



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ELECTION SECURITY

Who is responsible for national security on Election Day?

Under the direction of the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MOI) and supported by the Ministry of Defense (MOD), Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are responsible for national security, including arrangements for security on Election Day. The Independent Election Commission (IEC) values the security provided by the ANSF; it enables the IEC to open polling centers and conduct elections.

While the Ministry of Interior advises the IEC with regard to the security of polling centers, the IEC is ultimately responsible for determining the final list of polling centers. Based on the advice received following the MOI security assessment, the IEC plans to open up to 6,775 polling centers on Election Day. However, this number could be reduced, depending on security-related developments.

What measures are in place to protect the security of voters when they go to polling centers to cast their ballots?

On Election Day, every voter will be searched before he or she may enter a polling center. Weapons or any items that might be used as weapons will not be allowed inside or within 500 meters of a polling center, unless authorized by the Ministry of Interior.

Afghans – community and religious leaders, civil society, and political actors – are critical in encouraging civil responsibility and discouraging behavior that is unlawful or that compromises the integrity of the electoral process. All Afghans, including the media, observers and civil society, are encouraged to report incidents of threats, intimidation or other actions that are unlawful or compromise the integrity of the electoral process.

Should Afghans risk their personal security to go to polling centers on Election Day?

Participating in democratic elections is important. It is the sovereign right of all eligible Afghan voters to participate in elections, and choose their elected officials according to their respective policies. In addition, voting is a way to contribute to a peaceful democratic transition. However, voters should avoid any situation that they consider to be a risk to personal security.