

TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

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AN INTRODUCTION



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VISION

DELIVER INCLUSIVE AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS THAT PEOPLE TRUST.

MISSION

WE STRIVE TO HOLD FREE, FAIR AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS THAT TRULY REFLECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.



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ACRONUMS

APO Assistant Presiding Officer
ARO Assistant Returning Officer
BVM Biometric Verification Machine

CBC Census Block Code

CEC Chief Election Commissioner

CERS Computerized Electoral Rolls System
CMS Complaint Management System
CNIC Computerized National Identity Card

CSO Civil Society Organization

DEC District Election Commissioner

DG Director General

DRO District Returning Officer

ECP Election Commission of Pakistan

EMCC Election Monitoring and Control Centre

EMS Election Management System

ER Electoral Rolls

EVM Electronic Voting Machine

E-Voting Electronic Voting

FBR Federal Board of Revenue
FIA Federal Investigation Agency
GPS Global Positioning System

HR Human Resource

IFES International Foundation for Electoral System IORMS Integrated Office Record Management System ISO International Organization for Standardization

IT Information Technology
IVR Interactive Voice Response

LAN Local Area Network

LGE Local Government Elections
MEC Member Election Commission

MIS Management Information System

NA National Assembly

NAB National Accountability Bureau

NADRA National Database and Registration Authority
NICOP National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistani
NTC National Telecommunication Corporation

OMR Optical Mark Recognition
ORS Online Recruitment System

PA Provincial Assembly

PADRM Pakistan Electoral Academy for Democratic

Practices, Research and Management

PEC Provincial Election Commissioner

PEMRA Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority

PER Preliminary Election Rolls

PID Press Information Department

PO Polling Officer Pr.O Presiding Officer

PTA Pakistan Telecommunication Authority

REC Regional Election Commissioner

RO Returning Officer

SMS Short Message Service

UNDP United Nation Development Programme

VPN Virtual Private Network
WAN Wide Area Network

MESSAGE



As Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan, it is my pleasure to present this visitors' book, "An Introduction to the Election Commission of Pakistan". The book aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the institution's structure, functions, and achievements. It offers glimpses into the ECP's fundamental role in upholding democratic values and highlights its resolute commitment to nurture the country's electoral integrity in theory and practice.

At the heart of the ECP's success lies its multifaceted organizational structure, encompassing various wings performing legal, operational, and administrative

functions. These wings play a crucial role in policy development, election planning, monitoring, and the seamless execution of electoral processes. This book pays tribute to their dedication and efficiency, which are instrumental in maintaining the credibility of Pakistan's electoral framework.

Equally commendable are the efforts of the ECP's field offices, which act as the frontline force in delivering electoral services across diverse and challenging terrains. Their relentless work in voter outreach, logistical coordination, and real-time round-the-clock support is integral to the success of every election. Together, the ECP and its field offices embody a unified vision of strengthening democracy in Pakistan through professionalism, hard work and commitment.

I wish the Commission, its officers and officials all the success for the future.

Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan 10th March 2025

INTRODUCTION



The publication of this book, "An introduction to Election Commission" reflects the ECP's unwavering commitment to strengthening democratic processes in Pakistan. Over the decades, the Commission has evolved into an organization dedicated to integrity, resilience, and innovation, fulfilling its constitutional mandate of conducting free, fair, and transparent elections. This book encapsulates the ECP's remarkable journey and offers visitors an opportunity to explore the evolution of the electoral system in Pakistan.

The Election Commission's history is one of perseverance

evolution and progress. From its early challenges in an emerging Pakistan to the reforms and advancements of today, the ECP has consistently adapted to meet the demands of an evolving democracy. Each era, from the Basic Democracy System of the 1960s to the significant reforms introduced ahead of the 2024 General Elections, reflects the Commission's commitment to ensuring credibility and public trust in the electoral process.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated team including Mr. Haroon Khan Shinwari (ADG), Mr. Khurshid Alam (Director), and Ms. Bibi Sughra (DD) who worked tirelessly to prepare this document. Their research and meticulous attention have resulted in a publication that I hope will serve as a basic informative source while highlighting the ECP's journey in challenging times. I would also like to express my gratitude to Special Secretary Zafar Iqbal Hussain, who provided full support to the team in all stages of the completion of this book. The services of PS to Secretary Ms. Anum Zahra, are also to be commended. This acknowledgment extends to all those who contributed their expertise, time, and effort to make this book a valuable contribution to understanding electoral governance in Pakistan.

I wish the reader a happy reading.

Mr. Omar Hamid Khan Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan 10th March 2025

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THE COMMISSION



Left to right:

Mr. Babar Hassan Bharwana

Mr. Nisar Ahmed Durrani

Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja

Mr. Shah M. Jatoi

Justice (R) Ikramullah Khan

(Member ECP from Punjab)

(Member ECP from Sindh)

(Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan)

(Member ECP from Balochistan)

(Member ECP from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

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BASIC FACTS ABOUT PAKISTAN

Official Name	Islamic Republic of Pakistan		
Father of the Nation	Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948)		
National Poet	Allama Sir Muhammad Iqbal (1877 –1938)		
Head of State	President Asif Ali Zardari		
Capital	Islamabad		
Area	881,913 km2		
Population	241,499,431 (Census 2023)		
Religion	96.3% Islam (official), 2.2% Hinduism, 1.4% Christianity, 0.1% others		
Official Languages	Urdu and English		
Native languages	Over 77 languages (Including Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, etc)		
Government system	Federal Parliamentary Republic		
Parliament	The Parliament of Pakistan is the country's supreme legislative body, comprising two houses: the National Assembly and the Senate. The National Assembly, the lower house, consists of members directly elected by the public for a term of five years and is responsible for making federal laws and overseeing the government. The Senate, the upper house, represents the provinces and is composed of members elected by provincial assemblies, serving six year terms. Together, these houses play a crucial role in shaping national policies, enacting legislation, and representing the diverse interests of Pakistan's population.		
Weather	04 Seasons Variation (Summer, Winter, Autumn, Spring)		
Area	881,913 km2 (340,509 sq mi)		
Time zone	UTC+05:00 (PKT)		
Drives on	Left		
Calling code	+92		

TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

Provinces

Pakistan comprises of four provinces and two autonomous territories. The provinces, known for their size and population, are Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan of Pakistan. Punjab, with Lahore as its capital, is renowned for its diverse culture and fertile land. Sindh, located in the southeast, has Karachi as its capital, which is the country's largest city and economic hub. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with Peshawar as its capital, is celebrated for its ethnic diversity and mountainous terrain. Balochistan, the largest province by area, has Quetta as its capital and is recognized for its vast landscapes and abundant natural resources. Each province contributes uniquely to the country's cultural, economic, and geographical diversity.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is a self-governing administrative region in Pakistan. Here are its salient features:

1. Geographical Location & Landscape

Located in the northern part of Pakistan, bordering Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Indian-administered Jammu & Kashmir having an area of approximately 13,297 square kilometers.

Features a mountainous terrain, lush green valleys, rivers, lakes, and forests. The Jhelum, Neelum, and Poonch rivers are major water bodies.

2. Political & Administrative Setup

Azad Jamu and Kashimr

AJK has its own President, Prime Minister, and Legislative Assembly. The region operates under the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974. Muzaffarabad is the capital, while other important cities include Mirpur, Rawalakot, Kotli, and Bagh.

3. Climate

Varies from subtropical to alpine due to its diverse topography. Summers are mild and pleasant, while winters are cold with snowfall in hilly areas.

4. Economy

Hydropower generation is a key economic activity (e.g., Mangla Dam). Agriculture: Major crops include maize, wheat, and fruits like apples, walnuts, and apricots.

5. Tourism

Popular destinations include Neelum Valley, Rawalakot, Leepa Valley, and Ratti Gali Lake.



TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is a strategically important region in northern Pakistan, known for its breathtaking landscapes, diverse culture, and economic potential. Here are its salient features:

1. Geographical Location & Landscape

Northernmost territory of Pakistan, bordering China, Afghanistan, and Indianadministered Jammu & Kashmir having an area of 72,971 square kilometers.

Features some of the world's highest peaks, including:

K2 (8,611m) – the second-highest mountain in the world and Nanga Parbat (8,126m) – the ninth-highest mountain.

Major rivers: Indus, Gilgit, Shyok, Hunza.

2. Political & Administrative Setup

GB has a provincial-like status but is not fully integrated into Pakistan's federal structure. Governed under the Gilgit-Baltistan Order 2018. Has its own Chief Minister, Governor, and Legislative Assembly.

Capital: Gilgit.

3. Climate

Gilgit

Baltistan

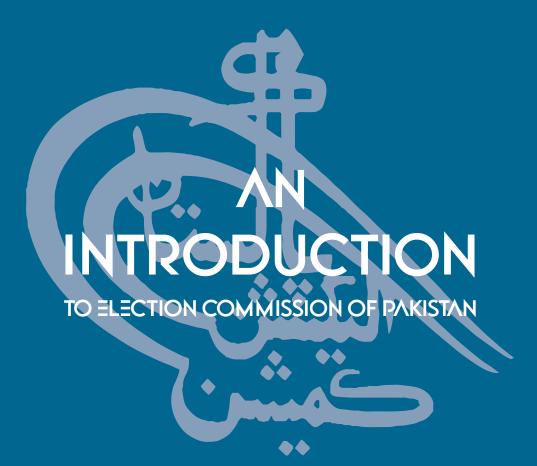
Extreme cold in winters, especially in Skardu, Hunza, and Khunjerab. Mild to warm summers, making it a popular tourist destination. Heavy snowfall in higher altitudes during winter.

4. Economy

Tourism Hub: Known as the "Land of Mountains," attracting trekkers, climbers, and adventure seekers. Hydropower Potential: Rich in water resources, crucial for Pakistan's energy needs (e.g. Diamer-Bhasha Dam, Bunji Dam). Agriculture & Horticulture: Produces apricots, cherries, apples, walnuts, and almonds.

Trade Route: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through GB, linking Pakistan with China via the Karakoram Highway (KKH).







THE EVOLUTION OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN: STRUGGLES TO GLORY

1.1 Introduction:

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), established under Article 218 of the Constitution of Pakistan, is a pivotal institution in the country's democratic framework. Its origin is traced back to the pre-independence era when electoral processes were managed under the British colonial system. After the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the country adopted the Government of India Act, 1935, with slight modifications, as the interim constitution to run its day-to-day affairs. The Constituent Assemblies took almost nine years to draft the first Constitution, which was promulgated in March, 1956. The Constitution provided parliamentary form of government with a unicameral legislature. In 1956, Election Commission was also established under this Constitution, but elections could not be held at that time. Despite its crucial function, the ECP has faced numerous challenges over the years as given below:

1.2 Early Challenges: The Initial Struggle (1947 - 1970)

Soon after its inception in 1956, the Election Commission of Pakistan faced a number of issues as the electoral process was marred by political instability and limited administrative capacity. The ECP struggled to establish basic systems for organizing elections and addressing electoral disputes, which often led to questions about the fairness of the process. In 1960, the Basic Democracy System was introduced whereby 80,000 local council members were elected through direct vote, who assumed the role of Electoral College for electing members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, and the President. In 1962, a new Constitution was drafted and promulgated providing a presidential form of government. The Election Commission conducted indirect elections for National and Provincial assemblies in 1962. The ECP also oversaw the election of the President on January 2, 1965.

1.3 The Era of Instability: Struggles and Reforms (1970 - 2000)

The period between 1970 and 2000 was characterized by significant political instability and frequent changes of governments. The ECP faced challenges including political and governmental interference, (allegations of corruption), deficiencies in the electoral system, and inefficiencies in electoral management. Despite various reforms, including the introduction of new regulations and administrative changes, the Commission continuously strived to improve electoral laws and rules to ensure objectivity and transparency of elections in the country. In 1970, a Legal Frame Work Order (LFO) was issued and under this framework, the first-ever General Elections based on the adult franchise were held for National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies on 7th and 17th December 1970 respectively, across the country.

1.4 The 2000s: Attempts at Modernization and Electoral Reforms

The early 2000s saw a concerted effort to modernize the electoral process. Reforms were introduced to address some of the systemic issues plaguing the ECP. Initiatives included the establishment of new voter registration systems, improvements in election monitoring, and efforts to improve the general electoral system. However, these reforms were met with mixed results, and the ECP continued to face significant challenges in implementing electoral laws effectively.

1.5 The 2013 Elections: A Turning Point for the Election Commission

The 2013 general elections marked a turning point for the ECP. Despite hurdles, the Commission successfully implemented various reforms that significantly improved the transparency and management of the electoral process. The introduction of a series of pilot projects for biometric voter verification and the establishment of a rigorous system for monitoring ensured the timely resolution of electoral complaints and enhanced the credibility of the elections.

1.6 The 2018 Elections: Continuation of Democratic Process

The Commission took multiple decisions in the light of "General Elections 2013 Inquiry Commission" report with the view to improve its institutional capability in four major areas i.e. Planning, Training, Coordination and Monitoring.

A "National Coordination Committee" under the chairmanship of Chief Election

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Commissioner was constituted to remove ambiguities in electoral laws/ policies and to make the Commission well-acquainted with the ground realities.

Similarly a "Planning Committee" under the chairmanship of the Secretary ECP was setup to prepare strategy for conduct of General Elections 2018 in terms of human and financial resources.

The decisions of the Commission were implemented and resulted attainment of achievements of epic importance, a gist, whereof is as under:

- i. Elections Rules-2017 were framed by the Commission.
- ii. Gender, Monitoring, Political Finance and Protocol Wing were established and training wing was strengthened.
- iii. Accuracy of Electoral Rolls was improved.
- iv. Polling stations were increased to 85,090 with 244,687 polling booths.
- v. 592 monitoring teams were appointed to monitor election campaign of candidates and political parties.
- vi. A "Complaint Management Cell" was established at ECP Secretariat to effectively resolve and respond to poll day complaints in real time.
- vii. Total 17,007 CCTV Cameras were installed in highly sensitive polling stations.
- viii. Special security arrangements were made.
- ix. GIS mapping of polling stations was introduced.
- x. "Online Scrutiny Facilitation Cell" was established at Secretariat to facilitate the ROs for scrutiny of nomination papers.

General Elections-2018 was the third consecutive election from Pakistan's most recent transition to democracy where a democratic handover of power was observed. The three major parties were Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Muslim League, and Pakistan People's Party. The PTI won the most seats in the National Assembly but fell short of a majority and subsequently formed a coalition Government with several smaller parties.

