

The Electoral Law for Parliamentary Elections

Law for the Elections of the Islamic Consultative Parliament [*Majles*]

Chapter 1: General Principles

Article 1

The elections for the Islamic Consultative Parliament [*Majles*] takes place according to the stipulations of this law. The government is required to organize elections such that the election date for the next *Majles* is before the end of the previous term. Hence, the country will never be without a *Majles*.

Clause. The meaning of the word “*Majles*” in this law is the Islamic Consultative Assembly or Parliament.

Article 2

The number of representatives in the Islamic Consultative Parliament is 290 people. Any increase in this number will be based on Principle 64 of the Constitution.

Clause. From the total number of representatives, five people will be allocated to religious minorities as follows:

Zoroastrians and Jews each have one representative. Assyrian and Chaldean Christians collectively have one representative. Southern and Northern Armenian Christians each have one representative.

Article 3

The Guardian Council has the responsibility for monitoring the elections of the Islamic Consultative Parliament. Monitoring has two forms: 1) *estesvaabi* [proactive supervision: meaning that in addition to observation, the monitoring includes the right to make legally binding interventions], and 2) general monitoring. This monitoring occurs during all stages and regarding all affairs of an on-going election.

Article 4

In case more than one year remains in the *Majles* term, mid-term elections will occur in electoral districts lacking representatives. If the number of active *Majles* representatives reaches less than four-fifths of the total number of seats, and six months remain to the end of the term, mid-term elections will be held.

Article 5

Officials from the Interior Ministry, provincial governor’s office [*Ostandari*], and county governor’s office [*Farmandari*], and district governor’s office [*Bakhshdari*], will represent the Interior Minister, provincial governor, county governor, and district governor, respectively, in implementing this law.

Article 6

Regarding official employees of the government (including military and national service); government or government-affiliated organizations, companies, and institutions; public institutions;

and municipalities, who become *Majles* representatives: after being elected and receiving their credentials [*e tebaar naameh*], their term of office will be considered as part of their government employment history. During their term as MP, they will only receive the salary as *Majles* representatives.

Clause. The years in office as *Majles* representative will be considered as part of the government employment history of those MP's who, during their time in office or after, are employed by [other] government entities or affiliates.

Chapter 2: Quality of Election

Article 7

The elections will be direct, public, and by secret ballot.

Article 8

Election of a representative in the first stage depends on receiving a majority of at least one-fourth of the total vote. In the second stage and in mid-term elections, it is by obtaining a relative majority by any measure.

Clause 1. In case the vote count of two or more candidates is equal, a lottery will determine the election of one or more individuals amongst them. The lottery will occur in a joint meeting of the Executive and Supervisory Boards of the center of the electoral district. The indicated candidates and/or their representatives may be present at the lottery draw.

Clause 2. In case the elections of one or more electoral district is suspended or voided altogether, and/or the credential letters of candidates-elect are not approved by the *Majles*, the Interior Ministry - in coordination with the Guardian Council - is required to organize an election simultaneously in all aforementioned electoral districts. This must occur within at most seven months from the election date. The seven-month period will be calculated based on the date when the situation of the last electoral district with suspended elections was specified.

Clause 3. If, because of death, resignation, and/or any other reason, one or more electoral district loses its representative, the Interior Ministry is required to organize an election in the indicated electoral district within seven months of the announcement by the Parliament. It must do so in coordination with the Guardian Council.

Clause 4. Candidates-elect in the electoral districts whose Credential Letters are rejected by the Parliament for lack of personal qualifications cannot run again during that same *Majles* term.

Article 9

If, in the first round of the election, one or several candidates do not receive at least one-fourth majority vote, the election will proceed to a second round. This means that, of the candidates who did not obtain a relative-majority of at least one-fourth the vote, only twice the number of necessary representatives will participate in the second round.

These will be candidates who received the highest number of votes during the first round.

If the number of candidates who remain [after the first round] is less than twice the number of necessary representatives, all of them will participate in the second round of the election.

Clause 1. If the number of candidates remaining is equal or less than the number of representatives required, the second round election will not occur, and the candidate that obtains at

least one-fourth of the total vote will be elected to the *Majles*.

Clause 2. No candidate can register to run in more than one electoral district. If any do so, their candidacy is completely invalidated and they are excluded from any form of participation in *Majles* elections for that term.

Clause 3. The Interior Ministry will determine and announce the date of the second round of elections in coordination with the Guardian Council. It will do so within one month after the results of the first round elections have been announced and the Guardian Council has confirmed the accuracy of the results.

Clause 4. All voters in the second round may participate exclusively in the electoral districts in which they voted in the first round. However, individuals who did not vote in any electoral district in the first round may participate in any district during the second stage.

Clause 5. During mid-term elections of each *Majles* term, the only people who have the right to vote in an electoral district are those who voted in that electoral district in the original election of that term; and/or have not participated or voted in any electoral districts during the original election.

Article 10

At every election stage, any eligible voter may vote only once upon presentation of his/her birth certificate [as identification].

Clause 1. Voting in prisons, military bases, and hospitals is also only possible with the presentation of a birth certificate.

Clause 2. The birth certificate of the voter will be stamped.

Clause 3. Voting will occur across all electoral districts in the nation on the same day, for at least 10 hours and it can be extended if necessary.

Clause 4. The Interior Minister is responsible for determining the necessity and duration of voting hour extension in one district or nationally.

Clause 5. Voting must occur on an official holiday.

Article 11

If requested, all ministries, legal institutions, organizations, and offices, government organizations and affiliates, municipalities, and public institutions are required to place their workers and other facilities at the disposal of the Interior Ministry, provincial governors [*Ostandaran*], county governors [*Farmandaran*], and district governors [*Bakhshdaran*] until the completion of the election. Needless to say, the period of cooperation between the indicated employees and the Interior Ministry will be considered as a period of special assignment for those employees.

Clause 1. If requested, all the above-mentioned institutions and organs are required to make their workers available to the Guardian Council or boards appointed by it for the purpose of supervising the election. Likewise, the Interior Ministry, provincial governors, county governors, and district governors are required to make any necessary facilities available to the Guardian Council.

