



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ADDITIONAL POLLING STATIONS TO ACCOMMODATE THE RUN-OFF ELECTION

On the day of Afghanistan's 2014 Presidential and Provincial Council Elections (5 April), the Independent Election Commission (IEC) had prepared a total of 20,773 polling stations. It had also equipped every province with additional 5% contingency sensitive materials than were considered, to be made available if needed. In order for additional ballots to accommodate further voters, an additional 404 polling stations were established across the country. Based on the lessons learned from the first election round, the IEC now can better identify participation trends and accommodate voters. Therefore, the IEC plans to open a total of 23,136 polling stations in the run-off election.

How have the locations for additional polling stations been determined?

In allocating the additional polling stations, the IEC is committed to maintaining impartiality and enabling the broadest possible participation. To this end, additional polling stations have been allocated according to criteria that is universal, neutral and inclusive. As outlined in the IEC Decision No. 16-1393, additional polling stations have been allocated according to the following criteria:

- All polling stations planned prior to the first round of election will be included among those planned for the run-off election; and their location shall remain unchanged.
- Reductions to the number of planned polling stations, implemented after the 2010 election shall be reversed.
- Polling stations which were taken as contingency PSs in the first round should be included as standard planned stations in the second round.
- 5% polling stations should be added in all provinces in the run-off election. Additionally, 5% contingency polling stations shall be considered in each province.
- In the second round, an extra polling station should be allocated in the polling centers which were confronted with shortage of ballots in the first round, to ensure that any shortfalls can be addressed.

IEC Decision No. 16-1393 can be accessed on the IEC website at <http://www.iec.org.af/pdf/decisions-1393/eng/16.pdf>.

According to IEC plans and provided that Election Day conditions allow, polling stations will be distributed as outlined on the following page.