



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:
OUTSTANDING ELECTION RESULTS
(Results of 444 *Problematic* Polling Stations)**

On 26 April 2014, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) announced the preliminary results of the 5 April Presidential Election, based on the 19,431 polling stations, reported as open on Election Day. At the same press conference, IEC Chairman Ahmad Yusuf Nuristani explained that results from 444 polling stations, located in all provinces except Sar-e-Pul, had been problematic. Because of these problems, the results from these polling stations had not been processed at the National Tally Centre and were therefore not yet included in the full preliminary results.

Why were these 444 polling station results considered problematic?

For various reasons, these polling station results required further investigation by the IEC before they could be distinguished as either valid or invalid. Therefore, they were said to be problematic, in that they could not be included in the preliminary results, delivered to the public on 26 April.

What is the status of these polling stations now?

Of the 444 polling station results requiring further investigation, 291 polling station results have been declared valid, based on the decision of the IEC on 6 May. These results are now included in the full preliminary result. The remaining 153 polling station results will not be included in the preliminary results, and fall into the following categories:

- Results from 91 polling stations reflected zero votes: Although these 91 polling stations were confirmed to be open on Election Day, results forms indicate that no ballots were cast. While these results are considered valid, they do not add to the number of votes received by any candidate.
- Results from 36 polling stations were not recorded on official results forms and lacked polling center codes: Because they were not recorded on official election results forms (and instead were recorded on regular paper), the origin of these results forms could not be identified or verified according to an official polling center code. Therefore, their validity could not be ascertained and the IEC has determined that these results are invalid.
- Results from 26 polling stations cannot be located: The physical location of these results could not be ascertained. This figure is relatively very small (representing less than 0.02% of results from all polling stations) and is notably much lower than in past elections.

While the IEC has completed its investigation of these remaining polling station results, all decisions on validity or invalidity have been shared with the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC). The IECC is now carrying out its own assessment and will advise the IEC, accordingly. This additional review by the IECC is intended to protect the integrity of final election results.

When will final election results be shared with the Afghan public?

According to Afghanistan's Election Law, the IEC may only officially announce the final election results after the IECC has addressed all electoral challenges. According to the electoral calendar, and provided that all decisions of the IECC have been received, the IEC is scheduled to announce final Presidential Election results on 14 May 2014.