Clause 2. Special assignment pay for the aforementioned workers will be calculated and paid by their respective organizations.

Article 12

Elections for representatives of Zoroastrian, Christian, Assyrian, Chaldean, and Northern Armenian religious minorities will be conducted by the county and district governors of the areas where those

minorities reside with central management from the electoral district of Tehran governor's office.

The elections for Southern Armenians will be conducted by the county and district governors of the areas where this minority resides with central management from the electoral district of the Isfahan governor's office.

Article 13

In case another election is being held at the same time as the *Majles* elections, by order of the Interior Ministry, one registration and voting station will be used for both elections with the same poll workers but with separate ballot boxes.

Article 14

The Islamic Republic Radio and Television Broadcasting [*Seda va Sima-ye Jomhourie- Eslami*] is required to air educational programs relating to the elections that either the Interior Ministry or the central Supervisory Board, appointed by the Guardian Council, deem essential. In addition, they must explain the role of the *Majles* and the duties of its members. Likewise, they are required to broadcast all declarations and notifications relating to the elections on the national channel or local channels of the Islamic Republic of Iran Radio and Television Broadcasting.

Article 15

By the determination and recommendation of the Interior Ministry and approval of the Guardian Council, *Majles* elections in electoral districts that have suffered natural disasters - such as floods, earthquakes, war, etc. - will be held in cities where refugees have taken shelter, and if possible, also in the affected electoral districts. The public will be informed of the details.

Clause. Special registration and voting stations of the aforementioned electoral districts will be set up in the surrounding counties where there are at least 2,500 refugees within the limits of the county who have settled and have no possibility of returning to their own electoral district due to the aforementioned emergency situation.

Article 16

Within the limits of the law, security personnel are responsible to preserve order and prevent any form of disturbance in the elections. They are also responsible for the protection of the ballot boxes. They do not have the right to intervene in executive or supervisory affairs of the elections.

Clause. In case the security forces need reinforcement, the military can assist them upon the approval of the legally qualified authorities.

Article 17

Courts with the appropriate jurisdiction must investigate all cases of election violations and fraud as immediate and extraordinary cases-regardless of their position on the court docket.

Article 18

In the following situations, with the confirmation of the Supervisory Board of the affected electoral district, voter ballots will be invalidated. The votes will, however, still be counted towards the final vote count. Details will be reported in a set of minutes. The minutes will mention all such votes and

the physical ballots will be attached to the minutes:

1. The ballot is illegible
2. Votes that have been obtained via buying or selling.
3. Ballots that are completely filled with names other than the qualified candidates.
4. Blank ballots.

Clause. In electoral districts where the number of necessary candidates is more than one, only illegible names [on the ballot] will be disqualified.

Article 19

In the following situations, with the confirmation of the Supervisory Board of the relevant electoral district, voter ballots will be invalidated and they will not be counted towards the final vote count. Details of all these ballots will be reported in the minutes and the aforementioned ballots will be attached to the minutes:

1. The ballot box does not have the official seal and stamp of the election.
2. Votes that are in excess of the total number of registration papers.
3. Votes of people who have not reached the age of voter eligibility.
4. Votes cast by using the birth certificate of someone who is deceased or is non-Iranian.
5. Votes obtained through manipulation or deception (in the ballots, votes, or counting).
6. Votes cast using a different or fake birth certificate.
7. Repeat votes.
8. Votes cast using the birth certificate of someone not present at the ballot box.
9. Votes that lack the official stamp of the election.
10. Votes that have been obtained by way of threat.
11. Votes that have been written on a paper other than the official ballot.

Clause 1. All votes that are listed in the meeting minutes, but whose corresponding ballot boxes do not contain the registration papers or ballots, are invalidated and are not counted towards the final vote.

Clause 2. The excess votes mentioned in line 2 (*The vote is in excess of the total number of ballots*) will be deducted from the total vote ballots by lottery.

Article 20

If names of people who are not official candidates are written on the ballot in addition to the names of official candidates, that ballot will not be invalidated, and only the extra names will be ignored.

Clause 1. If a candidate's name has been written more than once on a ballot, it will be counted as only one vote for him/her.

Clause 2. If some votes placed in the ballot box cannot be recognized and distinguished from each other because of similarity between candidate names, then the total number of votes in that ballot box will be divided evenly amongst the candidates whose names can't be distinguished. For the

remaining vote or votes that can't be divided, a lottery will determine how to distribute them.

Clause 2 Repeated. To facilitate the supervision of; to preserve the true votes of the people; and to prevent the violation of the rights of the candidates, the following rule applies:

If a candidate is unfamiliar and unknown in an electoral district, but his last name (or first and last names) is similar to the last name (or first and last names) of a prominent and well-known candidate in that same district, there must be an identifier - like a number (code), occupation, area of residence, father's name, etc. - to distinguish the lesser-known candidate. That identifier must be included on official publications of the list of candidates. Any vote that does not specify that identifier will not be counted for either candidate.

The aforementioned person can include the identifier in his own electoral advertisements. If one of the candidates ends his campaign before election day, the other can announce in a newspaper or through a statement that he is still running in order to avoid confusion.

Clause 3. In cases where two elections are ongoing at the same time, if ballots are cast mistakenly in the wrong box, before anything else, those ballots will be transferred to the appropriate ballot box in the presence of Guardian Council monitors, and afterwards the legal process will be initiated.

Article 21

If the number of names written on a ballot is greater than the number of names necessary, the excess names will not be counted, starting with those at the bottom of the ballot.

Article 22

Before the start of voting, the ballot boxes will be emptied, closed, and sealed with the seal of the Supervisory Board of the electoral district, in the presence of representatives of the Supervisory Board. Before the start of voting, minutes will be drafted at the poll, in which the representatives of the Supervisory Board for the electoral district certify the number of ballot boxes as well as their being empty. If, during the actual voting, the need arises to add an extra ballot box, it must follow a similar process and must be included in the minutes.