1.7 The Path to 2024 (2020 - 2024): Key Reforms, Institutionalization, and Advancements

Since 1970, General Elections were held in 1977, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1997, 2002, 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2024. In these years, leading up specifically to the 2024 elections, an open-door policy for all international observers and international media was visualized. As part of these preparations, the ECP undertook significant reforms for strengthening electoral integrity. Key advancements included, but were not limited to, the adoption of the enhanced result management system, improvements to voter registration, database, successful delimitation process, more stress on training, and political parties electoral finance monitoring. A record of 2276 student awareness sessions were conducted across the country, more than 80 media awareness workshops, and mass awareness programs through conventional and social media platforms were implemented. Several initiatives including acquisition of ECP-owned buildings, a transport facility for the ECP employees, strengthening HR through an impartial, and timely recruitment system, conducting disciplinary proceedings, and taking actions against violations of the Code of Conduct, law and ECP directives, timely decisionmaking and disposal of electoral cases, were taken. Additionally, special measures were adopted for minorities and the special ability and marginalized segments of society to ensure inclusiveness in the electoral process. A special feature involved establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU), working dedicatedly on Complaint Management System (CMS) and overseas voting, implemented a range of projects including the monitoring framework software and the Election Monitoring Control Center (EMCC) with 180 subordinate provincial, regional and district level monitoring setups ensuring monitoring of activities. Resultantly, 301 fines' were imposed for violations. These technological upgrades were designed to address previous weaknesses and ensure a more efficient and transparent electoral process. The database was expanded as was record keeping through distinct processes known as Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS).

1.8 General Elections 2024: The Summit of Electoral Evolution

The General Elections of 2024 represent the culmination of years of reforms and modernization efforts by the ECP. Keeping in view the law and order situation in the country especially in the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, meetings with the Federal/Provincial Governments and Law enforcement agencies were held,



resultantly Elections-2024 were conducted in a peaceful manner without any major violence, comparing General Elections 2018. Moreover, these elections were conducted with a high degree of transparency, efficiency, and credibility, showcasing the success of the Commission's recent reforms. In addition, advanced technologies, rigorous oversight, and improved processes contributed to a democratic exercise, widely regarded as one of the most systematically improved Elections in Pakistan's history.

1.9 Reflecting on Achievements and Future Directions

The journey of the Election Commission of Pakistan, from its early struggles to the success of the 2024 General Elections, illustrates a remarkable transformation. Through persistent efforts to reform and modernize its processes, ECP has significantly improved its institutional ability to conduct fair and transparent elections. As Pakistan continues on the path of democracy and building democratic institutions, the ECP's experience serves as a landmark to the importance of consistent improvement and innovation in a major organization detailed to development of democracy. The following table presents the poll dates in chronological order:

General Elections' Poll Dates (1970-2024)

	General Elections (Year)	Date of Polling		
Sr.#		National Assembly	Provincial Assembly	
1	1970	7th December 1970	17th December 1970	
2	1977	7th March 1977	10th March 1977	
3	1985	25th February 1985	28th February 1985	
4	1988	16th November 1988	19th November 1988	
5	1990	24th October 1990	27th October 1990	
6	1993	6th October 1993	9th October 1993	



*Since 1997 the General Election of National & Provincial Assemblies are being held on a single day

7	1997	3rd February 1997
8	2002	10th October 2002
9	2008	18th February 2008
10	2013	11th May 2013
11	2018	25th July 2018
12	2024	8th February 2024

Turnout in General Elections (1985 to 2024)

Sr.#	General Elections (Year)	Total Turnout
1	1985	53.69%
2	1988	43.07%
3	1990	45.46%
4	1993	40.28%
5	1997	35.42%
6	2002	41.68%
7	2008	44.11%
8	2013	53.62%
9	2018	51.70%
10	2024	47.65%





COMPOSITION OF ELECTION

2.1 Constitution of Pakistan and the Election Commission

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was established under the 1956 Constitution comprising the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of Election Commissioners as may be determined by the President and their term of office was five years. The duties of the Commission included the preparation of electoral rolls, organizing and conduct of elections for the assemblies. Similarly, the 1962 Constitution provided for an Election Commission comprising the Chief Election Commissioner and two Members, each from West Pakistan and East Pakistan who were required to be the Judges of respective High Courts. Their term of office was three years.

Likewise, the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan promulgated in 1973 also provides for the Election Commission. Originally, the Election Commission was required to be constituted for each general election and the Commission was comprising two members only. Article 218 in its original form is reproduce below:

- (1) "For the purpose of each general election to the national assembly and to a provincial assembly, an Election Commission shall be constituted in accordance with this Article.
- (2) The Election Commission shall consist of:
 - (a) The Commissioner who shall be the Chairman of the Commission;
 - (b) Two members, each of whom shall be a judge of a High Court, appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned and with the Commissioner.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Election Commission constituted in relation to an election to organize and conduct the election and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law, and that corrupt practices are guarded against."

At present, Article 218 provides that the Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner who shall be the Chairman of the Commission; and four members, one from each Province, each of whom shall be a person who has been a Judge of a High Court or has been a senior civil servant or is a technocrat and is not more than 65 years of age. As per qualification contained in Article 213 of the Constitution, the Chief Election Commissioner can be a person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or has been a senior civil servant or is a technocrat and is not more than 68 years of age. The Commissioner and members are required to hold office for a term of five years and two of the members shall after completion of their five-year term, retire by rotation after two and a half years. Moreover, vacancy in the office of the Commissioner or a member shall be filled within 45 days.

However, a new proviso has been added vide 26th Amendment Act-2024 wherein it has been provided that: the Commissioner or a member shall notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon the office.

Furthermore, under Article 218(3) of the Constitution, the Commission is charged with the duty of "organizing and conducting elections and making such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly in accordance with law and that corrupt practices are guarded against.

2.2 Duties of the Commission

Article 219 of the Constitution, charges the Commission with the responsibility of:

- (a) preparing electoral rolls for election to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments, and revising such rolls periodically to keep them up-to-date;
- (b) organizing and conducting election to the Senate or to fill casual vacancies in a House or a Provincial Assembly; and

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- (c) appointing Election Tribunals;
- (d) the holding of general elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and the local governments; and
- (e) such other functions as may be specified by an Act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)

The Commission is also charged with the duty of delimitation of constituencies of National Assembly/Provincial Assemblies as well as the local governments in the Provinces, the Federal Capital and Cantonments. All executive authorities in the Federation and Provinces, under Article 220 of the Constitution, are required to assist the Chief Election Commissioner and the Commission in the discharge of his or their functions.

Article 221 of the Constitution read with section 6 of the Elections Act 2017 provides that the Commissioner shall exercise powers relating to the appointment of officers and staff to be employed in connection with the functions of the Commission and determine their terms and conditions of employment in accordance with the Rules.

2.3 Organizational Structure of the Election Commission

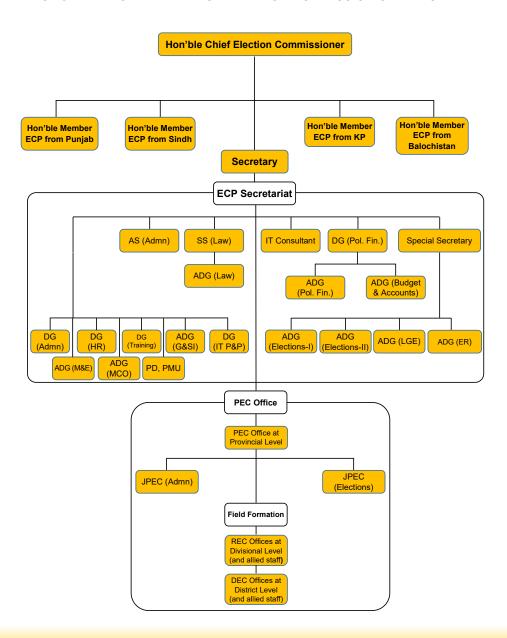
In order to organize and conduct free and fair elections, the Commission is supported by its Secretariat and a countrywide network of offices led by the Secretary ECP. The Secretary has the support of two Additional Secretaries or Special Secretaries (as the case may be), Directors General (DGs), Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs), Additional Directors General (ADGs), and other hierarchical officers. The Commission has more than 3500 staff members across the country. The current organizational structure of the Commission at the Secretariat, provincial, divisional and district level is elaborated at page 26:-





DRGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN





LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ELECTIONS

Law is equal for all citizens and for the conduct of elections in a democratic country, an adequate legal framework is a prerequisite so that all stakeholders may have equal access and opportunities to participate in the electoral process. Usually, the Constitutions of the countries provide major guidelines and timeframe for the conduct of elections. Under the Constitution, laws are enacted, and rules are formulated accordingly. The election management bodies also devise instructions and codes to govern the election process that is acceptable to all concerned, usually through a consultation process.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, provides the basis for the democratic process, whereas the Elections Act, 2017, and the Election Rules, 2017, provide the legal framework for conducting general elections in the country. The composition of the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies is given in Articles 51 and 106 of the Constitution, respectively.

Article 224(1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, outlines the timeline for the conduct of the Election. A general election to the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly is required to be held within (60) days immediately following the day on which the term of the Assembly is due to expire. The article further states that when the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly is dissolved, a general election must be held within (90) days of the dissolution. Additionally, the Article provides that the election results must be declared within 14 days after the conclusion of the polls.

After the 18th Constitutional amendment, a new Article 224 (A) was inserted which gave procedure for the appointment of caretaker governments. The Government, before the completion of the term of assemblies, shall initiate the process of constituting caretaker governments. However, in the case of early dissolution of assemblies, such a process is initiated immediately after dissolution. The mandate of the Caretaker Government is defined in Section 230 of the Elections Act, 2017. Its prime mandate is to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan in the conduct of free, fair and transparent elections.

Section 14 of the Elections Act, 2017 requires the Election Commission to prepare a comprehensive Action Plan at least four months before the General Election is due, following the expiry of the term of an assembly. The plan must detail all legal and administrative measures that have been taken or are required to be taken in the preparation.

The DROs, ROs and the AROs are appointed two months before the issuance of the election programme. However, in exceptional circumstances, they are appointed simultaneously with the election programme. The Election Commission for the smooth conduct of elections, issues certain guidelines, instructions, directives and codes of conduct. The Constitution, Elections Act and Election Rules framed thereunder, alongwith guidelines and standing instructions issued by the Election Commission, collectively provide a detailed mechanism for pre-election, election day and post-election activities vis-a-vis responsibilities of the various stakeholders including the Election Commissioner in each district. All the above officers perform their duties under the direct supervision of Provincial Election Commissioner who in turn acts upon the directions of the Commission.

Composition of the National Assembly of Pakistan 1985 to 2024

Year of General Elections	General Seats	Seats Reserved for Non-Muslims	Seats Reserved for Women	Total Membership
1985	207	10	20	237
1988	207	10	20	237
1990	207	10	-	217
1993	207	10	-	217
1997	207	10	-	217
2002	272	10	60	342
2008	272	10	60	342
2013	272	10	60	342
2018	272	10	60	342
2024	266	10	60	336





ELECTORAL SUSTEM: AN

Pakistan's electoral system is structured to ensure democratic representation at all levels of government through a well-defined and regulated process governed by the Constitution of Pakistan and administrated by the ECP. The system aims to uphold the principles of transparency and fairness in elections. The ECP, an independent body established under Article 218 of the Constitution is tasked with organizing and managing elections, preparing electoral rolls, and addressing electoral disputes. The primary legislation guiding the electoral process are the Elections Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017 which provides detailed procedures for conducting elections and managing electoral activities.

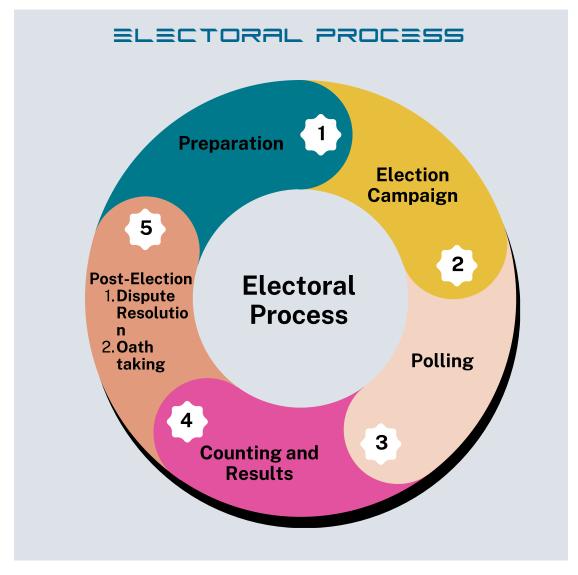
The electoral framework includes several types of Elections, each serving a distinct purpose. General elections are held every five years to elect members to the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies. The National Assembly acts as the federal legislative body, while the Provincial Assemblies oversee governance within their respective provinces. General elections are conducted using a mixed system of direct and proportional representation. Bye-elections occur between general elections to fill vacant seats arising due to resignation, death, or disqualification of members. Local government elections are held to elect public representatives at the municipal and local levels, including mayors and councilors, who manage community services and local governance. System of local government varies from province to province.

The Presidential elections are indirect, and the President of Pakistan is elected by an electoral college composed of members from the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies. This system underscores the representative nature of Pakistan's federal structure.

5.1 ELECTORAL PROCESS

The electoral process begins with voter registration, ensuring that eligible citizens are included in the electoral rolls. During the election campaign, candidates and political

parties engage in activities to garner voters support. On Election Day, voters cast their ballots at designated polling stations, and votes are counted on a setup based on "First past the post". The ECP announces the results after the completion of process, and addresses post-election disputes or complaints. This comprehensive system is designed to ensure that the electoral process is fair, transparent, and reflective of the democratic will of the people of Pakistan.







ELECTORAL SUSTEM: AN

6.1 The General Elections 2024

The General Elections 2024 in Pakistan were held on February 8, 2024, to elect representatives for the National and Provincial Assemblies. The election program, as announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan, included the announcement of the schedule, submission and scrutiny of nomination papers, allocation of symbols, and the polling day. The elections were conducted nationwide, with a significant voter turnout. The results shaped the composition of the assemblies, leading to the formation of governments at the federal and provincial levels. The Election program was as indicated in the order of the Commission.



ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 22rd December, 2023

No.F.2(3)2623-Cord.- In partial modification to this Commission's hiotification of even number dated 15th December, 2023 and in exercise of power conferred upon it under Section 58 of the Elections Act, 2017 (Act No. 2000); of 2017), the Election Commission is pleased to revise various stages of Election Programme for the General Elections to the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to the following extent, to facilitate the polisical parties and prospective candidates:

REVISED ELECTION PROGRAMME				
St. No.	EVENTS	DATE		
1	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	3		
1.	Public Notice to be issued by the Returning Officer on	19.12.2023		
2.	Dates for filing of nomination papers with the Raturning Officer by the candidates	20.12.2023 to 24.12.2023		
2.	Publication of names of the nominated candidates	24.12.2023		
4.	Last date for Scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer	25.12.2023 to 30.12.2023		
5.	Last date for filling of appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer rejecting bounding the nomination papers	03.01.2024		
6.	Last date for deciding of appeals by the Appellate Triburali	10.01.2024		
7.	Publication of revised list of cardidates	11,01,2024		
8.	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and Publication of revised list of candidates	12.01.2024		
9.	Allonwert of Election Symbol to contesting candidates	13.01.2024		
10	B. W A.	98 82 2024		

2. The above mentioned Election Programme shall also apply to the seats Reserved for Women and Non-Muslims in the National Assembly and the Provincial Assembles of Punjab, Sinch, Khyber Pakhlarakhwa and Balochistan, Last date of filing of separate List of Priosity for Seats Reserved for Women & Non-Muslims before the Returning Officer is 24th December, 2023 (During office hours).

 It is perinent to mention here that all remaining stages of Election Programme issued vide ECP's Notification of even number dated 15th December, 2023 shall remain intact and poll will be held on 08th February, 2024 as notified earlier.

By Order of the Election Commission of Pakistan

(Muhammad Hasir Khim) Deputy Director (Coced)

6.2 Key Statistics on General Elections 2024

The General Elections in Pakistan are conducted on a massive scale, requiring an extensive administrative and logistical framework to ensure a smooth electoral process. For General Elections 2024, 144 District Returning Officers (DROs) and 859 Returning Officers (ROs) were appointed to administer the elections, which took place across 266 National Assembly constituencies and 593 Provincial Assemblies constituencies. To

accommodate voters efficiently, 90,675 polling stations were established, comprising 276,424 polling booths.

The polling process was accomplished by a workforce of 1,056,718 individuals, including 95,208 presiding officers, with an additional 5% reserved staff for contingencies. Ensuring security remained a critical aspect, with approximately 0.7 million security personnel deployed to maintain law and order throughout the country. With an estimated 130 million registered voters, the Election Commission of Pakistan arranged for the printing and distribution of 260 million ballot papers to facilitate the electoral process.

Additionally, a robust monitoring mechanism was kept in place, with 144 District Monitoring Officers and 1,192 Monitoring Officers tasked with overseeing the elections and ensuring transparency. The scale of these arrangements underscored the significance of the 2024 elections in shaping Pakistan's democratic future.

6.3 Presidential Elections

The qualification, term of office, electoral college, timeframe for conduct of Presidential elections are provided in the Articles 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Constitution. The steps and procedures in detail are given in the Second Schedule of the Constitution and the Presidential Election Rules-1988. The term of the office of the President is five years from the day the President enters the Office. The Constitution stipulates timelines for the conduct of elections to the office of the President. The election cannot be held earlier than 60 days before the expiry of term as well as not later than 30 days before the expiration of term of the President. However, if the election cannot be held within the specified period because of the unavailability of electoral college, it is required to be held within 30 days of the General Elections to the Assemblies.

6.4 Conduct of Presidential Election-2024

The term of the President was going to expire on 8th September, 2023. As mandated in Article 41 of the Constitution the election to the office of President was required to be held between 11th July, 2023 and 9th August, 2023 but due to non-completion of electoral college the election to the office of President could not be held on due date.

6.5 Returning Officer

The Chief Election Commissioner officiates as Returning Officer as per Paragraph 1 of



second schedule of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. For the purpose of conduct of election to the office of the President, the following Presiding Officers were appointed to assist the Returning Officer:-

Sr. No.	House/Assembly Presiding Officer		
1	i. Senate of Pakistan, Islamabad	Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court,	
	ii. National Assembly, Islamabad Islamabad		
2	Provincial Assembly of Punjab,	Member Sindh Election Commission of	
	Lahore	Pakistan	
3	Provincial Assembly of Sindh,	Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh,	
	Karachi	Karachi	
4	Provincial Assembly of Khyber	Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court,	
	Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar	Peshawar	
5	Provincial Assembly of Balochistan	Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan,	
		Quetta	

6.6 Election Programme

The Chief Election Commissioner through public notification issued election programme on 1st March, 2024 as detailed below:

Sr No.	EVENTS	DATES
1	2	3
1	Dates for Filling of Nomination Papers with the Presiding Officers at Islamabad and with each of the Presiding Officers at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta.	2nd March, 2024 Before 12 p.m. (noon)
2	Scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer at Islamabad.	4th March, 2024 at (10:00 a.m.)
3	Withdrawal of candidature before the Returning Officer at Islamabad.	5th March, 2024 (up to 12:00 Noon)
4	Publication of list of validly nominated candidates.	5th March, 2024 at (01:00 p.m.)

5	Date of Retirement			6th March, 2024
6	Polling day and Polling time			9th March, 2024 (From
				10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
7	Places of Poll	(1)	The Parliament House, Islamabad.	
		(2)	The Provincial Assembly Building, Lahore.	
		(3)	The Provincial Assembly Building, Karachi.	
		(4)	The Provincial Assembly Building, Peshawar.	
		(5)	The Provincial Assembly Building, Quetta	

The following twelve candidates submitted nominations with the Presiding Officers:

Sr. No.	Names of Candidates	
1	Asif Ali Zardari	
2	2 Mahmood Khan Achakzai	
3	Abdul Qudoos	
4	Asghar Ali Mubarak	
5	Waheed Ahmed Kamal	
6	Imran Ahmad	
7	Sarfraz	
8	Muhammad Ayaz Farooqi	
9	Syed M. Iqtidar Haider	
10	Muhammad Hanif	
11	Tausif Muhammad Khan Lodhi	
12	Shamim Ahmed	

At the final stage two candidates Mr. Asif Ali Zardari and Mr. Mehmood Khan Achakzai contested the election for the office of the President of Pakistan. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari secured the highest number of votes and was declared elected while Mr. Mehmood Khan Achakzai remained runner-up.

Senate Elections:

The **1973 Constitution** originally envisioned a Senate with **45 members**, which increased to **63 in 1977**. From **1985 to 2002**, the Senate had **87 members**, which was raised



to 100 in 2002. Through the 18th Amendment in 2010, four seats for non-Muslims were added, bringing the total to 104 members. However, after the 25th Amendment in 2018, Senate membership was reduced to 96. Under Article 59 of the Constitution, the Senate consists of 96 members as per following composition:-

COMPOSITION OF SENATE

	Seats										
Province	General	Women	Technocrats including Ulema	Non-Muslims	Total						
Federal Capital	2	1	1	-	4						
Punjab	14	4	4	1	23						
Sindh	14	4	4	1	23						
KPK	14	4	4	1	23						
Balochistan	14	4	4	1	23						
Total:	58	17	17	4	96						

6.7 Legal Framework

According to Article 224(3) of the Constitution, elections to the Senate are required to be held within 30 days before the expiration of term of incumbent Senators. As the term of 52 Senators elected in 2018 ended on 11th March 2024, the Senate elections 2024 were required to be conducted between 10th February 2024 and 11th March 2024 against 48 seats.

6.8 Conduct of Senate Election-2024

The General Elections-2024 was held on 8th February 2024 and after notification of returned candidates from National and Provincial Assemblies, the electoral college for Senate Elections was completed on 29th February 2024. However, the conduct of Election on due date i.e. before 11th March 2024 was not possible due to non-completion of prerequisites and scheduled activities as per law i.e. filing of nomination papers, scrutiny, disposal of appeals, printing of ballots etc. Additionally, the Election to the office of the President of Pakistan also coincided with the Senate Election which

was scheduled to be held on 9th March 2024. Due to these impediments, the Senate Election got slightly delayed and the poll was held on 2nd April 2024. Election to fill vacant seats from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province could not be held and postponed due to an incomplete Electoral College. Currently, the matter is sub-judice before the High Court.

6.9 Local Government Elections:

Article 140A (1) of the Constitution empowers the **provinces to establish by law**, **local governments systems** and to devolve political, administrative and financial responsibilities and authorities to the elected representatives. Articles 140A(2) and 219(d) of the Constitution further provides that Local Government Elections shall be conducted by the Election Commission of Pakistan. Article 140A (1)&(2) are reproduced below:

- (1) Each province shall, by law, establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local governments,
- (2) Elections to the local governments shall be held by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

It is well known reality that Federal and Provincial Governments are reluctant to hold LG Elections and as such they are not ready to share the administrative or financial powers. By taking cushion of above said Constitutional provision, the LG Elections have been delayed over a period of time.

Despite various hurdles created by the Federal and respective Provincial Governments, the Commission successfully conducted the LG Elections in three provinces i.e. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan and also in Cantonment Boards. The Commission left no stone unturned to fulfill its Constitutional and legal obligation for conducting LG Elections, held several meetings with the concerned Ministers, Chief Ministers and also summoned the relevant top level authorities i.e. Chief Secretaries, Secretaries Law, LG Departments and IGPs of the respective provinces. Besides this cases regarding delay of LG Elections were also heard by the Commission. Furthermore, to conduct these



elections in a free, fair and transparent manner, the Commission took strict actions on violation of LG Laws and Code of Conduct against violators including provincial ministers and other important politicians.

Following are the details of hurdles faced and efforts of Commission to conduct LG Election in the provinces and ICT:

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

- The term of LG institutions in KP expired on 27.08.2019 and the elections were held on 19.12.2021 (1st Phase) and 31.03.2023 (2nd Phase). The successive provincial government delayed the conduct of LG Elections almost for two years. The delaying tactics were used by introducing amendments in the LG Laws.
- The period for completion of transition to LG Systems was extended from six months to two years vide ordinance dated 12.05.2020.
- In conduct of 2nd phase the successive provincial government of KP created impediments and requested extension of six weeks in poll date and the case was fixed before the Hon'ble Commission on 16.01.2022. The Commission fixed the poll date as 27.03.2022 taking into account (petitions of private persons) and snow bound weather conditions.
- Peshawar High Court, Abbottabad Bench vide order dated 01.02.2022 suspended the Election Programme and directed the Commission to conduct 2nd Phase of LG Elections in KP during the month of May, 2022.
- The Commission assailed the said order before the August Supreme Court. On 09.02.2022 the August Supreme Court suspended the operation of judgment of Peshawar High Court, Abbottabad Bench and finally set aside the judgment on 14.02.2022. The same day Commission fixed 31st March as the poll date for conduct of 2nd Phase LG Elections.

Balochistan

• The term of LG in Balochistan expired on 27.01.2019 and the LG Election were held

on 29.05.2022. In Balochistan, the conduct of LG Election also remained a colossal challenge for the Commission due to administrative, security issues and frequent amendments in LG Laws.

- The LG Elections in Quetta district have not been conducted till date. The Commission issued Election Programme for district Quetta on 22.06.2022. The Balochistan High Court, Balochistan suspended the Election Programme vide order dated 27.06.2022 and disposed of the case vide order dated 23.12.2022.
- The Commission issued the Election Programme on 19.10.2023 with a poll date 30.11.2023. Again the delimitation of Quetta district was challenged before the Hon'ble Balochistan High Court on 30.10.2023. The court suspended the Election Programme on 03.11.2023. The matter is still sub judice.

Sindh

• In Sindh Province, the term of LG expired on 30.08.2020 and the 1st phase of elections were conducted on 26.06.2022 and 2nd phase on 15.01.2023. These elections were delayed almost for two years due to the administrative issues and court litigations. The heavy flood in Sindh Province paved the way for a gap of almost seven months between the conduct of 1st & 2nd phase of LG Elections.

Punjab:

- The term of LG in Punjab expired on 31.12.2021. The successive provincial governments have had changed the LG Laws five times since 2019 to 2024 and enactment of sixth one is in progress.
- The ECP carried out the most tedious delimitation process thrice and also enlisted the Electoral Groups twice. However, each time, when ECP was all set to hold LG Elections, the provincial government of the time changed the LG Laws at the 11th hour, resultantly, all the steps taken by the Commission became futile.
- An Election Programme was issued for conduct of LG Elections in Punjab on 14.04.2022 but the same was suspended by the Lahore High Court, Lahore, Multan Bench vide order dated 21.04.2022.



 The Commission also pleaded the case regarding delay in conduct of LG Elections in Punjab in the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the respective High Courts. The Commission also submitted detailed reports highlighting therein the preparations and steps under taken by the Commission towards conduct of LG Elections and delaying tactics used by the Federal and Provincial Governments from time to time.

The Commission took stock of the situation and fixed the case for hearing on 22.10.2024 & 26.02 2025. The Chief Secretary apprised that the Provincial Government has started the work on the enactment of new Local Government Act which is in its final stage. The Commission categorically directed the Provincial Government to complete the process of enactment at the earliest so that the conduct of LG Elections in Punjab are ensured.

Islamabad Capital Territory

- In ICT, the Commission has issued the delimitation schedule four times since 2022 to 2024 and the fifth one is in progress.
- Federal Government made frequent belated changes in the LG Laws that ultimately undermined all the efforts of Commission to conduct the LG Elections in ICT.
- The Commission issued the Election Programme in ICT on 08.08.2024 and the same was withdrawn on 12.12.2024 due to change in ICT Local Government Act, 2015 by the Federal Government.

The Commission while taking cognizance of delay in conduct of LG Elections in ICT, fixed the matter for hearing on 22.10.2024. The Commission strictly directed the representatives of Federal Government to complete the legislative process at the earliest. The representative of Federal Government apprised that the draft ICT LG (Second Amendment Bill 2024) is under submission to CCLC (Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases) for vetting before ratifying the same by the Parliament.

To ensure timely conduct of LG Elections within the legal time frame of 120 days of the expiry of term of LG Institutions, the Commission had approached the Federal Government and proposed amendment in Section-219 of the Elections Act, 2017, that is reproduced at page 40:-

AN INTRODUCTION TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

"(7) The Federal Government or as the case may be the Provincial Government shall make necessary arrangements including amendments in the existing local government laws, rules, change or alternation in administrative limits of districts, Tehsils and local areas before the expiry of the term of Local Government.

Provided that the Federal Government or as the case may be, the provincial Government shall not alter the administrative limits of Districts, Tehsil and Urban and rural local areas after expiry of term of the Local Government.

Provided that in case the existing Local Government system is required to be replaced completely with the new local government system or substantially alter during its currency by any Government, then such enactment shall be made by an Act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or the Provincial Assembly as the case may be at least one year prior to the expiry of local government".

The proposed amendment has not been supported by the Federal Government.

6.10 Bye-Elections:

Under the provisions of Section 57 of the Elections Act, 2017 when a seat becomes vacant due to the resignation, death, or disqualification of a member, bye-elections are conducted to fill these vacancies within sixty days and ensure that the legislative bodies remain fully constituted and functional.

