting the final lists of candidates. A non-candidate may not obtain a copy of the voters list.

”

11

Who is the responsible to set the date for the elections?

According to the law, the date for the general elections for the Council of Representatives is determined by Royal Decree, and the issuance of the Decree for holding the elections shall be issued at least forty-five days before the predetermined date for the election. The Decree or decision shall include the date of opening and closing the nomination period.

12

What is the specific time for voting?

The election process for the Representative and municipal council elections begins at eight in the morning and until eight in the evening.

13

What documents are required from the voter on voting day?

Every voter shall present to the electoral committee, upon the election, proof of his/her identity by a passport along with his identity card.

First: The voter

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Referendum and election shall be conducted in a direct, secret voting nationwide, and opinion in the referendum or the election shall be expressed on the card prepared for this purpose, and in the space provided for polling.

”

14

How do I vote in the elections?

15

Are there certain restrictions in the voting process?

“

A voter shall not express his/her opinion more than once in the same referendum or election.

”

“

It is not permissible to authorize others, and the citizen exercises his/her right to vote personally.

”

16

Is the vote can be concluded by proxy?

17

Are there certain acts that are considered as an electoral crime that is punishable by law?

Yes, there are acts, if committed by the candidate or the voter, will be punishable by imprisonment or, a fine, or both, while a prison sentence is not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding five hundred dinars, or one of these two sentences, shall be imposed on whoever commits one of the following acts:

- Giving a false statement, intentionally, in any document he/she submitted for a matter related to the voter's list, intentionally, by any other means, inserting a name in it, or deleting a name from it in violation of the provisions of the law.
- Forged, distorted, concealed, destroyed, or stole the voter list, nomination paper, ballot paper, or any other document related to referendum or election operations with the intent of changing the result.
- Voting in the referendum or election with knowing that he/she has no right to do so, or that he/she has lost the conditions required to use the right in them after the lists became final.
- Violating the freedom of referendum or elections or the system of their procedures by using force, threats, confusion, or by participating in gatherings or demonstrations.
- Using the right to hold a referendum or vote more than once on polling day or impersonated someone else.
- Insults any of the committees stipulated in this law or any of its members while carrying out its duties.
- Publish or spreading rumors and false statements about the subject of the referendum or the behavior or morals of a candidate to influence the outcome of the referendum or election.

First: The voter

18
where/ when the voters, those who are abroad the Kingdom at the time of the elections, can vote?

“ Elections for members of the council of Representatives take place abroad at the headquarters of embassies, consulates, and diplomatic missions. Voting starts from nine in the morning until seven in the evening, according to the local time of the city in which the embassy, consulate, or diplomatic mission is located. ”

“ An expired passport is valid as long as it is not revoked. If the passport is lost or renewed, any approved official document, such as an identity card or a car driver's license, is valid. ”

19
What can I do in case my passport expires while I am outside the country, and I want to vote in the elections?

20
Are people with special needs entitled to vote in elections?

“ Yes, blind people or others with special needs who cannot prove their opinions on the ballot paper have the right to express their opinion orally, and then it is placed in the box. ”

No one can represent anyone in the voting process. The voter must attend himself if he can. There are the necessary facilities and assistance are provided.

21

In the case of a sick person who cannot move, how may he/she vote?

22

What is mean "invalid electoral vote"?

It is the vote of a voter who made a specific mistake during the voting process through which his/her vote is invalidated and not counted for or against a specific candidate, or he/she expressed a specific opinion in the case of a referendum, for example.

23

What are the cases specified by law to invalidate a voter's vote?

The vote will be invalidated in the following cases:

- If the opinion expressed on the ballot paper is subject to a condition.
- Choose more than the number to be elected from among the candidates.
- Not selecting any of the candidates.
- If the voter proves his/her opinion on a paper other than the ballot paper prepared for that.
- The voter writes his/her name on the ballot paper, any other sign, or mark that indicates or denotes his person.

What are the requirements for running for representative council?