Article 23

In consideration of its responsibilities, the Interior Ministry is required to inform the public of all issues related to the elections during the course of the elections.

Article 24

The county and district governors of the centers of electoral districts are required to confirm the vote results with the Supervisory Boards in their electoral district immediately following the end of voting and the counting of the votes. They must then transmit a set of minutes to the Guardian Council and the Interior Ministry detailing the results. Afterwards, they can announce the results via the mass media.

Article 25

The Interior Ministry is the responsible authority for implementing the *Majles* Election Law and is responsible for the integrity of the elections. For this purpose, the Interior Ministry can dispatch officials for inspecting and controlling the elections process at the electoral districts or the voting

and registration branches.

Clause 1. No institution or apparatus other than the Interior Ministry and the Guardian Council (under the auspices of implementing the elections law or supervision) is allowed to intervene in election affairs or dispatch officials or inspectors.

Article 26

After the end of the elections, five copies of minutes detailing the results and bearing the signatures of the central Executive Board of the election district and the Supervisory Board of the relevant electoral district will be produced. One copy will remain with the central Executive Board of the electoral district, and the rest will be transmitted to the aforementioned Supervisory Board, the Interior Ministry (two copies), and the central Election Supervisory Board.

Chapter 3: Voter and Candidate Eligibility

Article 27

Voters must meet the following criteria:

1. Citizenship in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
2. At least 15 years of age.
3. Being of sound mind.

Article 28

Candidates must meet the following criteria when they register:

1. Belief in and practical obligation to Islam and the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
2. Citizenship in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. Expressed loyalty to the Constitution and progressive principle of the Absolute Guardianship of the Jurisprudent [*Velayat-e Motlaq-e Faqih*].
4. A document proving possession of at least an Associate's degree [*fogh-e diplom*] or equivalent.
5. Not having a bad reputation in the electoral district.
6. Physical health such that they at least enjoy the blessings of vision, hearing, and speaking.
7. At least thirty years of age and at most seventy-five.

Clause 1. As stated in the Constitution, religious minority candidates are exempted from the requirement of "a practical obligation to Islam" mentioned in the first line. Instead, they must prove belief in their professed religion.

Clause 2. People who have previously served as representatives in the Parliament in the past are exempt from obligation 4.

Article 29

The persons listed below are prohibited from candidacy by virtue of their occupations:

- A. The persons listed below are deprived of the right to register as a candidate across the nation,

unless they resign their post at least two months prior to the election and are not employed in that position in any form:

1. The President and his advisors and deputies.
2. The Secretary General of the Expediency Council [*Majma'-e Tashkhis-e Maslehat-e Nezam*] and his deputies.
3. Deputies and advisors to the President.
4. Chiefs-of-Staff of the heads of the three branches of government (executive, legislative, judicial).
5. Cabinet-level ministers and custodians of ministries.
6. Deputies and advisors of the ministers.
7. Directors-general and custodians of the general offices of the ministries; Directors-general of various ministry domains; the chiefs-of-staff of ministers.
8. Members of the Guardian Council and the central Supervisory Board for the elections.
9. Head of the Judiciary and his deputies and advisors.
10. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and his deputies and advisors.
11. The Attorney General of the country and his deputies and advisors.
12. The head of the Court of Administrative Justice and his advisors and assistants.
13. Head of the National Audit Organization and his deputies and advisors.
14. Directors and custodians of organizations, general offices, and political-ideological offices of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their representatives and assistants throughout the country.
15. Director of the Islamic Republic Radio and Television Broadcasting and his deputies.
16. Director of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran and his deputies.
17. Provincial governors.
18. Deputies and Assistants to provincial governors.
19. County governors.
20. District governors.
21. Mayors and heads of municipal districts.
22. Directors and custodians of government organizations.
23. Members of the Board of Directors and CEO's of banks.
24. Members of the Board of Directors and CEO's of government or government-affiliated companies whose domains of rights and responsibilities are determined by the public.
25. Director of the Central Bank of Iran and his advisors and deputies.
26. Directors and custodians of Foundations (of the Oppressed [*Mostaz'afaan*] Martyr [*Shahid*], *15 Khordad*, Housing [*Maskan*]); Imam Khomeini Assistance Committee; Literacy Campaign [*Nehzat-e Savad Aamouzi*]; Islamic Promotion Organization [*Sazeman-e Tablighat-e Eslami*]; the public relations office of the Qom Seminary; Director of the Organization for Prosecuting Economic Fraud [*Sazeman-e Ta'ziraat-e Hokoumati*]; directors of the Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Cooperatives, and their deputies and advisors.
27. Those employed by the armed forces and the Intelligence Ministry.

B. The following individuals are prohibited from candidacy in election districts that are under their jurisdictions unless they resign their posts two months prior to registration and are not involved in that post in any manner:

1. Permanent Friday prayers leaders.
2. Judges.
3. Directors-general, custodians, and their deputies of general offices of provinces.
4. Directors-general, custodians, and their deputies of general offices of provincial governors.
5. Directors and custodians of government organizations and offices and affiliates and their provincial and township deputies.
6. Directors and custodians of universities and higher education institutions-whether governmental or non-governmental-and directors and custodians of their branches and units.
7. Members of the board of directors and CEO's of government and government-affiliated companies in provinces and towns.
8. Regional custodians and branch directors of banks in provinces and towns.
9. Custodians of offices of the Islamic Promotion Organization in provincial capitals and towns.
10. Managers of Islamic Republic Radio and Television Broadcasting centers.

C. Members of election Executive Boards and supervisors of the Guardian Council in the elections district under their jurisdiction.

Clause 1. All officials holding offices that are equivalent to the offices mentioned in section A and B are subject to this article.

Clause 2. Regarding those whose resignation-based on the laws of employment or obligations of their service-is conditional upon acceptance by relevant officials, acceptance of the resignation is a pre-condition [for candidacy].

Clause 3. During candidate registration, it is required to present a document demonstrating official acceptance of the resignation and non-employment at the positions, offices, and jobs indicated in section A and B of this article two months prior to registration.