The major bye-elections, right after General Elections 2024, were held on April 21, 2024 to fill 23 National and Provincial assembly seats. Key constituencies across the country witnessed intense competition among leading political parties, with the outcomes having the potential to influence the balance of power within the assemblies. The ECP managed the bye-elections effectively, ensuring a smooth and transparent process, despite the heightened political stakes.





ELECTORAL ROLLS [ER]

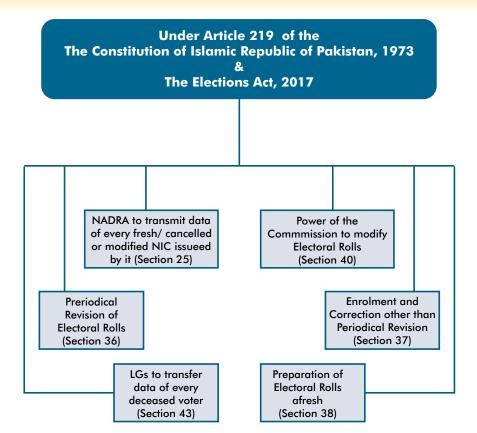
Electoral rolls are prepared to enable citizens to exercise their right to vote and to confer legitimacy on the electoral process. Voter registration is a central component of the electoral process as it establishes the eligibility of individuals to vote. The Election Commission of Pakistan maintains and periodically updates electoral rolls to ensure the registration of all eligible voters.

To ensure the accuracy and inclusivity of the electoral rolls for General Elections, the Commission conducted a Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls in 2021 through door-to-door verification of voters to facilitate the public. Massive voter education and awareness campaigns were organized. After the publication of the 7th National Housing Digital Census, electoral rolls were updated and Final Electoral Rolls were published on 1st December 2024 which were used in General Elections 2024.

7.1 Legal Framework

Article 219(a) of the Constitution mandates the Election Commission with the duty of preparing electoral rolls for elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies, and local governments. The law also requires the periodical revision of these rolls to ensure that they remain up-to-date.

Traditionally, the ECP conducts a comprehensive revision of the electoral rolls before major elections to ensure accuracy and inclusivity. However, specific timelines for the updation of Electoral Rolls may vary depending on factors such as the timing of upcoming elections, legal requirements, and changes in the administrative limits or boundaries within the provinces and the Federal Capital.



For the preparation of Electoral Rolls, an Electoral Area is declared as under:

- 1. in rural areas, a village or a census block is considered as an electoral area.
- 2. in urban areas,—
- a. where there is a municipal ward or census block, such ward or census block is considered the electoral area.
- b. In the absence of a municipal ward or a census block, a well-defined Mohallah or a street serves as the electoral area.
- c. where the ward or census block, Mohallah, or street is too big, a well-defined part thereof is the electoral area.



TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

- A census block shall not be divided except in exceptional circumstances, and reasons for such divisions must be recorded.
- 4. Such other area as may be determined by the Commission;
- 5. The census blocks, as notified by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), serve as the basic units for preparing the Electoral Rolls. Each block is assigned a unique nine-digit code, and the Electoral Rolls are identified by the Electoral Area's name and specific Census Block Code (CBC). Presently, the country comprises 180,051 census blocks, each with a distinct Block Code.

7.2 Voter Enrolment Criteria

According to Section 26(2) of the Elections Act, 2017, the following criteria are required to be met by a person for enrollment as a voter:

- 1. He/She is a citizen of Pakistan:
- 2. He/She must be at least eighteen years of age
- 3. He/She must possess a National Identity Card (NIC) issued by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) at any time before the last day fixed for inviting / submitting claims, objections, and applications for the preparation, revision, or correction of electoral rolls.
- 4. He/She is not declared by a competent court to be of unsound mind
- 5. As required under Section 27 of the Elections Act, he/she must be a resident of the electoral area.

(Note: A person shall be deemed to be a resident of an electoral area if his/ her temporary or permanent address in the National Identity Card issued by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) lies within the said electoral area.)

SAMPLE OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

حتى انتخابی فهرست 2023 (مرد) انتخاني علاقے كانام مين الله على الله تعلق الله على الله پیواره الد از تنے دار سبر کل کا نام شیخال تصبیل اتحاد کوباٹ شارياتي بلاك كوذ 043020406 قوی می فتق کارو ترم 9-14301-2123298 أ 61سال الأوراهيم عين. شيكان. تعميل المنطح محبات ملنان شاه 7-38 14301-0312574 كل سرام تيل افيان تصيل اعلى كوبت فقل الرطن سيل شاه 37 14301-2370118-3 القدار اليسم أبين المجتمل وهلك كولت يزوفضيل سيل شاه 34سال الأوراييم لين فيقان تحسيل وهنع محاب سيل شاه شاه زيب خان 7-14301-7755442-7 على المسلم المسلم على المسلم المس سيل شاه 30سال مطروراهم عير. شيئان. تمسيل اعلى محدث سيل شاه 3-24 14301-6860478 إدراييم تيل (اكتاحان بداد كان، شيخار، تصيل وطنع كايات سيل شاه 14301-7136129-3 أمسال الله عراميل، فيون تصيل، هلو كهات يقين شاد سيداحسان اللدخان 64-14301-2026332-5 من على عمل عرابيل. شيخان. تحسيل، عمل محالت ميد عقمت الأرثاد 4301-3956282-6 مل على مريخ الم يتميل الملح كوات ميداهبان انشرخان سيد نفرت القدشاه 38 - 14301-8953857-3 منار مناح كابت المناح كابت مبيراضاك انفرخان سيديثا كزالفه شاه

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عَلْدُ مُرِكِيلٍ رَبَّ اكتبادَ عَاصٍ ، فيمَّان . فحسيشُ إشلح كَلَاث	22سال	14301-4580900-3	ميداحيان الشرطان	سيداعز الرائفه شاه	2	16
عَدَّ مِ تَعَنَّ كِيلٍ، شِكَان. تُعميل اصْلِح كَابِك	81سال	14301-1380745-7	سيد بعسيريثاه	مسريان بثاه	3	17
فلَد مر تَعْنِ وُمِيلٍ، فِيَكَانٍ، تُحْمِيلِ اصْلَحَ كَابِاتِ	52سال	14301-8752577-3	مسر بالناشة و	عبدل على خان	3	18
عَلْد مر تَعَنْ لِحَيْلٍ، جُمَاتِ، تَحْسِلِ اصْلَحَ كَابِتُ	46سال	14301-1982163-9	مسر بانناشاه	کل ولی	3	19
عُلَد م تَعَنَّ مُثِلًا، جُمَّات، تُحسيل اصْلِح كابت	43سال	14301-9746548-1	صربان شاه	طيب شاد	3	20
ثيلان. تحميل محبات. مثل محبات	38سال	14301-9686515-5	مسر بالناشة	حبيب الرحمن	3	21
مَقْ مِرْضَىٰ كَيْلٍ، شِحَالَ، تُعَلَّى بِمُعِيلٍ، مُعْلِي مُعْلِي مُعِيلٍ مُعْلِي	31سال	14301-0572282-3	عبدل الخل شاك	ء مرخان	3	22
لَقَدَ مِ أَعْنَ فَيِلَا، أَلَاكَ مَا وَ كَابِك، فَيْحَان، تَصِيل، طَلِّ كَابِت	30سى	14301-2780926-1	عبدل على خان	حامدخان	3	23
الله مر تغني البيل، شيمتان، تحصيل وهنك كابات	26سال	14301-3224618-3	عبدل على خان	ء قمب خان	3	24

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7.3 Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS)

The Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS), is a data network installed at the ECP Secretariat, which integrates the central system with all the Provincial Headquarters, all offices of Regional Election Commissioners and District Election Commissioners across the country.

To make this system more reliable, the following features were added to the CERS in 2023 to ensure the accuracy and authenticity of data:

- Synchronization of Electoral Rolls data with Civil Registry information
- Availability of National and Provincial Assemblies Constituencies mapping Reports in the CERS
- Reconciliation of Census block data for 2017 & 2023,
- Development of various modules including the printing and dispatch of ER (to the districts) module in CERS in coordination with NADRA

7.4 Measures for General Elections-2024

(a) Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls-2021-22

Under Section 36 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission initiated the Periodical Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2021-22 on 8th October 2021, to revise and update the Electoral Rolls for General Elections. This process started with the door-to-door verification of voters. A total of, 67,832 Verifying Officials, 18,586 Supervisors, and 2,079 Assistant Registration Officers were appointed nationwide, as per Section 24 (2) (b) of the Elections Act, 2017 & Rule 26 of the Election Rules, 2017. During the verification process, the voter's particulars were verified, eligible citizens were registered as voters and the names of deceased voters were deleted from the Electoral Rolls. After that, Preliminary Electoral Rolls (PERs) were printed and displayed for public inspection from 21st May 2022 to 30th June 2022, for submission of claims, applications for transfer of votes, objections and corrections, using Form-15, 16 & 17 respectively. A total of 20,458 display centers were established across the country to receive these submissions. Under Section 29 of the Elections Act, 2017, 525 Revising Authorities were appointed to receive, hear and decide claims, objections and applications for

corrections. As per Sections 25 & 43 of the Act, the ECP collaborates with NADRA and local government bodies, respectively, to identify and remove deceased voters from the electoral rolls. During this period, four million deceased voters were deleted from the Electoral Rolls. On 07th October 2022, the ECP published the Final Electoral Rolls. These final electoral rolls were used in the General Elections 2024 marking a significant milestone in the electoral process.

(b) Updating of Electoral Rolls under Section 37 - cut-off date

After the publication of the Final Electoral Rolls on 07th October 2022, the Registration Officers across the country received forms under section 37 of the Elections Act, 2017, for registration/transfer of vote (Form-21), deletion of vote (Form-22); and correction of voting particulars (Form-23) from 07th October 2022 till the cut-off date i.e. 20th July 2023, under Section 39 of the Elections Act, 2017. The data of new/modified NIC holders up to the cut-off date of 20th July 2023 was obtained from NADRA under section 25 ibid and incorporated into the CERS software.

Voter education and awareness campaigns were organized before the cut-off date to motivate and facilitate the public. Key stakeholders were engaged to motivate the general public about the importance of this exercise, to ensure an accurate and up-to-date Electoral Roll for the General Election. On the approach of cut-off date, the Electoral Rolls were frozen and Forms submitted on or before the said date, before the Registration Officers were duly processed. This included the data provided by NADRA under section 25 of the Act ibid and the list of deceased persons, provided by the Local Government under section 43 of the Act, which were duly processed.

(c) Updating of Electoral Rolls after Publication of Digital Census 2023

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics published the results of Digital Census-2023 on 07th August 2023. Hence, the Electoral Rolls were required to be adjusted and updated with the revised scheme of Census Blocks as notified by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Resultantly, the number of Census Blocks increased from 163,686 to 180,051, indicating an addition of 16,365 new blocks. During this process, 30,332 census blocks were either split, deleted, split & merged, or newly created by the PBS. Therefore, the Commission undertook the task of updating Electoral Rolls in the affected Census Blocks to adjust voters in their relevant blocks accurately. For this purpose, maps and population data were obtained from the PBS and provided to field offices for reconciliation



with the provisional data of census 2017, published by PBS on 25th August 2017. Also, the existing electoral rolls of the affected blocks were printed and sent to field offices for the verification of voters.

The Electoral Rolls were initially frozen on 20th July 2023 under Section 39 of the Elections Act, 2017, however, due to a delay in the conduct of General Elections in the aftermath of the digital Census 2023, the Commission unfreezed the Electoral Rolls from 28th September 2023 to 28th October 2023. This provided ample time for eligible citizens to register their votes or correct their particulars. Similarly, modified/updated NIC data was also incorporated in the Electoral Rolls as per the voter's renewed particulars. The votes of deceased voters were deleted and all data and forms approved by the ROs were processed in the CERS until 3rd November 2023. Subsequently, the final Electoral Rolls were officially given to ROs and Registration Officers, published on 1st December 2023, for the upcoming General Elections 2024.

Impact

The total number of voters across the country increased from 121,195,062 on 8th October 2021 to 128,585,760 on 1st December 2023, marking an increase of 7,390,698 voters. The number of female voters increased from 54,690,457 to 59,322,056, an increase of 4,631,599 voters, while the number of male voters increased from 66,504,605 to 69,263,704, reflecting an increase of 2,759,099 voters during this period.

	Province/Area-Wise Breakdown											
Province/	As	on 08/10/20	21	As	on 01/12/20	Increase in	Increase					
Area	Male Voters	Female Voters	Total Voters	Male Voters	Female Voters	Total Voters	Male voters	in Female Voters				
Punjab	37,620,384	31,424,010	69,044,394	39,122,082	34,085,814	73,207,896	1,501,698	2,661,804				
Sindh	14,039,800	11,542,824	25,582,624	14,612,655	12,382,114	26,994,769	572,855	839,290				
KPK	11,486,688	9,124,560	20,611,248	11,944,397	9,983,722	21,928,119	457,709	859,162				
Balochistan	2,875,906	2,171,520	5,047,426	3,016,164	2,355,783	5,371,947	140,258	184,263				
ICT	481,827	427,543	909,370	568,406	514,623	1,083,029	86,579	87,080				
Total	66,504,605	54,690,457	121,195,062	69,263,704	59,322,056	128,585,760	2,759,099	4,631,599				

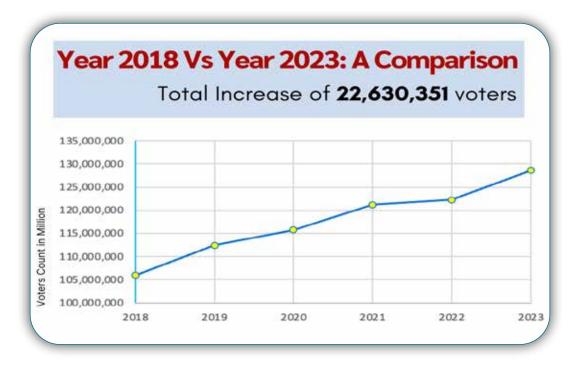
As of December 1, 2023, the details/distribution of age-wise voters reflects that the young voters aged between 18-35 years comprise 45 % of the total registered voters,



while those aged between 36-45 years account for 22% of the total. In total, 67% of the total voters fall between 18-45 years of age.