1. He/she must be a Bahraini, or at least ten years have passed since acquiring the Bahraini nationality, provided that the candidate is not holding the nationality of another country, except someone who holds the nationality of one of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, however, the Bahraini nationality must be the original. He/she must have all civil and political rights and is included in one of the voters' lists.
2. The age on the day of the election must not be less than thirty full Gregorian years.
3. He/she must be able to read and write in Arabic.
4. His/her membership in the Shura Council or the Council of Representatives must not have been forfeited by a decision of the council of which he/she belongs due to loss of confidence and esteem, or a breach of the membership duties. However, those whose membership has been forfeited may nominate themselves if the legislative term during which the decision to forfeit the membership was issued, lapses, or the council canceled the effect preventing the nomination, as a result from the forfeiture of membership after the end of the session during which the decision to forfeit the membership was issued.
5. The membership in the Representative must not have ceased due to the resignation, during the legislative term in which he/she applied for resignation.
6. must not to have been convicted of a felony, even if a special pardon of the sentence was issued, or he/she has been rehabilitated. In addition, He/she must not been convicted of a prison sentence for deliberate crimes for a period exceeding six months even if a special pardon of the sentence was issued, and in this last case, the prohibition for the nomination will be for ten years starting from the day following the date of the execution of the sentence, its lapse, or from the date on which the verdict becomes final in the event that the action is suspended.

Is there a fixed term for the Representative Council?

25

Yes, the term is set at four years and starts from the date of its first meeting, and during the last two months of that period elections for the new council are held, and those whose membership term has expired may be re-elected. The old council shall continue to carry out its functions until the formation of the new council is complete.

If there are pending cases against me before the courts, may I vote in elections, or run as a candidate?

26

Only the final verdict issued against the voters of candidates may be bases for prohibition, and nothing else

How can I submit a nomination request?

27

The nomination application shall be submitted to (The Supervision Committee) he Elections Integrity Committee, after fulfilling the required conditions on the form prepared for this purpose. the electoral district in which he/she is running must be identified.

28

Are there specific documents required for running?

- a) A copy of the passport and identity card.
- b) Two personal photos (size 4 * 6).
- c) A receipt for depositing an amount of BD 200 in the treasury of the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf of which an employee will attend to the headquarters of the supervisory committees to receive these amounts.
- d) A copy of the last educational qualification obtained - if any. This qualification is considered as evidence of proficiency in reading and writing. In the absence of an academic qualification, the committee may write a letter to the candidate to verify that he/she has complete proficiency in reading and writing.
- e) Copy of birth certificate for candidates who are over 30 years of age to verify date of birth.
- f) Curriculum vitae of no more than 300 words, preferably in electronic form, if available.

Is it permissible for the candidate to have one or more of an Agents?

29

A candidate may choose only one Agent in each electoral district.

30

Are there certain conditions that must be met by the Agent?

- The Agent must be a registered voter in the election list of the electoral district in which the candidate is running.
- The candidate shall submit the name of the Agent to the supervisory committee at least seven days before the election date on the form prepared for this purpose.
- The Agent may not need to be present in person.
- The candidate or his/her Agent may enter the voting centre and observe the counting procedures only, with the exception of the committee's deliberations.

What are the documents and papers required for the candidate's Agent?

31

The documents required for the agent are:

- A copy of the identity card of the candidate's agent.
- Two personal photos of the candidate's Agent.
- A copy of the nomination receipt.

32

Is it necessary for the Agent to appear personally with the candidate when submitting a power of attorney application?

It is not necessary, provided that the required conditions are met by the Agent.

How can a candidate waive membership?

33

The candidate may waive from running by submitting a notice in writing on the form prepared for this purpose, accompanied by a copy of the identity card and the nomination receipt. The notification shall be submitted to the supervisory committee, at least ten days before the Election Day.

34

Can I continue to exercise the duties of my job after the nomination?

Once the nomination is accepted, the candidate may not, during that period, practice any of the competencies of public office. The candidate may obtain, after presenting the final lists of candidates, a statement from the supervisory committee accepting his/her nomination for running to present it to the employer to get unpaid leave. However, if the leave balance is insufficient it will start from the day following the closing of the nomination period until the end of the election process.