Clause 4. At least three months prior to registration of candidates, the Interior Ministry is required to inform the general public of [these] requirements via the mass media.

Article 30

The following are deprived of the right to candidacy for the Parliament:

1. Individuals who played a significant role in strengthening the foundations of the previous regime.
2. Large land owners who have registered unoccupied lands under their own names.
3. Organizational affiliates and supporters of political parties, organizations, and groups that have been declared illegal by the relevant authorities.
4. Individuals that have been convicted of efforts against the Islamic Republic of Iran.
5. Those convicted of apostasy by a qualified judiciary court.
6. Those reputed for corruption and debauchery.

7. Those convicted of breaking *Sharia* law unless there is proof of their repentance.
8. Drug traffickers and addicts.
9. Those restricted by law from property/wealth ownership [*mahjoorin*] and those who are subject to Principle 49 of the Constitution as determined by the courts. [translator's note: Principle 49 of the Constitution allows government confiscation of wealth accumulated by usury, embezzlement, and other illegal means]
10. Those related to the previous regime such as members of city and town councils, affiliates of Freemason organizations, board of directors of branches of the *Rastakhiz* and *Iran-e Novin* political parties and their active members, representatives of the Senate Parliament, members of the National Assembly, and Savak [secret police] officials.
11. Those convicted of theft, treason, embezzlement, and bribery; usurpation of others' property; and taking financial advantage, as determined by qualified courts.

Chapter Four: Executive Board

Article 31

Immediately after the Interior Ministry issues the directive for the start of the elections, county or district governors of the center of the election district will order the formation of Executive Boards for the peripheral electoral districts to the county or district governors of the peripheral electoral districts.

Within six days, they themselves are required - in the presence of the Supervisory Board of the Guardian Council - to form the election Executive Board in the center of the election district: to be headed by the county or district governor and with membership by the director of the registrar's office of the center of the election district and nine trusted citizens [*mo'tamedin*]-as described in article 32.

Clause. In towns and districts that have an Islamic council, one member of the council, as elected by the council, will be one of the indicated trusted citizens.

Article 32

The county or district governor of the center of each election district will recommend 30 local trusted citizens to the responsible Supervisory Board for the purpose of selecting principles and reserve trusted citizens for membership in the Executive Board (the subject of article 31). These trusted citizens must be residing in the area or be residents who have at least five years' history of living in the election district. They may be from all social groups deemed eligible by this law.

The indicated Supervisory Board will issue its written decision regarding their qualification to the county or district governor within a maximum of three days.

The county or district governor of the center of the election district will immediately invite, in writing, the 30 trusted citizens confirmed by the Supervisory Board. Within a maximum of two days from the date of the invitation, the nominees will hold a meeting. In the presence of at least two-thirds of the nominees (20 people), as well as the Supervisory Board, the nominees will select from amongst themselves nine individuals as principle trusted citizens and five as reserves for the Executive Board. These selections are made by hidden vote and a relative majority of the votes.

Clause 1. If the Supervisory Board does not confirm the trusted citizen nominated by the county or district governor of the center of the election district, the indicated county or district governor is required to nominate twice as many qualified individuals [for this purpose] to the Supervisory

Board. The Supervisory Board is then required to announce its decision in writing within a maximum of 24 hours. If, for a second time, the proposed nominees are not confirmed by the Supervisory Board, and if there are at least 20 qualified individuals, they will select principle and reserve members from among themselves.

In case there is no agreement between the county or district governor and the town Supervisory Board, the provincial Supervisory Board, in coordination with the provincial governor, will select, within 24 hours, the remainder of the 30 trusted citizens.

Clause 2. The trusted citizens of this article must have faith and practical allegiance to Islam (except in religious minority districts), the Constitution, a good reputation, and literacy. They must not have been active elements in strengthening the previous regime and not be affiliated with illegal groups.

Clause 3. The number of members of the Executive Board for the central election district and the peripheral election districts, as well as the quality and time provided for their formation, must be the same.

Clause 4. County or district governors of the election district are required to exclude individuals from lists of nominated trusted citizens or voting poll staff who have broken the law in previous elections in their capacity as members of the Executive Boards or voting poll staff.

Article 33

No members of the Executive Board, supervisors of the Guardian Council, and staff of voting and registration branches may have any familial relationships with the candidates in the election district according to the following:

- A. Direct family relations: father, mother, children, siblings.
- B. Indirect family relations: spouse and his/her father, mother, siblings.

Article 34

After accepting membership, members of the Executive Board are required to participate in meetings, sign the meeting minutes and credentials of those elected, and perform other legal responsibilities.

Clause 1. If either the county or district governor of the election district, or the director of the registrar's office, fail to attend the meetings, the Executive Board is required to report the instances in the meeting minutes to a superior executive authority and request a decision [on how to proceed].

Clause 2. In case of absence of the county or district governor of the election district, or the director of the registrar's office, or emergence of any problems or disputes in the Executive Board that result in the interruption of the elections, the Supervisory Board is required to report the incident immediately to the superior Supervisory Board and request a decision [on how to proceed].

Clause 3. The Executive Board is required to report any absences by members, including the reason for the absence, to the Interior Ministry in its meeting minutes and work reports.

Article 35

During the elections, whenever one or more trusted citizens of the Executive Board are not present during two consecutive or four total meetings of the Executive Board, or resign their post, and/or prevent the Executive Board from forming a majority, in their place and according to the number of votes received, reserve trusted citizens will be invited by the county or district governor. If, with the

invitation of reserve members a majority is still not formed, members will be provided from the pool of the rest of the trusted citizens (up to 30 people).

Article 36

Peripheral Executive Boards will hold a meeting immediately after the selection of the trusted citizens and will determine the number and location of registration and voting branches. This will be reported to the county or district governor of the center of the election district to be proposed to the Executive Board of the center of the election district.

Article 37

The meetings of central and peripheral Executive Boards will be official with the presence of two-thirds of all members, and decisions are reached with absolute majority of those present.

Clause. A vote to abstain will count as a vote against [a measure].