7.5 Comparison of number of voters in GE 2018 and GE 2024

Age-wise voter statistics as on 01-12-2023										
Provinces/Area	18-35 years	36-45 years	46-55 years	56-65 years	66 and Above years	Total Voters				
Punjab	31,860,624	16,342,090	10,622,034	7,171,505	7,211,643	73,207,896				
Sindh	11,325,184	6,371,642	4,132,546	2,534,972	2,630,425	26,994,769				
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10,726,141	4,592,593	2,906,924	1,845,310	1,857,151	21,928,119				
Balochistan	2,479,719	1,205,592	726,792	474,307	485,537	5,371,947				
ICT	472,527	235,741	156,137	111,250	107,374	1,083,029				
Grand Total	56,864,195	28,747,658	18,544,433	12,137,344	12,292,130	128,585,760				



The total number of voters across Pakistan increased from 105,955,409 in 2018 to 128,585,760 till December, 2023, reflecting an increase of 22,630,351 voters, or more than 22 Million voters.

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Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (01.12.2023)
Total No. of Voters	105,955,409	112,390,938	115,748,753	121,195,062	122,196,122	128,585,760

Province/Area	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (01.12.2023)
Punjab	60,672,771	64,352,953	66,236,144	69,044,394	69,635,548	73,207,896
Sindh	22,391,244	23,648,001	24,351,681	25,582,624	25,663,939	26,994,769
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	15,314,169	18,950,900	19,533,964	20,611,248	20,821,301	21,928,119
Erstwhile FATA	2,512,284					
Balochistan	4,299,494	4,635,546	4,801,131	5,047,426	5,090,857	5,371,947
ICT	765,447	803,538	825,833	909,370	984,477	1,083,029
Grand Total	105,955,409	112,390,938	115,748,753	121,195,062	122,196,122	128,585,760

A significant increase in registration of female voters can be seen between 2018 and 2023. The below statistics show that the number of female voters increased from 46,730,570 to 59,322,056 with a rise of 12,591,486 voters during the above period. Similarly, registered male voters increased from 59,224,839 to 69,263,704, marking an increase of 10,038,865 voters during this period.

	Year Wise Voters Statistics from 2018 to 2023											
Year	Gender	Punjab	Sindh	КРК	Balochistan	ICT	Erstwhile FATA	Total				
2018	М	33,680,397	12,436,924	8,704,628	2,486,253	407,496	1,509,141	59,224,839				
	F	26,992,374	9,954,320	6,609,541	1,813,241	357,951	1,003,143	46,730,570				
2019	М	35,544,380	13,104,843	10,817,960	2,667,791	422,646		62,557,620				
	F	28,808,573	10,543,158	8,132,940	1,967,755	380,892		49,833,318				
2020	M	36,373,212	13,444,414	11,076,763	2,754,027	432,738		64,081,154				

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	F	29,862,932	10,907,267	8,457,201	2,047,104	393,095	51,667,599
2021	М	37,620,384	14,039,800	11,486,688	2,875,906	481,827	66,504,605
	F	31,424,010	11,542,824	9,124,560	2,171,520	427,543	54,690,457
2022	М	37,565,437	14,008,265	11,436,241	2,878,032	518,193	66,406,168
	F	32,070,111	11,655,674	9,385,060	2,212,825	466,284	55,789,954
2023	м	39,122,082	14,612,655	11,944,397	3,016,164	568406	69,263,704
	F	34,085,814	12,382,114	9,983,722	2,355,783	514623	59,322,056

Latest Voter's Statistics 2024										
Province/Area Male Voters Female Voters Total Voter										
ІСТ	605,032	549,442	1,154,474							
Balochistan	3,101,950	2,436,333	5,538,283							
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12,274,030	10,290,262	22,564,292							
Punjab	40,190,169	35,244,801	75,434,970							
Sindh	15,012,196	12,766,952	27,779,148							
Total	71,183,377	61,287,790	132,471,167							





DELIMITATION

One of the principle responsibilities of the Election Commission is the delimitation of the constituencies. As per section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017, the ECP is under obligation to undertake the delimitation for National and Provincial Assemblies, after every census is officially published by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in the official gazette. Eventually, after the publication of the 7th digital population and housing census, the Election Commission of Pakistan decided to carry out the delimitation of 266 National and 593 Provincial Assemblies constituencies.

8.1 Number of Constituencies

Article 51(3) of the Constitution provides the following details of general seats for the National Assembly constituencies to be delimited:

National Assembly							
Name of Province/Area General Seats							
Balochistan	16						
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	45						
Punjab	141						
Sindh	61						
Federal Capital	3						
Total	266						

Article 106 of the Constitution provides the number of general seats constituencies in the Provincial Assemblies as under:

Provincial Assemblies								
Name of Province/Area General Seats								
Balochistan	51							
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	115							
Punjab	297							
Sindh	130							
Total	593							

8.2 Principles of Delimitation

Section 20 of the Elections Act, 2017 lays down the principles of delimitation of constituencies. "All constituencies for general seats shall, as far as practicable, be delimited having regard to the distribution of population in geographically compact areas, physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience and other factors to ensure homogeneity in the creation of constituencies." As far as possible, variation in population of constituencies of any assembly shall not ordinarily exceed ten percent. For this purpose, it shall not be necessary to strictly adhere to the existing district boundaries in exceptional cases. If the limit of ten percent is exceeded in an exceptional case, the Commission shall record the reasons thereof in the delimitation order.

A Patwar Circle or, as the case may be, a Tapedar Circle is the basic unit for delimitation and it shall not be broken under any circumstances. In urban areas, the census circle cannot be broken under any circumstances. As far as possible, the delimitation of constituencies of an assembly shall start from the northern end of the district and then proceed clock-wise in a zigzag manner keeping in view that population among the constituencies of an assembly shall remain as close as may be practicable to the quota.

8.3 Procedure for Carrying out Delimitation

The procedure for carrying out delimitation is laid down in Section 19 of the Elections Act, 2017. To delimit constituencies, the Commission constitutes Delimitation Committees responsible for carrying out preliminary delimitation of constituencies for national and provincial assemblies. The delimitation so carried out is published for the information of the general public and inviting representations. After receiving representations, the Commission holds inquiries, summons witnesses, records evidence, and orders



appropriate changes in the preliminary list within the given timeframe. The amendments/ notifications so made are incorporated in the final list of constituencies which is published in the official gazette and on ECP's website.

8.4 Delimitation for General Elections-2024

Following the official publication of the final results of the 7th Digital Population and Housing Census-2023, the Commission ordered to freeze the administrative boundaries in all provinces and ICT. Then, the Commission constituted five delimitation committees, one for each province and one for the federal capital. The committees completed their task which was published on 27th September, 2023.

8.5 Steps Involved in the Delimitation of Constituencies, 2023

a) Timelines for Delimitation of Constituencies

To complete any task efficiently, the timeline is required to be defined. Accordingly, ECP issued the following schedule for the smooth completion of the delimitation of constituencies:

Sr. No.	Actions	Dates
1	Freezing of boundaries of Administrative Units across the Country. Directive will be issued by ECP.	17-08-2023
2	Constitution of Delimitation Committee for each province, including Islamabad Rule 9 of the Elections Rule-2017	By 21-08-2023
3	Administrative arrangements; i. Requisition of maps on prescribed scale along with other necessary data and description of Districts, Tehsils etc. from Provincial Governments. ii. Obtaining District Census Reports (DCRs), digitized maps of Census Charges, Circles and Blocks along with Description from PBS.	22-08-2023 to 31-08-2023
4	Training of Delimitation Committees	01-09-2023
5	Determination and Sharing of District Quotas for National and Provincial Assemblies Seats with Delimitation Committees Rule 8 & Rule 9(3) of the ElectionRules-2017	to 04-09-2023

6	Preliminary Delimitation of Constituencies by the Delimitation Committees Section 19 & 20 of the Elections Act, 2017	05-09-2023 to 26-09-2023
7	Publication of Preliminary proposals for Delimitation of Constituencies along with report Section 21 of the Elections Act-2017	27-09-2023
8	Filling of Representation on Preliminary proposals for Delimitation of Constituencies before the Hon'ble Commission Section 21(2) of the Elections Act-2017	28-09-2023 to 27-10-2023
9	Disposal/Hearing of Representation by the Hon'ble Commission Section 21(4) of the Elections Act, 2017	28-10-2023 to 26-11- 2023
10	Final Publication of Delimitation	30-11- 2023

b) Acquisition of maps and description of revenue units from District/Revenue Authorities and PBS

Updated maps of administrative units were procured from District Authorities and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

c) Distribution of Seats

During the process of delimitation, the population of each province and the federal capital was divided on the number of seats allocated as per Articles 51(3) and 106 of the Constitution to calculate the population quota for the seats of National and Provincial Assemblies, distinctly. Subsequently, the population of each district was divided on the quota obtained for the seat of National assembly and Provincial assembly separately to obtain the district-wise share. The distribution of seats of the National Assembly and each Provincial Assembly among districts was calculated up to three decimal fractions and then rounded off to indicate the whole number of seats for each district as provided in Rule 8 of the Election Rules, 2017. The quotas calculated per seat based on the final results of the population census 2023 in respect of each province/area in the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies are given below:



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	QUOTA PER SEAT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY				
Sr. No.	Province	Population	No. of Seats	Quota per Seats	
1	2	3	4	5	
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	40,856,097	45	40,856,097÷45	907,913
2	Federal Capital	2,363,863	3	2,363,863÷3	787,954
3	Punjab	127,688,922	141	127,688,922÷141	905,595
4	Sindh	55,696,147	61	55,696,147÷61	913,052
5	Balochistan	14,894,402	16	14,894,402÷16	930,900
	Total	241,499,431	266		

d) Publication of Preliminary Delimitation

	QUOTA PER SEAT OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY				
Sr. No.	Province	Population	No. of Seats	Quota per Sea	ats
1	2	3	4	5	
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	40,856,097	115	40,856,097÷115=	355,270
2	Punjab	127,688,922	297	127,688,922÷297=	429,929
3	Sindh	55,696,147	130	55,696,147÷130=	428,432
4	Balochistan	14,894,402	51	14,894,402÷51=	292,047
	Total	239,135,568	593		

The Delimitation Committees started work on 5th September 2023 with complete dedication and finalized the task on 26th September 2023. Accordingly, the preliminary delimitation was published on 27th September 2023 to invite representations and proposals from the voters of respective constituencies.

e) Filing of Representations on Preliminary Delimitation

To facilitate the general public to file their representations/proposals under section 21 of the Elections Act, 2017 different counters were set up at ECP's Secretariat. Also, the

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draft maps were uploaded on the ECP website for easy access besides their availability from the ECP Secretariat in the hard format.

During the specified period for filing representation between 28th September 2023 and 27th October 2023, a total of 1327 representations were filed as per the following detail:

Province/Area	Number of Representations (Filed)
Punjab	675
Sindh	228
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	293
Balochistan	124
ICT	07
Total	1327

To enhance transparency, all the filed representations were placed on ECP's website along with their proposed maps. For speedy and efficient disposal of the representations, various benches were constituted under Section 6 of the Elections Act, 2017. Notices were issued to all concerned parties on the schedule hearing, and these were also placed on the website for public awareness. Besides notices, extensive publicity regarding the fixation of cases was given through print and electronic media. The petitioners were also informed through SMS in addition to conventional means.

During the hearing, the petitioners and general public were facilitated through modern gadgets and Google Maps alongside already scanned maps to address the grievances of the petitioners in a befitting manner. All the proceedings took place in open court to ensure transparency.

8.6 Publication of Final List of Constituencies

In light of the orders passed by the Commission, necessary corrections were made in the preliminary list of constituencies to harmonize the preliminary delimitation with the orders of the Commission. Despite rigorous timelines, the task was accomplished within the stipulated timeframe and the final list of constituencies was published on 30th November 2023 accordingly.



POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR REGISTRATION

Political parties play an important role in shaping the political landscape, representing diverse perspectives and influencing the decision-making process. Political parties provide a framework for citizens to engage in politics, elect representatives, and hold them accountable. In addition, these parties provide leadership and guidance to their members and supporters and encourage democratic values, principles, and practices such as freedom, equality, and justice. To perform these tasks and functions, political parties and citizens need some basic rights and obligations guaranteed by the Constitution and law. Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of association for all citizens, subject to reasonable restrictions as imposed by law.

9.1 Enlistment of Political Parties

The Elections Act 2017 outlines a mechanism for enlistment of political parties and regulates their certain activities. In terms of this Act, each political party is required to have a distinct name and a Constitution with the following details:

- Party's aims and objectives
- An organizational structure, designation and tenure of its office bearers
- · Criteria for receipt and collection of funds
- Procedure for Election of Office Bearers
- Selection of party candidates for public offices
- Mechanism for resolution of disputes between members and political party
- Method and manner of amendments in party's constitution

A copy of the party constitution is also required to be provided to the Election Commission. The political parties are duty-bound to hold their intra party elections regularly in accordance with their party constitution. It is worth mentioning that a period, not exceeding five years, shall intervene between any two intra party elections of a political party. The intra-party election certificates of political parties are published on the official website of ECP as well as in the official gazette. Also, the parties have to submit a consolidated statement of their annual accounts, duly audited by a Chartered Accountant, within sixty

days from the close of a financial year in which they have to mention sources of their funds. Furthermore, no foreign-aided political party can be established.

9.2 Details of Political Parties (As on 10th March 2025)

The following political parties are enlisted with the Election Commission:

Sr. No.	Name of Political Party
1	Aam Admi Tehreek Pakistan
2	Aam Awam Party
3	Aam Loag Ittehad
4	Aam Log Party Pakistan
5	All Pakistan Kissan Ittehad
6	All Pakistan Minority Movement
7	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)
8	Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek
9	Amun Taraqqi Party
10	Awam League
11	Awami Justice Party Pakistan
12	Awami Muslim League Pakistan
13	Awami National Party
14	Awami Tehreek
15	Awami Workers Party
16	Balochistan Awami Party
17	Balochistan National Party
18	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
19	Barabri Party Pakistan
20	Front National (Pakistan)
21	Humdardan-e-Watan Pakistan
22	Hazara Democratic Party
23	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan
24	Islami Tehreek Pakistan



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25 Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan 26 Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan 27 Jamhoori Wattan Party 28 Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Nazryati Pakistan 29 Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan 30 Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (S) 31 Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (Noorani) 32 Jamiat Ulma-e-Pakistan (Imam Noorani) 33 Jamote Qaumi Movement 34 Jannat Pakistan Party 35 Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan 36 Markazi Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith Pakistan 37 Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan 38 Mohib-e-Wattan Nowjawan Inqilabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA) 39 Move on Pakistan 40 Mustaqbil Pakistan 41 All Pakistan Muttahida League 42 Muttahida Ulema-e-Mashaikh Council of Pakistan 43 Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan 44 National Party 45 National Peoples Party 46 Nazariya Pakistan Council 47 Pak Muslim Alliance (Dewan) 48 Pak Sarzameen Party 49 Pakistan Aman Tehreek 50 Pakistan Awami Inqelabi League 51 Pakistan Awami Jamhuri Ittehad 52 Pakistan Awami Raj 54 Pakistan Awami Tehreek		
27 Jamhoori Wattan Party 28 Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Nazryati Pakistan 29 Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan 30 Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (S) 31 Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (Noorani) 32 Jamiat Ulma-e-Pakistan (Imam Noorani) 33 Jamote Qaumi Movement 34 Jannat Pakistan Party 35 Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan 36 Markazi Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith Pakistan 37 Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan 38 Mohib-e-Wattan Nowjawan Inqilabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA) 39 Move on Pakistan 40 Mustaqbil Pakistan 41 All Pakistan Muttahida League 42 Muttahida Ulema-e-Mashaikh Council of Pakistan 43 Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan 44 National Party 45 National Peoples Party 46 Nazariya Pakistan Council 47 Pak Muslim Alliance (Dewan) 48 Pak Sarzameen Party 49 Pakistan Aman Tehreek 50 Pakistan Awami Inqelabi League 51 Pakistan Awami Jamhuri Ittehad 52 Pakistan Awami League 53 Pakistan Awami Raj	25	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan
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9.3 Publication of Intra Party Elections Certificates of Parties

Legal Framework

i. Section 208(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 states:

The office-bearers of a political party at the Federal, Provincial and local levels, wherever applicable, shall be elected periodically by the constitution of the political party.

