

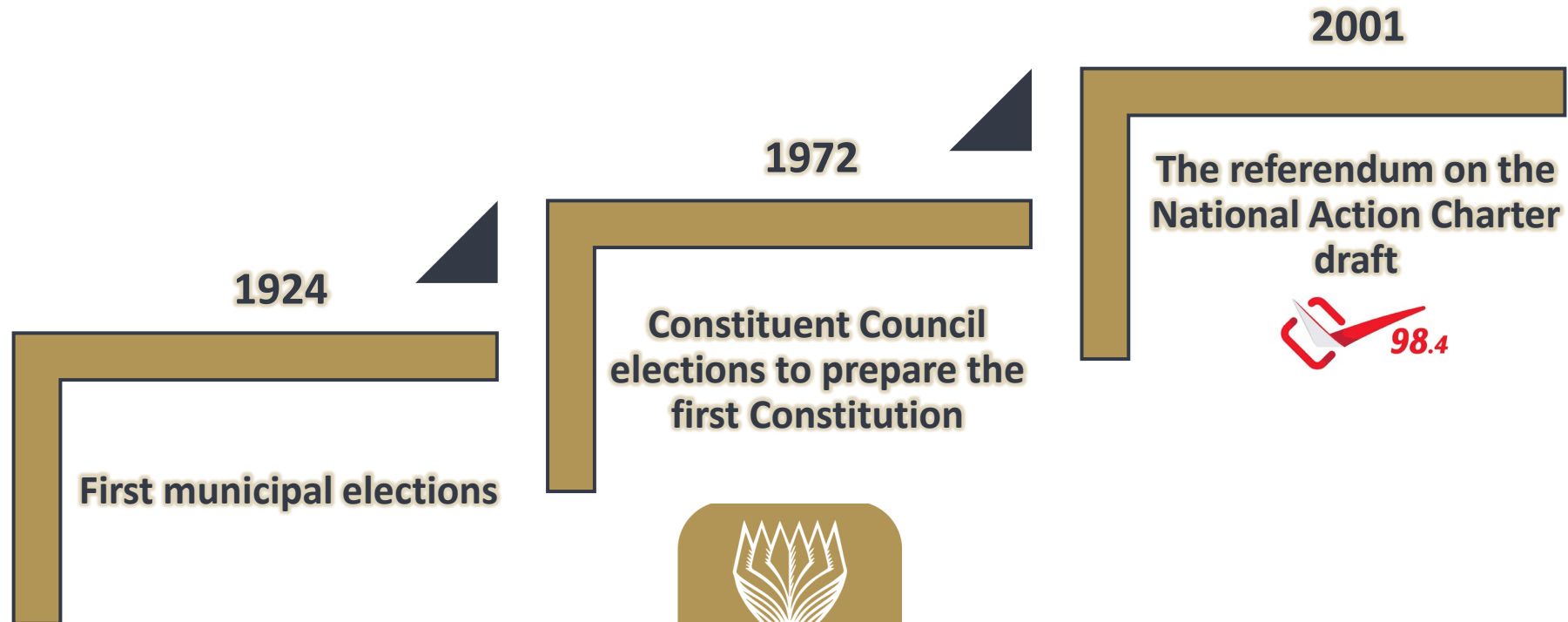
Transparency Principles in the Electoral Process

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Brief History of the Elections in the Kingdom of Bahrain

"Citizens, both men and women, shall have the right to participate in public affairs and may enjoy political rights, including the right to vote and to stand for elections, in accordance with this Constitution and the conditions and principles laid down by law. No citizen shall be deprived of their right to vote or stand for elections except by law."

- Article (1/e), Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain



Transparency of the Elections

**Judicial
Supervision over
the Electoral
Process**

**Transparency
of the Electoral
Process
Procedures**

**Civil Monitoring
of the Elections**

**Additional
Measures to
Ensure
Transparency**



Judicial Supervision over the Electoral Process

- The electoral process in the Kingdom of Bahrain enjoys complete independence from the executive authority, starting with the independence of the organizing body, all the way to the full supervision thereto by the Judicial Authority.



Legislation & Legal
Opinion Commission



Judicial Authority

- The Elections and Referendum Department was appended to the Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission in 2007, to ensure that the organization of the electoral process is carried by a fully independent body of a judicial nature that takes into account the principles of impartiality, neutrality and legal grounds in this regard.





Section 4 of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, titled (The Judicial Authority), in Clause (c) of Article (104):

«The law shall lay down the provisions pertaining to the Public Prosecution, the tasks of the office for legal opinions, the preparation of legislation, State representation before the judiciary, and personnel employed on such matters.»