Article 38

The Executive Board of the center of the election district, after deciding upon the locations for registration and voting branches in the center of the election district; and evaluation and confirmation of the proposals by the peripheral Executive Boards regarding the number and locations of their registration and voting branches; will initiate the publication of the election bulletin nine days prior to the election. This will include the following: the date, hours, voter eligibility, penalties, violations, penal code, and location of registration and voting branches throughout the election district.

Clause. With the approval of the Interior Ministry, the nine-day period may be reduced to seven days in case certain difficulties arise.

Article 39

The county or district governor of the center of the election district is required to forward three copies of the bulletins published throughout the election district to the Interior Ministry. One copy of these bulletins will be forwarded by the Interior Ministry to the central election Supervisory Council selected by the Guardian Council.

Article 40

After publication of the elections bulletin, the Executive Board of the center of the election district and the peripheral districts will select five individuals (and for high volume locations, seven individuals by decision of the Executive Board) from the neighborhood, trusted citizens (who have the ability to read and write) for each voting and registration branch and will introduce them to the county or district governor for issuing the directive [for them to take up their posts].

Clause 1. Staff of voting and registration branches will select from amongst themselves one chief, one deputy chief, and all other members as secretaries, and must arrange such that one day prior to the election, the station is prepared for voting.

Clause 2. Location of voting and registration branches printed in the elections bulletin is not subject to change unless setting up the poll or continuing its function at the pre-determined site becomes impossible due to unexpected events or any other reason. In this case, the conditions and reasons for changing the voting and registration branch location is written up by the Executive

Board and the supervisors of the Guardian Council, and the new voting and registration-within the shortest possible distance to the previous branch-will be established in a way that will not interrupt access by the voters and will not disrupt identification of the location of the branch as a voting poll. The transfer of the branch location must be announced to the residents of the neighborhood.

Clause 3. Establishing voting and registration branches in museums is not permitted.

Article 41

The county or district governor for the center of the election district is required to appoint a representative to each voting and registration branch. He may do this directly or by relegating authority to the county or district governor of peripheral election districts.

Article 42

Election Executive Boards are responsible for the validity of the elections process in their election district.

Clause. If deemed necessary for the proper administration of voting in the second round, and by consent and approval of the central elections Supervisory Board, the Interior Ministry will issue an order for selection of new trusted citizens for the Executive Boards of an election district.

Article 43

All election affairs of the central district will be administered by the Executive Board of the township election district.

Article 44

With the approval of the Executive Board of the center of the election district, the peripheral Executive Boards may form mobile voting polls for difficult to reach, mountainous, and long-distance regions, as well as destinations where establishing voting branches is not possible. The Executive Board of the center of the election district may also, if it finds it necessary, undertake the establishment of mobile polls in the center of the election district and central district; and in both instances, the Supervisory Board must be informed and also, a representative from the Supervisory Board must be confident of the mobile ballot box and to state and confirm the route of the ballot box in the meeting minutes.

Chapter Five: Announcing Candidacy and Reviewing Candidate Eligibility

Article 45

Within seven days from the date of the Interior Ministry directive for the start of the elections, candidates for *Majles* representative must receive, complete, and submit the special questionnaire for announcing MP candidacy at the county or district governor's offices of the election district.

The requirements will have previously been announced to the public by the Interior Ministry via the mass media, and county or district governors are required to inform all residents of the election district by the appropriate means.

Clause 1. Eligible candidates for *Majles* representative who live abroad must, in addition to going

to the embassy, consulate, or associated political office, fill out their candidacy questionnaire in the presence of the qualified personnel of the embassy, consulate, or associated political office. The embassy must forward the contents of the questionnaire and the complete personal information of the candidate to the Interior Ministry via the Foreign Ministry by telex or the fastest telecommunications method so that-within the legally designated time limit-a legal action will be taken by the Executive Board of the election district in regards to investigating his qualifications.

Clause 2. Candidates may receive the candidacy form from the Interior Ministry and, after completion, present it at the Interior Ministry. The Interior Ministry is required to immediately report the details to the county or district governor's office of the appropriate election district.

Clause 3. Within a maximum of three days after the end of the registration period, a copy of the candidacy form and birth certificate, and two photos of all candidates will be forwarded to the central Supervisory Board by the Interior Ministry.

Article 46

Each candidate may personally and in writing announce his/her withdrawal from the election to the county or district governor's office of the center of the election district or the Interior Ministry. The details of the withdrawal will be reported immediately by the Interior Ministry to the central Supervisory Board. Rescinding of the withdrawal will not be accepted.

Article 47

The county or district governor of the center of an election district is required to report, by the fastest method available, the complete personal information of the candidates in their election district to the Interior Ministry on a daily basis based on the contents of the questionnaire.

The Interior Ministry is also required to forward a copy of the complete personal information of the candidates to the central Supervisory Board on a daily basis.

Article 48

After receiving the personal information of the candidates, the Interior Ministry and the Guardian Council will draft a complete list of them on a daily basis. The names will be forwarded to the Intelligence Ministry, Prosecutor General, National registrar's office, Office of Validating Identity, and the International Police for the purpose of background checks to aid in determining candidate eligibility as indicated in this law. Within five days, the indicated centers are required to announce the results of the background checks-with evidence and documentation-to the Interior Ministry and Guardian Council.

Clause. If necessary, the Interior Ministry may take finger prints from *Majles* candidates.

Article 49

After receiving the results of the background check from the authorities indicated in article 48, the Interior Ministry is required to report the details to the county or district governors of the centers of election districts in an appropriate manner. These governors are required to raise the issue-including the exact documentation and results of background checks-in a joint meeting of the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board of the center of the election district.

Article 50

The Executive Boards at the centers of election districts are required, based on the results obtained by necessary on-site investigations, and also based on the reported [background check] results from the Interior Ministry, to review the eligibility of candidates in terms of the qualifications outlined in this law, and to report the full results to the Supervisory Boards. This must be done by a maximum of ten days after the registration deadline.

Clause. Rejection of candidates must be based on the law and based on legitimate documentation and records.