Provided that a period, not exceeding five years, shall intervene between any two elections.

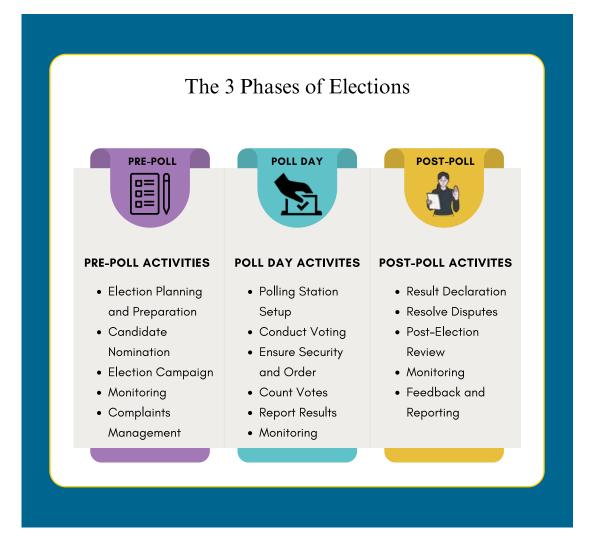
- ii. Section 209 of the Elections Act, 2017 states:
 - 1. A political party shall, within seven days from completion of the intra-party elections, submit a certificate signed by an office-bearer authorized by the Party Head, to the Commission to the effect that the elections were held in accordance with the constitution of the political party and this Act to elect the office-bearers at the Federal, Provincial and local levels, wherever applicable.
 - 2. The certificate under sub-section (1) shall contain the following information
 - a. the date of the last intra-party elections;
 - the names, designations and addresses of office-bearers elected at the Federal, Provincial and local levels, wherever applicable;
 - c. the election results; and
 - d. Copy of the political party's notifications declaring the results of the election.
 - 3. The Commission shall, within seven days from the receipt of the certificate of a political party under sub-section (1), publish the certificate on its website.
- iii. Rule 158 of the Election Rules, 2017 provides that:
 - a. Submission of certificate to the Commission regarding intra-party elections:
 - i. The Party Leader of each political party under his signature shall, issue a schedule of the intraparty election and inform the Commission before fifteen days of the conduct of intra-party election. Further, within seven days of the completion of intra-party elections, Party leader shall submit a certificate to the Commission in Form-65 specifying that the intraparty elections have been held in accordance with the constitution of the party and the provisions of the Act.

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ii. The Commission shall, after satisfying itself that the certificate fulfills the requirements of sections 208 and 209, publish the certificate including the details of election in the official Gazette.

ELECTION PROCESS





VOTING PROCEDURES AND METHODS

10.1 Voting Procedures

a. Registration Check

- Pakistani citizens aged 18 or older with a valid NIC (National Identity Card) are eligible to register as voters.
- Voters must register through the Election Commission of Pakistan. Their details are entered into the electoral rolls.
- Voters can check their registration status and details by texting their NIC numbers to 8300 on Mobile or from the office of the concerned District Election Commission or from the Display Centre on the date and time officially announced by the ECP.

b. Polling Day Preparation

- Polling stations are established in each constituency with basic facilities i.e. water, washrooms, electricity etc. These stations are equipped with necessary voting materials and staffed by trained personnel.
- Staff at polling stations is trained in procedures, including voter identification, ballot handling, and vote counting.
- Voters are required to present a valid NIC at the polling station to use their right to vote.

10.2 Voting Methods



a. Paper Ballots

- Each voter receives a ballot paper which contains names of candidates along with their symbols for the election allotted to them officially by the ECP.
- Voters mark their choice on the ballot paper with a stamp provided at the polling station. After marking, the paper is folded and placed into a ballot box.
- Ballot Paper is marked inside the screen off compartments to ensure the secrecy of vote.

b. Postal Ballot

- Postal voting, as outlined in Section 93 of the Elections Act, 2017
 is available for prisoners, persons with disabilities, government
 employees/ members of the Pakistan's armed forces and their
 spouses and children, as well as those unable to vote due to
 duty at polling stations.
- Eligible voters apply for postal ballots, receive them from postal services, mark their choices, and return the marked ballots to the Returning Officer by the specified deadline as per instructions issued by the Commission.



LOCATING THE POLLING STATIONS

- 1. Citizens are required to go to the Election Commission of Pakistan's official website. The ECP provides an online facility to locate the polling stations through GPS.
- 2. The ECP offers 8300 SMS service where voters can send their NIC numbers to receive their polling station details.
- 3. If voters are unable to access the online tool, they can visit or contact their district ECP office, which will provide information about polling stations based on their NIC details.
- 4. Voters are required to bring their valid NICs at the polling station.





12.1 Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates

The Code of Conduct for Election Candidates is a set of ethical guidelines designed to ensure fair, free, and credible elections in Pakistan. It outlines the principles and standards that candidates must adhere to throughout the electoral process. The Code of Conduct is intended to ensure a level playing field, prevent unethical practices, and maintain public trust in the democratic system.

Under the Code, certain activities are prohibited to maintain the integrity of the electoral process. The prohibited activities and their associated penalties under Elections laws and rules include Bribery and Corruption, Election Fraud, Violence and Intimidation, Illegal Campaign Activities, False Statements and Misinformation, Polling Station Misconduct, Violation of Codes of Conduct and Interference with ECP Officials. Penalties for these violations may include but are not limited to fines, imprisonment, disqualification, nullification of results, and suspension of campaign.

Hence, the Election Commission of Pakistan has meticulously prepared a comprehensive Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates in close collaboration with representatives from various political parties. This collaborative effort ensures that the guidelines align with democratic principles and best electoral practices, promoting fair and transparent elections.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND CONTESTING CANDIDATES

(a) GENERAL CONDUCT

The political parties, contesting candidates and election agents shall at all times uphold the rights and freedom of the people of Pakistan as guaranteed by the Constitution and law.

- 2- The political parties, contesting candidates and election agents shall not propagate any opinion, or act in any manner prejudicial to the ideology of Pakistan, or the sovereignty, integrity or security of Pakistan, or morality or public order, or the integrity or independence of the judiciary of Pakistan, or which defames or brings into ridicule the Judiciary and the Armed Forces of Pakistan.
- 3- The political parties, contesting candidates and election agents shall abide by all directions, instructions and regulations issued by the Election Commission, from time to time, relating to smooth conduct of elections, the maintenance of public order and morality and refrain from maligning the Election Commission in any form whatsoever, violation whereof would entail contempt as contemplated in Section 10 of the Elections Act 2017 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act").
- 4- The political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and their supporters shall not indulge in offering gifts or gratifications or inducements to any person to contest or not to contest as a candidate, or to withdraw or retire or not to withdraw or not to retire from the election. Violation will be treated as corrupt practice.
- 5- The political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and their supporters shall extend cooperation to law enforcement agencies for ensuring the safety and security of election material, election officials and polling agents on polling day.
- 6- The political parties shall provide equal opportunity to its qualified members both men and women to participate in electoral processes and, while making the selection of candidates on general seats in an assembly, the party shall ensure at least five percent representation of women candidates as required under Section 206 of the Act.
- 7- The political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and their supporters or other persons shall not encourage or enter into formal or informal agreement / arrangement / understanding debarring men, women and transgender from becoming a candidate for an election or exercising their right of vote in an election. The Political Parties shall emphasize and encourage women participation in election process.

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- 8- Political parties, contesting candidates and election agents shall dissuade their workers and sympathizers from destroying any kind of election material i.e. ballot paper or any official mark on the ballot paper, electoral roll, ballot boxes and screen off compartments etc. Violation will be treated as corrupt practice.
- 9- Political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and their supporters shall not solicit the support or assistance of any person in the service of Pakistan or a province or semi-government institution or any public office to promote or hinder the election of a contesting candidate in any manner. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice.

Further any other public servant or person in the service of Pakistan shall not support any political party or candidate in any manner which may influence the election campaign or outcome of the election results. The violator will be proceeded against in accordance with the Elections Act, 2017 and applicable disciplinary Rules by the department concerned.

- 10- Incitement to violence or resort to violence during pre-poll campaign or during polling hours shall be strictly avoided by contesting candidates and their supporters. They shall publicly condemn violence and intimidation and not use language that might lead to violence or resort to violence. No person shall in any manner cause injury to any person or damage to any property.
- On poll day Contesting Candidate can appoint polling agents at each polling station as per number of polling booths; similarly contesting candidate can appoint three election agents for the whole Constituency who shall be the voters of the respective constituency, by notice to the Presiding Officer and Returning Officer respectively. However, at the time of counting and consolidation of result only one agent duly authorized by the candidate will be present.
- 12- As per Section 133 of the Elections Act, 2017 for the purpose of election expenses, all candidates shall open an exclusive account with any branch of a scheduled bank or can dedicate existing bank account by submitting statement of the existing bank account to the Returning Officer at the time of filing of nomination papers. Any donation or subscription shall also be deposited in the account used for the purpose of election expenses and the candidates shall ensure that:

- a. All election expenditures are made out of the amount deposited in the aforesaid account and the contesting candidate will make no transaction other than election expenses from the time of filing of nomination papers till submission of return of election expenses.
- b. All transactions relating to the election expenses are entered into with GST registered firms / persons, wherever possible.
- The election expenses of a candidate shall include the expenses incurred by any person or a political party on behalf of the candidate or incurred by a political party specifically for the candidate. If any person or party incurs any election expenses on behalf of any candidate for stationery, postage, telegrams, advertisement, transport or for any other item whatsoever, such expenses shall be deemed to be the election expenses incurred by the candidate himself.
- 14- The returned candidate shall submit his return of election expenses to the Returning Officer on Form C within ten days of the polling in accordance with subsection (3) of section 98 of the Elections Act, 2017 whereas other contesting candidates shall submit their election expenses on Form-C to the Returning Officer within thirty days of the publication of the names of the returned candidates as required under section 134 of the Act.

(b) CAMPAIGN

- The Political parties, candidates and election agents shall firmly restrain their workers from exerting influence on the print and electronic media, including newspapers' offices and printing presses, or resorting to violence of any kind against the media.
- There will be a complete ban on carriage and display of all kinds of weapons and fire arms in public meetings and processions as well as on the polling day and until twenty-four hours after the consolidation of official results by the Returning Officers and official regulations in respect thereof shall be strictly observed. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice:

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Provided that this condition shall not apply to persons deputed to provide security to the leaders of political parties or candidates, however such persons shall have valid license for the carriage of weapons and with prior permission from the Deputy Commissioner/concerned authority.

- 17- All types of firing including aerial firing, use of crackers and other explosives at public meetings and at or near the polling stations by any person shall not be allowed. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice.
- The president, prime minister, chairman/deputy chairman senate, speaker/deputy speaker of an assembly, federal ministers, ministers of state, governors, chief ministers, provincial ministers and advisors to the prime minister and the chief minister, mayor/chairman/Nazim, their deputies, shall not participate in election campaign. This Provision will also be applicable to caretaker setup. However, members of Senate and local government are allowed to participate in the election campaign. They will strictly abide by the code of conduct, directions, instructions and regulations issued by the election commission of Pakistan and violations thereof shall entail legal consequences.

Further, the restriction shall not apply to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker of an Assembly and office bearers of Local Governments to the extent of the constituency from where he himself is contesting election, however, he will not use official protocol / resources for running his election campaign and will also not announce any development scheme during above mentioned campaign.

- 19- There shall be a complete ban on convening, holding or attending any public meeting, or promoting or joining in any procession, within the area of a constituency during a period of forty-eight hours ending at midnight following the conclusion of the poll and as such the election campaign in all respect shall come to an end before the said hours. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice.
- 20- The political parties shall endeavor to take necessary steps to instill discipline within the party, its candidates and supporters and guide them to follow this Code, comply with laws and regulations, commit no election irregularities and adhere to election regulations.

(c) PUBLICITY

- 21- No political party shall run a publicity campaign in print, social and electronic media at the cost of public exchequer and in this regard, no public money shall be used for issuing of advertisements in the newspapers and other media. Similarly, misuse of official mass media during the election campaign for partisan coverage by the Federal, Provincial and Local governments shall be prohibited.
- The political parties, candidates and election agents may exercise door-to-door canvassing and, besides party manifesto, voter's perchee containing complete detail of voters as per electoral rolls can also be distributed during such door-to-door canvassing. Further, distribution of voter's perchee at the polling station on polling day will be allowed but the printing of name and election symbol of the candidate and Political Party on the perchee shall be strictly prohibited.
- 23- No person or a political party shall affix or distribute posters, handbills, pamphlets, leaflets, banners or portraits, larger than the sizes prescribed by the Election Commission as under:
 - a. Posters 18 Inches x 23 inches
 - b. Handbills/ pamphlets / leaflets 9" x 6"
 - c. Banners 3' x 9'
 - d. Portraits 2' x 3'

The candidates / political parties shall ensure that the name and address of the concerned printer / publisher are printed on the face of the posters, handbills, pamphlets, leaflets, banners and portraits. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice.

24- In order to preserve the sanctity of Quranic verses, the Sayings of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) or holy scriptures pertaining to other religions, the political parties, candidates and election agents are expected to avoid the printing thereof on aforesaid publicity material and they shall also instill discipline among their members to preserve the aforesaid sanctity in true letter and spirit.