The Independence of the Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission

independent
commission
of a judicial
nature

exercise its
technical powers
independently
without any
intervention

its chairman
represents it
before the
judiciary and in
dealing with
others

legal personality
and independent
budget

Members of the
Commission, while carrying
out their technical duties,
shall only be subject to the
supervision of their superiors
according to their ranks

The Chairman shall
have the powers
granted to the minister
by laws and regulations,
regarding
administrative and
financial affairs of the
Commission

Members of the
Commission are
appointed by
Royal Orders



Supreme Committee for Overall Supervision of the Soundness of the Election of Members of the Council of Representatives

**Capital Governorate
Supervisory Committee
of the Election
Soundness**

**Muharraq Governorate
Supervisory Committee
of the Election
Soundness**

**Northern Governorate
Supervisory Committee
of the Election
Soundness**

**Southern Governorate
Supervisory Committee
of the Election
Soundness**

**Balloting and
Counting
Committees**

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The Right to Appeal Before the Competent Courts

Voters' and Candidates' Lists



- The person concerned has the right to appeal against the decisions of the Supervisory Committees before the Supreme Civil Court of Appeal within three days from the date of its issuance.
- The Court shall decide on appeals within seven days from the date of filing the case by a final judgment not subject to appeal.

Election Results



- Candidates have the right to appeal against the election results before the Court of Cassation within fifteen days from the date of announcing the general result of election.



Transparency of the Electoral Process Procedures

Voters' Lists:



- Voters' lists must be displayed at the premises of the Supervisory Committees in each electoral district for seven days.



- To simplify the procedures, the Executive Management of the Elections provided electronic methods for the people to check the registration of their names in the voters' lists.



CORRECTION

- Any person whose name is not included or if there is an error in the details concerning their registration, may request the Supervisory Committee to register their name or to correct the details concerning their registration.





- Any voter whose name is included in the voters' lists, may request the inclusion of a person's name who unduly neglected the inclusion of his name, to strike off the name of a person who was unduly included, or to correct the details concerning the registration.



- Right to appeal against the Committee's decision before the Supreme Civil Court of Appeal.



- Final lists shall be deemed as evidence at the time of exercising any political rights.



- Each candidate shall have the right to obtain one official copy of the voters' list.



Candidacy Procedures for Membership of the Council of Representatives and Municipal Councils:

- The opening and closing dates of candidature are announced before a sufficient period from the date fixed for holding the elections, **at least 45 days**.
- Initial list shall be displayed at the premises of each constituency showing the names of the candidates for a period of three days following the closing of candidature.
- Anyone who has applied for candidacy and his name was not included in the candidates' list may request the Supervisory Committee to include his name among the candidates.
- Any Candidate may object to the inclusion of the name of any of the other candidates. **OBJECTION**
- Right to appeal against the Committee's decision before the Supreme Civil Court of Appeal.
- The final lists of the candidates' names shall be displayed each at the premises of his constituency and announced in one of the local publication means.
- Candidates' lists are displayed through the elections website. www.vote.bh



Voting Process:



Allocated place for the candidates or their agents to observe the voting process.



Booths are allocated to maintain secrecy and avoid any influence.



It is prohibited to use cell phones or photographic devices in the voting booths.



Chairman shall inspect the ballot boxes verifying that they are empty, then closes them with a security seal.



Balloting minutes shall be opened to record all the procedures and decisions taken by the committee.





Ballot papers are randomly distributed.



All remaining ballot papers shall be withdrawn at the end of the voting time.



The slots of the ballot boxes shall be sealed.



Balloting minutes shall then be closed.



Counting Process:



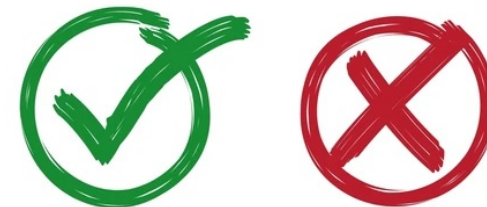
Candidates or their agents are allowed to be present during the counting process.



Counting minutes shall be opened to record all the procedures and decisions taken by the Committee.



Opening the ballot boxes, emptying them on the counting tables, and making sure they are completely empty.



Votes that seems to be invalid shall be presented to the Committee to decide on their validity.





Ballot papers shall be bundled for each candidate, kept in envelopes of their own, and placed in one of the ballot boxes.



Ballot boxes shall then be closed using the security seals.



Counting minutes shall be closed, including in it the result of each candidate and the serial number of the security seal that will be used to close each ballot box.