Article 51

County or district governors at the centers of election districts are required to issue the opinion of the Executive Board, including the legal justification, to the disqualified candidates within one day. Also, they are to inform the provincial Supervisory Board-including all documents and records as attachments-via the fastest means available.

Clause. Disqualified candidates have the right to make their appeal (including its justification) to the provincial Supervisory Board within four days of receiving the result.

Article 52

Reports and appeals will be reviewed within seven days after the deadline for appeals in a meeting of the provincial Supervisory Board.

The result will be written up in the minutes of the meeting. If the provincial Supervisory Board confirms the opinion of the Executive Board regarding the disqualification of the candidate, the indicated Supervisory Board is required to seek the opinion of the central Supervisory Board as well regarding this matter.

The provincial Supervisory Board will also issue its opinion regarding the qualification of the other candidates to the central Supervisory Board.

Clause 1. After receiving the opinion of the central Supervisory Board, the provincial Supervisory Board is required to report the details of the confirmation or rejection of all candidates (including the legal justification) in a set of meeting minutes to the county or district governors.

Clause 2. The county or district governor is required to report the opinion of the central Supervisory Board (received via the provincial Supervisory Board) regarding the confirmation or rejection of candidates to the candidates so that, in case of a complaint against the decision, they can appeal in writing to the Guardian Council.

Clause 3. In case the opinion of the central Supervisory Board is to disqualify candidates whose candidacy has been confirmed by the Executive Board of the center of the election district, the candidates can submit their appeal to the Guardian Council. The Guardian Council will announce its final and binding decision regarding acceptance or rejection of candidates to the Interior Ministry within 20 days of the decision by the central Supervisory Board.

Article 53

If, while investigating the qualifications of candidates or performing their other duties, the trusted citizens of an Executive Board are found to have deviated from their legal obligations, the county or district governor is required-with the knowledge and approval of the central Supervisory Board of the election district, and the knowledge of the Interior Ministry- undertake a process to replace individual trusted citizens of the Executive Board-or form a new Executive Board altogether.

Replacing individual members or altogether replacing the indicated Executive Board will be done according to articles 32 and 35 of this law.

Article 54

In cases where, according to reports and complaints and objections received by the Guardian Council, it is determined that members of an Executive Board have broken rules and regulations, the Guardian Council is required to take legal action that is appropriate and equivalent to the violations.

Article 55

Each candidate individually-or several candidates jointly-may introduce to the Supervisory Board of the election district one representative for the voting branches. This will be done according to the following:

- A. Elections districts that elect one MP: one representative per each ballot box.
- B. Election districts that elect two MP's: one representative per two ballot boxes.
- C. Election districts that elect three MP's: one representative per three ballot boxes.
- D. Election districts that elect four MP's: one representative per four ballot boxes.
- E. Election districts that elect five MP's: one representative per five ballot boxes.
- F. Election districts that elect six MPs: one representative per six ballot boxes

Additionally, proportionate to the number of MPs in each election district, one representative per that number of boxes. These representatives may be present on site at the polling station. If there is a violation at the polling station, without interfering, they will report in writing the details to the Executive and Supervisory Boards of the district or the town centers.

Presence of these observers from each of the candidates is acceptable until the end of voting hours, counting of the votes, and drafting of the minutes. Preventing the candidate representatives at the polling stations is illegal and considered a crime, and violators will be prosecuted based on article 83 of this law.

Clause. The presence of individuals other than officials (officials and staff of ballot boxes; supervisors of the Guardian Council; representatives and inspectors of the Interior Ministry; and representatives of candidates) at the polling stations is prohibited under all circumstances, and is considered illegal. Security officials and other authorities at the polling station are required to prevent the presence of unauthorized individuals. Violators are subject to punishments outlined in article 75 of this law.

Chapter Six: Campaigning

Article 56

Election campaign activities of candidates will start eight days prior to election day (first and second stage) and may continue until 24 hours prior to the start of the election.

Article 57

Use of any kind of placard, poster, writing on walls, campaign caravans, roaming loudspeakers outside of speech areas, and similar things (not counting photos for pamphlets, biographies, and leaflets, and also speeches and Q&A's from the candidates and their supporters) are prohibited.

Violators of this article will be subject to three to 30 days in jail.

Clause. Announcing opinions by well-known personalities [*shakhsiat-ha*] in support of candidates is only allowed on the condition that their title and office is not mentioned and the related written document with their signature has been presented to the election Executive Board.

Article 58

No one has the right to tamper with, tear, or destroy campaign notices of candidates that have been attached at permitted locations during the period of legal campaigning. This act is considered a crime.

Article 59

Starting from the date of the official announcement of *Majles* candidate names, the following will be prohibited:

Any campaign activity by the Islamic Republic Radio and Television Broadcasting; by Friday prayer leaders; or by any other facility that has an official and governmental capacity. Any campaign activity by government employees during working hours. Utilizing facilities and resources of ministries and offices, government companies, and companies, organizations, and institutes affiliated with the government and municipalities, and units and institutes that use a public budget (of any amount). Providing any of these facilities and resources is prohibited and violators will be considered guilty.

Clause 1. Institutions and entities whose assets come from public property, such as the Foundation of the Oppressed [*Bonyad-e Mostaz'afaan*] are subject to this article.

Clause 2. Publications and newspapers belonging to organizations, ministries, offices, entities, and institutions indicated in this article do not have the right to campaign for the candidates even in the form of advertisement.

Article 60

Members of the election Executive and Supervisory Boards do not have the right to campaign for or against any of the election candidates.

Article 61

Attaching announcements, photos, or any campaign notices on traffic and driving signs, hospital signposts, school and other educational institution signposts, and billboards placed on public pathways by governmental entities or affiliates; mailboxes; payphone booths; electricity and telephone polls; private signposts and properties; unless with permission of the owners and proprietors is prohibited. If such cases are observed, security officials will apprehend the violators and deliver them to judicial authorities for legal pursuit. Governors' and district offices must take action to remove such papers and refusal of this duty is considered a crime.