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- 25- In no case, the political parties, contesting candidates, election agents or their supporters shall affix posters on walls or any building without prior approval of the owner/institution. However, affixing of posters on public places including bridges, national institutions and installations shall be strictly prohibited.
- 26- There shall be complete ban on hoardings, billboards, wall chalking, and panaflexes of any size. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice.
- 27- In no case the picture of government official shall be printed on any publicity material by any political party / candidate/ election agent.
- 28- Posters, portraits and banners affixed by one party shall neither be removed nor distribution of handbills and leaflets be prevented by workers of another party. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice.
- 29- No person or political party or a contesting candidate and their supporters shall hoist or fix party flags at any public building or any other public property in any case.
- 30- No political party or candidate shall permit its / his followers to make use of any private land, building, compound wall etc. without permission of owner for erecting flag staffs, pasting notices etc.
- 31- The executive authorities in the federation, provinces, local governments and elected representatives of a local government shall neither use state resources in any constituency for giving unfair advantage to a particular candidate or political party nor exercise undue influence affecting the interest of a candidate or party for participating in any election.

(d) MEETINGS, PROCESSIONS ETC.

32- The Political Parties and candidates shall hold public rallies and processions only at the place or places and through the routes specified for the purpose. Such places and routes shall be pre-determined in every city and town by district / local administration in consultation with respective candidates or their authorized representatives and be notified for public information.

- 33- A political party or candidate or election agents while organizing a procession shall decide in timely manner its starting point and termination point along with its route and timelines and communicate the same to the district administration or local authority, District Monitoring Officer and shall in no case deviate from the programme.
- The organizers in consultation with the District administration shall take steps in advance to arrange for passage of the procession so that there is no blockage of or hindrance to traffic. If the procession is very long, it shall be organized in segments of suitable lengths, so that at convenient intervals, especially at points where the procession has to pass road junctions, the passage of held-up traffic could be allowed by stages thus avoiding heavy traffic congestion and inconvenience to the general public.
- 35- If two or more political parties or candidates intend to take out processions over the same route or parts thereof at about the same time, the organizers shall establish contact well in advance and decide upon the measures to be taken to see that the processions do not clash or hinder the traffic. Appropriate arrangements in this regard shall be made with the assistance of the local police.
- 36- The use of effigies purporting to represent leaders or members of other political parties, burning such effigies, posters and flags of other parties in public shall be avoided at all cost.
- 37- Public meetings or public jalsas shall be regulated in such a manner that right of the road is not hampered with. The direction and advice of police on duty in this regard shall be complied with in letter and spirit.
- 38- The political parties or candidates or election agents shall, to the extent possible, ensure that the participants of the processions do not carry such articles which may be misused by undesirable elements especially in moments of charged crowd.
- 39- The political parties or candidates shall ensure that the persons disturbing a meeting or otherwise attempting to create disorder in the meeting or procession are not allowed to meet their ulterior motives. However, the organizers themselves



shall not take action against such persons rather they will seek the assistance of the police on duty in this regard.

- Vehicles/ car rallies shall be prohibited. However, the political parties and candidates shall convey their schedule of public rallies / processions / public jalsas and corner meetings well in time to the District/Local Administrations and inform the Public after formal approval from District/Local Administration. The District /Local Administration shall be responsible for making appropriate security arrangements and regulating such public rallies / processions / public jalsas and corner meetings in such a manner that equal opportunities are provided to all the candidates interested in holding public rallies / processions / public jalsas and corner meetings without any discrimination. The loud speaker / sound system will be permissible in the said programme.
- 41- Political parties, candidates, their supporters, government / local government functionaries or elected representative, shall not announce or inaugurate, openly or in secret, their overall development schemes or development work or do anything which tends to influence the results of an election in favor of or against a particular candidate or political party after the announcement of the election programme till the day of polling and shall not give any subscription or donation, or make promise for giving such subscription or donation, to any institution of their respective constituency or to any other institution as well:

Provided that individual cases already in process or sanctioned before the announcement of election programme may be continued.

- 42- Political Parties, contesting candidates, election agents and their supporters shall refrain from speeches or propagation intended to arouse parochial, ethnic and sectarian feelings and conflicts between genders, ethnicity, religion, caste, sects, communities and linguistic groups.
- 43- Criticism of other political parties and opponent candidates shall be confined to their policies and programmes, past record and work. Parties and candidates shall refrain from criticism of any aspect of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism based on unverified allegations and distortion of facts shall be avoided.

- The political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and their supporters shall refrain from deliberate dissemination of false and malicious information and shall not indulge in forgeries and disinformation to defame other political parties / leaders. The use of abusive language against the leaders and candidates shall be avoided at all costs.
- The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed private life shall be respected, irrespective of any resentment that a political party or a candidate may have against such individual for his political opinion or activities. Organizing demonstrations or picketing before the house of such individual with a view to protest against his political opinion or activities shall be prohibited under all circumstances.

(e) POLLING DAY

- 46- The Political parties, candidates and election agents shall:
 - a. co-operate with the election officials and Law Enforcement Agencies on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstructions;
 - provide badges or identity cards to their authorized polling agents containing his name, candidate's name, his CNIC No, number and name of constituency and number and name of polling station.
 - c. ensure that such authorized agents carry their original National Identity Cards.
- 47- The Political Parties, contesting candidates and election agents should carry out a comprehensive plan for voters' education regarding marking the ballot paper, casting of vote and while doing so voters shall be informed that the secrecy of ballot shall be maintained.
- 48- On Polling Day, there shall be a complete ban within the radius of 400 meters of a polling station on all kinds of campaigns, canvassing, persuading of voters for vote, soliciting of vote and not to vote in the election or canvassing for a



particular candidate. Further, there shall be a complete ban on exhibition of notices, signs, banners or flags designed to encourage the voters to vote or discourage the voters from voting for a particular contesting candidate within the radius of 100 meters in or outside the polling station. Violations will be treated as an illegal practice.

- 49- The political parties, candidates, election agents or their supporters may establish camps beyond the radius of 400 meters in rural areas and 100 meters in densely populated urban areas from the polling stations on the polling day.
- 50- No candidate, election agent or any of their supporters or a polling agent shall interfere or create hindrance in any manner in official functioning of a presiding officer, assistant presiding officer, polling officer or security personnel appointed to perform duty at a polling station.
- 51- No candidate, election agent or any of their supporters or a polling agent shall resort to violence in any form or manner against a presiding officer, assistant presiding officer, polling officer or security personnel or any other person officially deputed to work at a polling station.
- 52- Except the voters, candidates or duly authorized election agents, no one without a valid pass from the Election Commission or Provincial Election Commissioner, District Returning Officer or Returning Officer concerned shall enter the polling station. Foreign / domestic observers and accredited representatives of print and electronic media will also be provided access to witness the election process on production of the accreditation cards / passes issued to them by the Election Commission or by an officer authorized by the Commission.

(f) MISCELLANEOUS

53- The District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and District Monitoring Officers shall be responsible to ensure implementation of the Code of Conduct through District / Local administration, district police or other Law Enforcing Agencies, in the area of their jurisdictions, and violation thereof by any candidate or political party shall tantamount to malpractices as per law and rules and shall entail legal action as per law and rules.

- Monitoring Teams of the Election Commission shall monitor the entire election campaign of candidates / political parties and violation of any provision of the Act, the Election Rules, 2017 and the Code of Conduct shall be reported by the Monitoring Team to the officer nominated by the Election Commission for the purpose who shall decide the matter in accordance with the provisions of Section 234 of the Act.
- Article 218(3) of the Constitution empowers the ECP to guard against the corrupt practices i.e. bribery, personation, undue influence, capturing of polling station or polling booth, tampering with papers and making or publishing a false statement or declaration, exceeding the limit of election expenses etc. The violation of code of conduct shall entail punitive action i.e. declaring an election void for corrupt/illegal practices.
- 56- The general public is also expected to assist the Election Commission for effective implementation of Code of Conduct and violation of any aforesaid provisions, if any, may be brought to the notice of Election Commission of Pakistan for providing peaceful and level playing field to all the political parties and contesting candidates.

ELECTION OBSERVATION

In a historic move, the Election Commission of Pakistan has, for the first time, included International Media within the "Code of Conduct for International Observers" for the General Election 2024. This significant decision reflects the Commission's efforts to ensure transparency and fairness in the electoral process. By including international media in the code, the ECP aims to provide a wider platform for observation and reporting, allowing for a more comprehensive and accurate representation of the electoral proceedings. This move enhanced the credibility and integrity of the elections, and demonstrated ECP's commitment to upholding democratic principles and values.

12.2 Code of Conduct for International Observers / Media

 Any person observing and reporting the electoral process as a member of an International Election Observation Mission must read and understand this Code of Conduct and shall sign a pledge annexed to this Code.



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- 2. The International Observers and Media persons intending to visit Pakistan shall submit their visa applications well in time, according to the rules laid down by relevant authorities of the Government of Pakistan. No observer or media person shall stay in Pakistan beyond the prescribed duration of granted visa.
- 3. International Observers and Media persons shall respect the sovereignty of Pakistan as well as the fundamental rights and freedom of its people.
- 4. International Observers and Media persons shall adhere to the Constitution and laws of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and respect the authority of the Election Commission and its election officials.
- 5. International Observers and Media persons shall ensure that their observations and reporting is impartial, objective and depict the highest standards of accuracy.
- 6. International Observers and Media persons shall follow instructions issued from time to time by the Election Commission and State authorities and maintain a respectful attitude towards them.
- 7. International observers and media shall comply with Advisories that may be issued by the government or security agencies to ensure their safety during their stay in Pakistan.
- 8. Observers and Media persons shall respect the culture and customs of the country and observe the highest level of professionalism.
- International Observers and Media persons shall display their official identification badges /accreditation cards issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, at all times and shall present it to electoral officials and other relevant authorities as and when requested.
- 10. International Observers and Media persons at all times during election process shall maintain strict political impartiality. They shall not exhibit any bias or preference with regard to political parties and candidates.
- 11. International Observers and media persons shall obey rules concerning photography and restrictions on taking pictures as per laws/local culture.

- 12. International Observer and Media persons shall have right to ask any question and to clear any query but they will not obstruct directly or indirectly any pre-election, election and post-election process.
- 13. International Observers and media persons shall work harmoniously with other observers, media persons and election officials.
- 14. International Observers and Media persons shall select areas for election observation and reporting in consultation with Election Commission of Pakistan for their security and safety. However, International Observers and media persons shall choose the area to ensure balanced observation /reporting.
- 15. International Election Observers and media persons may hire services of Pakistani interpreters if so required. However, they shall provide all necessary details of these interpreters while applying for accreditation card. These interpreters shall also remain non-partisan and unbiased.
- 16. International Observers and media persons may observe and report all aspects of management and conduct of elections including actual polling day without interfering in electoral proceedings.
- 17. International Observers and media persons shall not interfere in the internal process at any polling station.
- 18. International Observers and Media International Observers and media persons shall not maintain their personal and professional relationships with individuals / organizations in a way that could lead to conflict of interest with duties as observers and reporters.
- 19. International Observers and media persons shall not accept any gift or favors from political parties, organizations or persons involved in the electoral process.
- 20. International Observers and media persons shall not wear, carry or display any party symbols or colours of a partisan nature.
- 21. Observer shall not make any personal comments about his/her observation or conclusion on the election process to the media.



- 22. International Observers and Media persons shall not conduct or participate in any activity that may generate an impression of favouring or opposing any political party or a candidate.
- 23. The content on international print & electronic media and any international media persons, newspaper and channel on digital media and other social media influencers shall not reflect any aspect which might create parochialism or threatens peace and security of the country or threatens or incite hatred/violence against any particular person or group in Pakistan.
- 24. The content on international print & electronic media and any international media person, newspaper and channel on digital media and and other International social media influencers shall not include any aspect which might be construed as personal attacks on candidates, political parties of Pakistan on the basis of gender, religion, sect, caste, baradari etc.
- 25. No International radio or television channel shall broadcast/telecast or print media shall publish anything that adversely affects the public opinion against a particular political party or a candidate in Pakistan. This code of conduct is also applicable to official social media accounts of international newspapers, channels, media persons and other social media influencers.
- 26. International print, electronic media and International digital media persons / influencers on their official accounts on digital media shall refrain from entrance and exit polls or conducting any kind of surveys at any polling station or constituency that may influence the voters' free choice of casting votes.
- 27. International print, electronic media and International digital media persons / influencers shall broadcast telecast or publish only authentic election results officially issued by the Returning Officer or the Election Commission of Pakistan.
- 28. Observer Organizations shall share their findings, methodology, recommendations and reports with the Election Commission of Pakistan.
- 29. The government and law enforcing agencies of Pakistan shall provide protection to National / International Observers and media persons to maintain their security.

In case of violation of this Code of Conduct, the Election Commission of Pakistan reserves the right to revoke the accreditation of any individual observer/observer mission and individual journalist/media organization. The authority to determine the violation also rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Code of conduct for National Media

In a landmark development, the Election Commission of Pakistan has, for the first time, included Digital Media within the "Code of Conduct for National Media" during the General Election 2024. This historic move acknowledges the significant influence and reach of Digital Media platforms in shaping public opinion and discourse. The National Media remained on board in preparation of the Codes however, by bringing Digital Media under the ambit of the code, the ECP ensured that these platforms adhere to the same principles of impartiality, accuracy, and fairness as traditional media. This inclusion promoted a level playing field and helped to curb the spread of misinformation and disinformation on social media.

12.3 Code of Conduct for National Media

- During the election campaign, the content floated on print, electronic and digital media, shall not reflect any opinion prejudicial to the ideology, sovereignty, dignity or security of Pakistan, public order or the integrity and independence of the judiciary of Pakistan and other national institutions.
- 2. Allegations and statements which may harm national solidarity or may create law and order situation from the issuance of election schedule till the notification of returned candidate shall be strictly avoided on print & electronic media and by any media person, newspaper and channel operating official account on digital media and other social media influencers.
- 3. The content on print & electronic media, any media person, newspaper, channel operating official accounts on digital media and social media influencers shall not include any aspect which might be construed as personal attack on candidates or political parties on the basis of gender, religion, sect, caste, baradari etc. In case of violation, legal action shall be taken against the violator.