What are the qualifications for candidacy for municipal councils?



Whoever wishes to candidate as members of the Municipal Council, male or female, shall comply with the following:

1. Must be Bahraini citizen.
2. Must have reached a full 30 Gregorian year of age.
3. Proficiency in Arabic reading and writing. A candidate's attainment of the academic qualification which indicates the completion of an educational stage is evidence of proficiency in reading and writing, and in the absence of an academic qualification, the candidate may be asked to write to verify that this requirement is met.
4. To enjoy all civil and political rights, Therefore a person with a limited or has no capacity is prohibited from running for candidacy as well as those sentenced criminal and convicted of a crime involving dishonesty or distrust until rehabilitated and as for those sentenced to imprisonment for an electoral offense, unless he/she have been rehabilitated or the execution was suspended.
5. Must be on the voters' lists of the electoral district in which the candidate is running for, and reside within the municipality area for the duration of his membership.
6. The candidate must have paid the municipal fee He/she is legally mandated to, and must attach what proves it to the application.
7. The application for candidacy shall be accompanied by the recommendation of 10 voters from the electoral district in which the candidate wants to be running, and the voter must not recommend more than one candidate.
8. The candidate must attach to the application with a receipt for a payment of 50 dinars in the municipal treasury.



36

What are the documents required to be submitted by those wishing to be candidates in the municipal council elections?



1. A copy of the passport and identity card.
2. Two personal photos (4x6).
3. Deposit receipt of 50 dinars in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning treasury. It is noted that an employee of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning will be located at the headquarters of the supervisory committees to receive these amounts.
4. A copy of the last academic qualification he obtained - if any. This qualification is considered evidence of proficiency in reading and writing. In the absence of an academic qualification, the committee may ask the candidate to write to verify that he has completed proficiency in reading and writing.
5. A statement of payment of municipal fees if legally charged.
6. The recommendation of 10 voters from the same electoral district accompanied by copies of their identity cards.
7. Copy of Birth Certificate for candidates that are 30 years of age to verify date of birth.
8. Curriculum Vitae of no more than 300 words, preferably in electronic format.



37

Is there a fixed duration for the municipal council?

“

The term of the Municipal Council shall be four Georgian years' duration, beginning on the date of its first meeting. Elections to the new Council shall be held within the last two months of that term, and those whose terms of office have expired may be re-elected. The old Council continues to function until the new Council's composition is completed.

”

38

When do the election campaigns start?

- The election campaigns start from the date of acceptance of the candidacy and after issuing the candidates lists.

39

When do the election campaigns stop?

- All election campaigns (in all its forms) throughout the Kingdom of Bahrain must be stopped, before twenty-four hours from the scheduled date for the voting process.

40

Can Bahrain's flag be used for election campaigns and placement at the election headquarters?

- Bahrain's flag shall not be used in meetings, announcements and electoral statements, including posters, stickers, photographs, drawings and writings used in election campaigns.

Is the candidate who runs the second round entitled to campaign?

41

- A candidate who is in the second round shall have the right to carry out election campaigns, subject to stop all acts of election campaigns (in all its forms) throughout the Kingdom before twenty-four hours from the scheduled date for the voting process.

42

Are there specific precautions that should be taken in election campaigns?

There are certain precautions that should be avoided in the election process, which are:

- To prejudice, abuse or challenge directly or indirectly the person's competence in election campaigns.
- Prejudice to principles of the Islamic faith and the unity of the people or what provokes division or sectarianism among citizens in election campaigns.

What are the places where a candidate is prohibited from campaigning?