Article 62

The staff of the voting station must remove any advertisement or campaign evidence from the site of the registration and voting stations before voting starts.

Article 63

Election campaign offices may only be established in the centers of counties, cities, and towns. In major cities, only one location per each municipal district may be established as a campaign office. In cases where one area falls under several of the mentioned categories, it is considered one category.

Clause 1. The election campaign committee is a center where the campaign activities of candidates-outlined in the articles in section six of this law-are organized and carried out.

Clause 2. Establishing an elections campaign office without reporting the location of the office and the name of the person in charge to the county or district governor is illegal.

Article 64

Media and publications are not allowed to write notices or articles against candidates, or write a false story indicating withdrawal by a group or individual candidates. In either case, the candidates have the right to give their response within 18 hours of the appearance of the indicated publication. That publication is obliged to publish [the response] immediately, in accordance with the press law [<http://www.princeton.edu/irandataportal/legislation/press-law/>]. In case that publication does not get printed, the person in charge must, at his own expense, forward the candidate's response to a similar publication which is required to publish the response in its next issue.

Publication of these types of topics in all other media is also prohibited and the offended candidate has the right to publish his/her opinion [in response].

Article 65

Candidates and their supporters are in no way permitted to negatively campaign against other candidates and may only refer to their own or their favored candidate's qualifications. Any kind of public attack on the character and reputation of election candidates is prohibited and offenders will be punished according to the law.

Chapter Seven: Penalties and Violations

Article 66

In addition to the penalties outlined in this law, committing the following acts will be considered violations:

1. Buying or selling votes.
2. Receiving votes with a birth certificate of someone who is not present.
3. Issuing threats or enticements during the election process.
4. Voting with a fake birth certificate.

5. Voting with someone else's birth certificate.
6. Voting more than once.
7. Recommending the writing of a specific candidate's name on the ballot by miscellaneous people at the voting station.
8. Interrupting the elections.
9. Adding or removing votes and ballots.
10. Faking and falsification of the registration papers or the vote or meeting minutes.
11. Recommending the writing of a specific candidate's name on the ballot by voting station staff, supervisors, and observers.
12. Changing, converting, forging, stealing, or destroying campaign papers and documents such as registration and ballot papers, meeting minutes, telexes, telephone grams, and telegraphs.
13. Opening or breaking, without a legal permit, the lock of the storage where ballot boxes are stored or the seal of the ballot boxes.
14. Relocating, seizing, taking, or destroying election documents without a legal permit.
15. Creating fear and panic for voters or voting station staff with or without a weapon during the election process.
16. Interfering in the election process utilizing a falsified post or by any other illegal means.
17. Taking or not taking any action by the polling station staff that will lead to the destruction of the people's votes. This may include refusal to stamp voting papers or birth certificates; or transporting the ballot box to a place other than the announced location.

Clause. If the violations outlined in this article take place and cause the election process in one or several voting polls to leave its legal course, and affects the final outcome of the election, the details will be reported by the Interior Ministry to the central Supervisory Board, to be taken into consideration by the Guardian Council.

Article 67

In coordination with the Guardian Council supervisors and the Executive Board, judiciary organizations in each election district will take the necessary initiative (within the limits of the law) to prevent fraud.

Clause. From the time of the registration until the end of the elections, summons and arrests of candidates related to accusations from prior to their candidacy, or to election violations, is not allowed. Exception can be made in cases where, in the opinion of the head of the Judiciary, not arresting them will lead to injustice, or obtaining the necessary assurance and collateral is not possible.

Chapter Eight: Complaints and Means of Addressing Them

Article 68

From the date of forming the Executive Board until two days after the announcement of the election results, Executive Boards of the center of election districts are required to accept any submitted complaints. They are to attend to these complaints in a joint meeting of the Executive and Supervisory Boards of the election district within a maximum of seven days from the date of receiving them.

Clause 1. Those who have a complaint against the [overall] manner in which the elections were conducted may submit their documented complaint to the secretariat of the Guardian Council within seven days of the election.

Clause 2. Only those complaints will be reviewed that include the details of the plaintiff, including name, last name, name of father, occupation, full address, telephone number (in case s/he has a telephone), and the original signature of the defendant.

Clause 3. If, without having a reason or proof, a plaintiff accuses someone and his/her actions are libelous, it may be subject to legal pursuit.

Clause 4. The raising and reviewing of complaints against individuals is confidential and publicizing them is prohibited.

Article 69

Complaints submitted to the Executive Board during the election process will not prevent the continuation of the election.

Article 70

If, after reviewing complaints and reports, the Executive Board determines that the election affairs in one or several branches have deviated from the normal course and were not conducted properly, it will void the results from the indicated branch(es) with the approval of the Supervisory Board, if [this invalidation] does not affect the overall outcome of the election.

Clause. In case voiding all or parts of the votes from one or more ballot boxes affects the outcome of the election, the decision is with the Guardian Council.

Article 71

Before the Interior Ministry submits the election files to the Parliament, all complaints related to the elections will be sent to the central Supervisory Board. After that, the identical election files will be sent to the Parliament.

Clause. The Guardian Council is required to report all complaints to the Parliament after the credentials are issued.

Article 72

In case investigating the complaints from any one of the election districts leads to the suspension or invalidation of the election, the Guardian Council has the authority to announce [this] via the mass media.

Clause. Suspension or invalidation of the election in any election district must be based on the law and include valid documentation and proof, and take place with the absolute majority vote of the Guardian Council.

Article 73

Issuing credentials for elected candidates is dependant on the absence of an invalidation ruling from the Guardian Council; and the Guardian Council must announce its opinion on the election's validity as soon as possible; and the Interior Ministry is required to immediately order the issuance of the credentials.

Article 74

By the order of the Interior Ministry and with the seal and signatures of the Executive Board and Supervisory Boards, credentials for elected representatives will be drafted in five copies (one copy for the Guardian Council) and issued within 48 hours.

Clause. In case, after the announcement of the Guardian Council's final verdict, a member of the Executive or Supervisory Boards refrains from signing a credential, he/she will be considered in violation of the law and is to be prohibited from membership in Executive and Supervisory Boards for ten years. The credential will be considered valid with the signature of the Interior Minister and head of the central election Supervisory Board.