The Chairman of the Balloting and Counting Committee accompanies the ballot boxes and deliver them along with the original minutes to the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee.



Result Announcement:

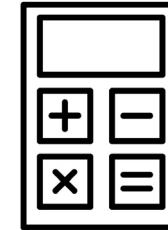


Candidates or their agents are entitled to attend the Supervisory Committees premises during the result announcement process.



The Supervisory Committees receives:

- Ballot boxes.
- Ballot papers.
- Original minutes.



The Supervisory Committee calculates the total votes obtained by each candidate.

The Supervisory Committees shall write minutes for each constituency within its jurisdiction, including:

- Total number of voters registered in the constituency.
- Total number of voters who attended and cast their votes.
- Total number of valid and invalid votes.
- Total number of votes each candidate obtained.

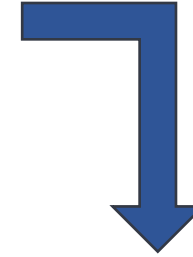




Parliamentary Elections



Chairman of the Balloting and Counting Committee shall **inform** each candidate of the number of votes obtained in the constituency, noting that such result is **not final**.



Copy of the result, with all the minutes and electoral papers shall be sent to the **Supreme Committee**, which shall make the **final announcement of the general result**.



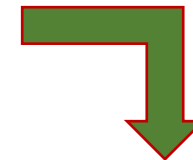
Chairman of the Supervisory Committee shall announce the election result in all the constituencies under his jurisdiction.



Municipal Elections



Chairman of the Supervisory Committee in each electoral district shall announce **the general result** of the election.



Copy of the result shall be sent to the **Minister of Justice** and another to the **Municipality Directorate**, where such directorate shall send to each of the winning members a certificate of membership.



Civil Monitoring of the Elections

“Election monitoring refers to all acts of monitoring and control of the electoral process by field-based follow-up of the electoral process and collecting its data objectively with impartiality and neutrality, to ensure the proper application of the procedures related to the electoral process and monitor the violations related to it.”



Scope of Monitoring:

- Monitoring the electoral process at all stages.
- Monitoring the conduct of candidates, political societies, and other civil institutions.
- Monitoring the conduct of voters, citizens, and individuals.
- Monitor and control the use of places of worship or harness religious discourse to promote candidates or vilify others, or any other violations considered punishable according to the relevant laws.



Condition to be met in the person carrying out the monitoring:

- To be a Bahraini national with good reputation and enjoying full civil and political rights.
- Not to be a member of any of the political societies.
- Not to be a candidate nor a candidate's agent, legal agent, or recommender.
- To monitor under the name of the civil society institution that he follows, **without the requirement of being a member of such institution.**



Rules and Ethics of Monitoring:

knowledge and familiarity of the legislations related to the electoral process

respect the sovereignty of law

impartiality in performing the work and not to express any differentiation

not to expose or wear anything that demonstrates any political affiliation

refrain from carrying out any electoral campaign

carry out the work without personal intervention that would obstruct the electoral process

avoid giving instructions carrying cancellation or curbing to electoral decisions

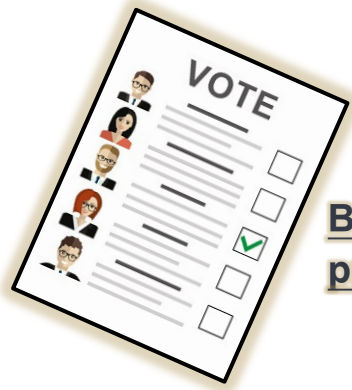
always carry an identity document

not to interfere to provide advice, consultation, or guidance to the voters

disclosure of constituency, and if a relative has a direct concern in the electoral process



Additional Measures to Ensure Transparency



Ballot papers are designed with precise security specifications.



Passports of the participants in the electoral process are stamped.



The system used is set to only accept the name once.



An employee is positioned behind the ballot box to monitor the insertion of the ballot papers.





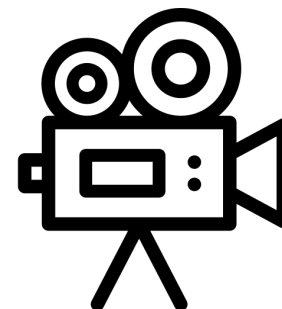
Transparent ballot boxes that conform to international standards.



Electoral center employees are from a different constituency than the one of the balloting and counting committee.



The press and media are permitted to enter all balloting and counting centers.



Cameras are installed for live broadcasting.



Security forces and unauthorized persons are prohibited from entering balloting and counting centers except at the request of the Chairman.



We Vote for Bahrain