43

The election campaigns are prohibited in the following places:

- Mosques, places of the paying of condolences, and other places of worship.
- Government buildings, ministries and departments affiliated to them, and the agencies attached to them, and the like.
- Public spaces for public services.
- Universities, academic institutes, public and private schools.
- Monuments, their bases, memorial buildings, and their surrounding walls.
- Electricity, lighting, telephone, signal, and traffic signs.
- Bridges, tunnels, roundabouts, street traffic island or crossroads, sidewalks, and trees.
- Transportation and public vehicles.
- The headquarters of the supervisory, election, and counting committees.
- Election festivals and gatherings, at a distance of less than 200 meters from all directions of the headquarters of the supervisory, election, and counting committees. The distance of 200 meters between the holding of electoral festivals and gatherings and all directions of the headquarters of the supervisory, election, and counting committees shall be calculated from the borders of those headquarters from all sides.
- Attaching any declaration or electoral statement, including photographs, drawings, and writings, to private installations and buildings, and each municipality shall specify the designated places.

44

Who declares election result?

The Chairman of the High Committee to Oversee the Integrity of the Elections shall declare the general result of the election and notified of the election winners.

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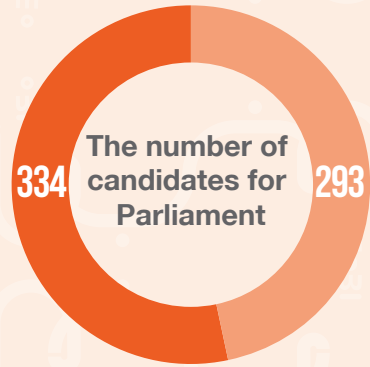
How to appeal the election result?

The candidate may appeal the election result after the official declaration of the election result by the High Committee which took place in his electoral district before the Court of Cassation within fifteen days from the date of the announcement of the general result of the election, and through appeal the candidate can know everything He/she needs.

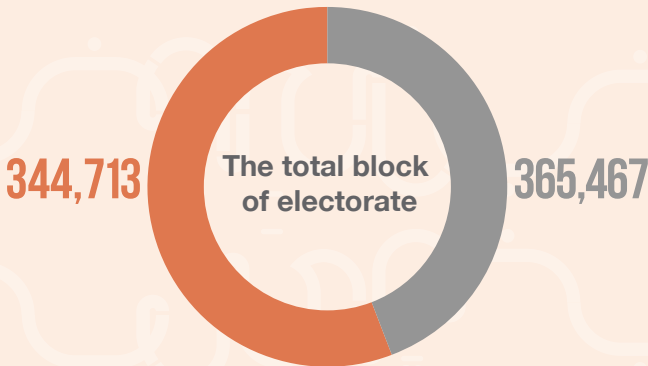
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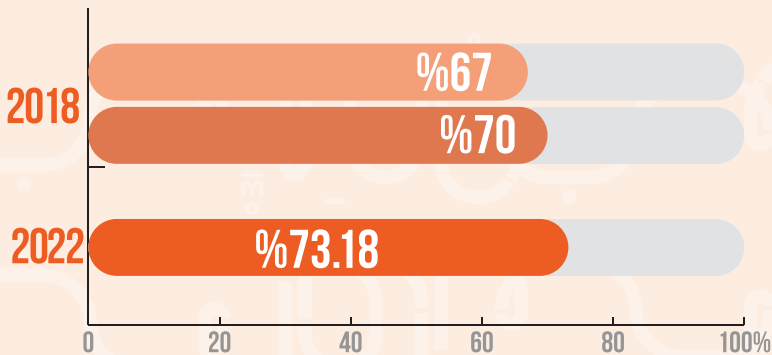
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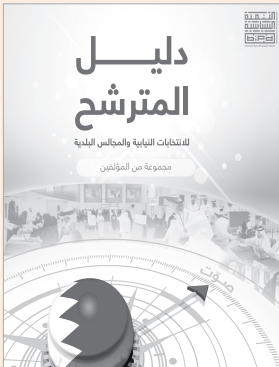
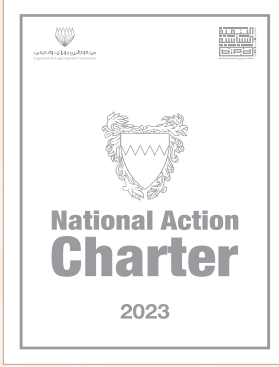


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