Chapter Nine: Penalties

Article 75

Penalty for those who have committed violations of sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of article 66 will be up to three months imprisonment or a cash fine of one million (1,000,000) to five million (5,000,000) *Rials*. They will also be barred from membership in Executive and Supervisory Boards or staff at polling stations for eight years.

Article 76

Penalty for those who have committed violations of sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 18, of article 66 will be from six months to two years imprisonment or cash fines from three million (3,000,000) to 15 million (15,000,000) *Rials*. Potential suspension from government employment from six months to two years; they will also be barred from membership in Executive and Supervisory Boards or staff at polling stations for twelve years.

Article 77

Penalty for those who have committed violations of section 16 of article 66-whether supervisor, deputy, or instigator-will be the penalty defined in article 617 of the Islamic Penal Code (unless the act falls under the *sharia* law of *moharebeh* [enemy of God]).

Article 78

Offenders who have committed violations of section 17 of article 66, in addition to the penalties outline in article 555 of the Islamic Penal Code, will be barred from membership in Executive and Supervisory Boards or staff at polling stations for twelve years.

Article 79

Penalty for those who have committed violations outlined in article 11, 24, 34, 40, 53, and 60, and related clauses-while respecting the law of attending administrative violations-includes: docking salary and extraordinary responsibilities or titles for at most one-third of one month up to one year; or temporary suspension from on month to one year.

Clause. If the offender is not a government employee, s/he is barred from membership in the Executive and Supervisory Boards, as well as staff of voting stations for a period of eight years.

Article 80

Penalty for violators of articles 57 and 58 is a cash fine payment of five-hundred thousand (500,000) to one million (1,000,000) *Rials*.

Article 81

Penalty for violators of articles 59 and its 2nd clause is imprisonment from three to six months or cash fines from 2 million (2,000,000) to 10 million (10,000,000) *Rials*. Penalty for violators of the recent section of article 59 and its 1st clause is the penalty outlined in article 598 of the Islamic Penal Code.

Article 82

Penalty for violations of article 61 is from one-hundred thousand (100,000) to two million (2,000,000) *Rials* cash fine. If security officials and other responsible officials and authorities refused to carry out their duties as outlined in article 61, in addition to the indicated penalty, they are to be sentenced to a three month suspension.

Article 83

Penalty for those committing violations outlined in article 64-in addition to the penalty outlined in the Press Law [<http://www.princeton.edu/irandataportal/legislation/press-law/>]-is a cash fine from one million (1,000,000) to five million (5,000,000) *Rials*. In case the violation committed includes libel and insult, the offender is subject to the penalty outlined in the Islamic Penal Code.

Article 84

Penalty for those committing violations outlined in the clause of article 63, will be from five hundred thousand (500,000) to two million (2,000,000) *Rials* cash fine.

Article 85

Penalty for those committing violations of the topic outlined in article 65, will be from fifty thousand (50,000) to one million (1,000,000) *Rials* cash fine.

Article 86

In all cases where the violator of any of the topics of this law is a candidate, he or she will be subject to the maximum penalty [stipulated in these articles].

Article 87

In the proper implementation of Principle 99 of the Constitution, and maintaining complete neutrality: during the period of their responsibility, the supervisors of the Guardian Council are required to maintain complete neutrality. Support of one of the candidates by any of the [Guardian Council] supervisors in any way will be considered a crime.

Clause . In case the supervisors of the Guardian Council commit any of the violations related to the Executive Board or the voting poll staff, they will be subject to penalties for these boards as

outlined in article 66 and the clause of article 53.

Article 88

Penalties in this section are not limited in scope to what is indicated in this law and the judge may, in each case, convict the offender under the penalties indicated in this law plus other penalties as outlined in the fifth book of the Islamic Penal Code (deterrent penalties and punishments), passed on 2/3/1375 [4/22/ 1996].

Chapter Ten: Preparations, Establishment, and Inauguration for the Parliament

Article 89

After the National Elections Commission [*Setad-e Entekhabaat-eKkeshvar*] makes a declaration for issuing credentials to the newly elected MPs, county and district governors of the centers of election districts are required to initiate the process of issuing credentials for the *Majles* representatives of their districts within a maximum of 48 hours. They are to deliver one copy to the elected candidate or his/her representative (who will be introduced in writing) who will present himself/herself to the governor's or district office of the center of the election district.

Article 90

After the credentials of two-thirds of all *Majles* representatives have been received, the General Office of Parliamentary Protocols [*Edaareh Kol-e Ghavanin-e Majles-e Showray-e Eslami*] will present the details to the Interior Ministry in order to make preliminary arrangements for the inauguration of the *Majles*.

Article 91

After making the preliminary arrangements for the *Majles* inauguration, the Minister of Interior will invite the elected MP's to Tehran. The elected MP's are required to introduce themselves to the General Office of Parliamentary Protocols.

Article 92

The Minister of Interior is required to present the election report to the Parliament at its inaugural session.

Article 93

The executive bylaw of this law will be drafted by the Interior Ministry and will be implemented upon approval by the cabinet ministers.

Article 94

Those who were required to resign due to their position and office because of (1) the previous Election Law for the *Majles* or (2) the Law of Changing the Titles of Members of the Village Islamic Councils that Were Converted to Towns approved on 17/5/1378 [8/8/1999], and resigned their post at the appropriate time may become candidates for the sixth *Majles* elections. In addition to these individuals, those who were required to resign based on this law may participate in the sixth *Majles* elections only if they tender their resignation to the President within ten days after the

legislation of this law.

Implementing this law, after being legislated and issued to the president, is compulsory.

Immediately upon the approval of this law, the Interior Ministry is required to inform the public of its details. This law includes 94 articles and 75 clauses and was passed during the open session of the Parliament on Sunday, the seventh of *Azar*, 1378 [11/28/1999] and was approved by the Guardian Council on 9/9/1378 [11/30/1999].