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- 4. If a candidate makes an allegation against another candidate, the media should seek comments and verification from both the sides by providing fair opportunities to both the parties.
- 5. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Press Information Department (PID), Cyber Wing and Digital Media Wing of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) shall monitor the coverage given to political parties and candidates for their election campaigns through electronic channels, print and social media. The above authorities shall submit to the Commission details of payments made by the political parties and candidates within 10 days after poll day.
- 6. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Press Information Department (PID), Cyber Wing and Digital Media Wing of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) shall assist the Election Commission in implementation of this Code of conduct. They shall further provide at any time, any information required by Election Commission of Pakistan in the discharge of its constitutional duties.
- 7. The government and law enforcing agencies shall provide due protection to media persons, and media houses to maintain their freedom of expression as their fundamental right.
- 8. No print, electronic or digital media shall run campaign of candidates and political parties at the cost of public exchequer.
- 9. The journalists or print, electric and digital media, social media influencers and media houses throughout the election period shall launch Civic and Voter Education programs which shall be inclusive especially focusing marginalized groups such as women, transgender, youth, minorities and differently abled persons to maximize voter turnout and ensure their participation in electoral process.
- 10. In light of Section 182 of the Elections Act 2017, any media person on print, electronic and social media shall refrain from projecting election campaign of any candidate or political party during a period of forty-eight hours ending at midnight following the conclusion of the poll for any election.

- 11. Any media person from print, electronic and digital media shall not obstruct the election process in any way and shall display their accreditation cards provided by the Election Commission.
- 12. Print & Electronic media and any journalist, newspaper, and channel on their official accounts on digital media, and other social media influencers shall refrain from entrance and exit polls or conducting any kind of surveys at any polling station or constituency which may influence the voters' free choice of casting vote or hinder the process in any way.
- 13. Only accredited media persons shall be allowed to enter a polling station (along with camera) for making footage for the voting process only once. They shall ensure secrecy of the ballot and shall not make footage of the screened off compartment. However, media personnel shall be allowed to observe the counting process without making any footage of the process.
- 14. During coverage of polling process, media persons shall not obstruct directly or indirectly any pre-election, election and post-election process.
- 15. The media shall not air any unofficial result of a polling station until one hour has passed after the close of poll.
- 16. Broadcasters will air results after one hour of polling ending with clear disclaimer that these are unofficial, incomplete and fractional results, which should not be taken as final results until Returning officer has announced result of the constituency. In case of any violation, ECP may direct concerned authorities for appropriate action.
- 17. In case of violation of this Code of Conduct, the Election Commission of Pakistan reserves the right to withdraw accreditation of an individual journalist/Media Organization. The authority to determine the violation also rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

12.4 Code of Conduct for National Observer

The Election Commission of Pakistan has significantly expanded the scope of its Code of Conduct for the General Election 2024 by incorporating additional Regulatory



Authorities, thereby strengthening the electoral regulatory framework. Previously, the Code of Conduct only included the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA). However, in the General Elections 2024, the ECP has broadened its sphere to include other key regulatory bodies, ensuring a more comprehensive and multifaceted approach to electoral oversight. This expansion enabled the ECP to effectively monitor and regulate a wider range of media platforms, telecommunications, and other relevant sectors, thereby preventing undue influence, promoting equal opportunities, and upholding the integrity of the electoral process.

Code of Conduct for National Observers

Any person observing and reporting the electoral process as a member of a local group / national organization must read and understand this Code of Conduct, reproduced below:

- Observers may observe election process on poll day with the express permission of the Election Commission.
- 2. No person will be permitted to observe the Election process unless he/ she presents accreditation card issued by authorized officer of the Election Commission of Pakistan.
- 3. Observers shall display their official identification badges, issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan all the time and shall present it to the election officials and other security officials when requested.
- 4. Observers shall respect sovereignty of Pakistan as well as fundamental rights and freedom of its people.
- 5. It is expected that observers shall maintain good behavior, respect local laws including exhibiting sensitivity for culture and customs of the country and shall observe the highest level of professionalism.
- 6. Observers shall adhere to the laws of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and respect the authority of the Election Commission and its Election Officials.



- 7. Observers shall follow instructions issued by the Election Commission, State Authorities and shall maintain respectful attitude towards them.
- 8. Political impartiality shall be maintained by observers at all costs while observing the election process. They shall not exhibit any bias or preference with regard to local authorities, political parties and candidates as well as any issue related to the process of election.
- 9. Observers shall not conduct or participate in any activity which may generate an impression of favoring or opposing any political party or a candidate.
- 10. Observers will have the right to ask any question and to clear any query without obstructing directly or indirectly the election process.
- 11. Observers shall ensure that all their observations are impartial, objective and depict highest standards of accuracy.
- 12. Observer shall not make personal comments about his/her observation or conclusion on the election process to the media. However he/she may share his/her finding or recommendations with Election Commission of Pakistan.
- 13. National Observers organization shall ensure that only their nominated authorized Person shall share the findings or recommendations with the Election Commission of Pakistan.
- 14. In case of violation of this Code of Conduct, the Election Commission of Pakistan reserves the right to withdraw observer accreditation of an individual observer or the organization. The authority to determine the violation also rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.





MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS: ECP, THE GUIDING LIGHT OF DEMOCRACY

13.1 ECP's Consultative Sessions

The Commission, established as the caretaker of free and fair elections, embarked on an extraordinary journey of collaboration and consultation, ensuring every voice was heard, every concern was addressed, and every perspective was included to the extent possible under the law.

With the announcement of the General Elections, recognizing the gravity of the moment, the ECP convened multiple consultative meetings, engaging all major stakeholders. The consultation process was not just a procedural requirement; but a collaborative effort to build trust in the electoral system.

The political landscape in Pakistan is diverse, comprising various stakeholders such as political parties with differing ideologies, seasoned election agents, and representatives of media and civil society. The task required a balance between inclusivity, transparency, and impartiality.

The conference room of the Commission became a vibrant arena for debate and dialogues. Representatives of political parties, from orators to seasoned strategists to legal experts, brought forth their concerns and recommendations about the Code of Conduct. Even election agents, often the unsung heroes of the democratic process, shared their insights, highlighting the ground realities. Civil society organizations emphasized inclusivity, advocating for mechanisms to ensure marginalized communities could participate without barriers.

Over weeks, these meetings unfolded like chapters in a shared narrative. The ECP's approach was marked by patience and perseverance. Through these consultations, the Election Commission developed a comprehensive Code of Conduct clearly defining the guidelines for political parties and their agents. It underscored principles of fair play, mutual respect, and adherence to electoral laws. Provisions were included to address

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emerging challenges, such as the role of digital platforms and the issue of fake news and mis/disinformation.



Consultative session with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan



Consultative session with Pakistan Muslim League (Q)



Consultative session with Awami National Party

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Consultative session with Balochistan Awami Party



Consultative session with Balochistan National Party



Consultative session with Jamaat-e-Islami

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Consultative session with Muttahida Qaumi Movement



Consultative session with Pakistan Muslim League (N)





DEVELOPMENT WORK

The Commission has taken special measures for acquisition of government-owned land for the construction of its own offices in the field. Concerted efforts were made to identify suitable land for purchase by ECP after fulfillment of all formalities. The major steps taken so far are as follows:

14.1 Acquisition of State Land for the Construction of Field Offices of ECP

ECP acquired **33 plots** from the Provincial Governments for construction of its field offices, which include **22 Plots in Punjab and 11 plots in Balochistan**, summarized as under:

Sr. #	Provinces	Plots Purchased
1.	Punjab	22
2.	Balochistan	11
Total		33

14.2 Construction of Boundary Walls to Secure Plots Acquired for ECP Offices

In order to secure the plots from encroachments, the construction of boundary walls in the 28 districts has been completed till June 2024. Details are given below:

Sr. #	# Area of Jurisdiction No. of Boundary Walls	
1.	PEC Punjab	17
2.	PEC Balochistan	11

14.3 Construction of Buildings for Field Offices of ECP

The construction work for PSDP-funded projects for (five) 05 REC/DECs i.e., Sargodha, Layyah, Okara, Attock, and Jhelum offices was completed in June, 2024. Further, construction works on 04 RECS/DECS offices projects in Punjab i.e., Faisalabad,

Narowal, Sahiwal and Rajanpur, as well as in 04 DECS offices projects in Balochistan i.e., Jaffarabad, Mastung, Gwadar and Lasbella are in progress with completion targeted by June, 2025. In addition, 10 PC-Is for the construction of 14 DEC offices were also approved by DDWP during 2022-2023, detailed as under:

Sr. No.	Name of PEC	No. of Projects Approved in DDWP	Status of Construction /Funding
		05	Completed
1.	PEC Punjab	04	In progress (Construction will be completed by June, 2025)
		08	Approved by DDWP, yet to be funded through PSDP
2.	PEC Balochistan	2 (04 offices)	In progress (Construction will be completed by June, 2025)
		02 (06 Offices)	Approved by DDWP, yet to be funded through PSDP

14.4 List of RECS/DECS OFFICES (Newly Constructed Office Buildings)

Sr. #	PC-I Title	Revised Cost of Project (approved in DDWP (21-09-2023)	Remarks	
1	Construction of REC / DEC Offices, Sargodha	689.193		
2.	Construction of DEC Office, Okara	232.453	Dualasta	
3.	Construction of DEC Office, Layyah	245.281	Projects completed	
4.	Construction of DEC Office, Jhelum	239.944	(June, 2024)	
5.	Construction of DEC Office, Attock	236.502		



14.5 Projects of ECP (added as New Schemes in PSDP 2023-24) list of RECs/DECs Offices (Projects in Progress)

Sr. #	PC-I Title	Cost of PC-I	Expenditure till June 2024	PSDP Allocation for 2024-25	Remarks
1	Construction of REC/DECs Faisalabad Complex	999.641	400.000 (100.00)*	699.641	
2.	Construction of DEC Office, Narowal	286.574	150.000	136.574	Projects will be
3.	Construction of REC/DEC Offices, Sahiwal	494.836	275.000	244.836 (25.00)*	completed by June,
4.	Construction of DEC Office, Rajanpur	200.600	100.000	100.600	2020
Total		1981.651	925.000	1181.650	

Sr. #	PC-I Title	Cost of PC-I	Expenditure till June' 2024	PSDP Allocation for 2024-25	Remarks
1	Construction of DEC Office, Jaffarabad	259.089	100.000	159.089	
2.	Construction of DEC Office, Mastung	279.776	100.000	179.776	Projects
3.	Construction of DEC Office, Gwadar	249.854	84.790	165.065	will be ompleted by June
4.	Construction of DEC Office, Lasbella	267.995	100.000	167.995	2025
	Total	1056.714	384.790	671.925	



14.6 List of projects approved by DDWP forum yet to be funded through PSDP

Projects of ECP (added as new schemes in PSDP 2024-25)

Project	Cost of Project(In million)	CDWP Meeting Date	PSDP Allocation for 2024-25 (MRs)
Construction of			
Federal Election	1994.811	07.06.2024	400.000
Academy			

14.7 List of Projects Approved By DDWP Forum Yet To Be Funded Through PSDP

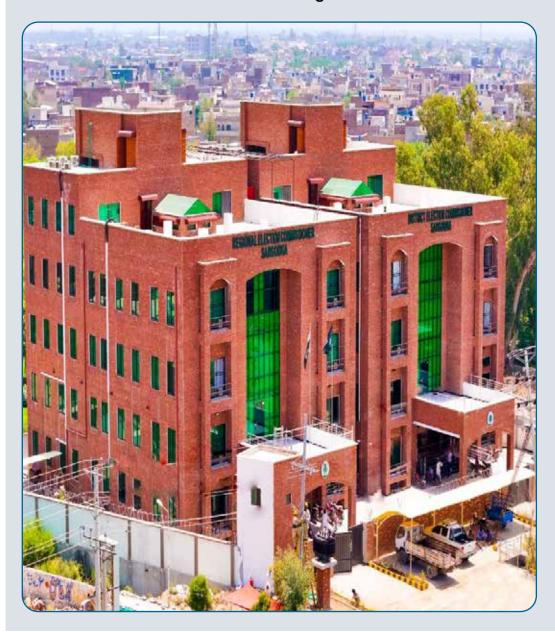
Sr #	Office Name	DDWP Meeting Date	Proposed cost of PC-I (Rupees in millions)
1	Construction of DEC Office, Lodhran		200.905
2	Construction of DEC Office, Khushab	06.06.2021	177.236
3	Construction of DEC Offce, Bhakkar		223.000
4	Construction of DEC Office, Jhang		295.173
5	Construction of DEC Office, Toba Tek Singh	28.02.2023	324.545
6	Construction of DEC Office, Mandi Bahauddin		319.996
7	Construction of DEC Office, Pakpattan		315.000
8	Construction of DEC Office, Khanewal		270.114
9	Construction of District Election Commission (DEC) Offices, Chaghi, Washuk and Naushki	05.05.2023	767.899
10	Construction of District Election Commission (DEC) Offices, Kharan, Barkhan and Loralai	05.05.2023	775.348
	3669.216		



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DEVELOPMENT WORK

DEC Office Sargodha



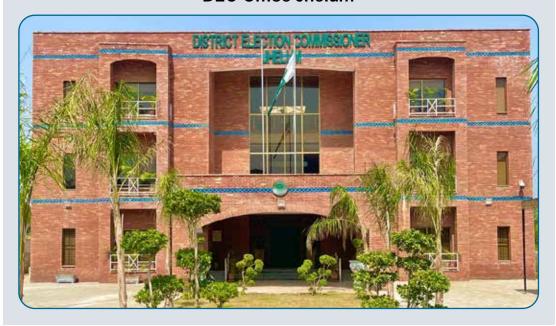
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DEC Office Layyah



DEC Office Jhelum



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DEC Office Attock

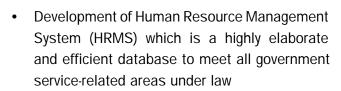


DEC Office Okara



HUMAN RESOURCE

The Election Commission of Pakistan is responsible for managing the human resources involved in the electoral process. This wing handles a range of critical functions, including recruitment, training, and performance management of ECP staff. The HR Wing manages employee records, career development, and compliance with employment regulations. Following are the key areas of contribution:





- Rationalization of 3710 posts
- Creation of 847 posts
- Abolishing 156 posts from BS-02 to BS-21/22 including posts in MP Scale and no scale which had been redundant having no further utility
- 425 promotions relevant to different cadres of employees based on the assessment as per the defined eligibility criteria
- In cognizance with the Finance Division's policy of grant of time scale to all Civil Servants of Federal Government (from BS-01 to BS-16), the Election Commission of Pakistan has granted higher scales to 1890 employees
- 1035 recruitments
- 2706 updated service profiles of Employees on HRMS
- 214 penalties imposed through Litigation and Career Planning (DL&CP) Branch of HR

ELECTION MONITORING CONTROL CENTER [EMCC]



The Staff Performing Monitoring Duty in EMCC



Online Training of Regional Monitoring Coordinators Appointed For General Elections 2024

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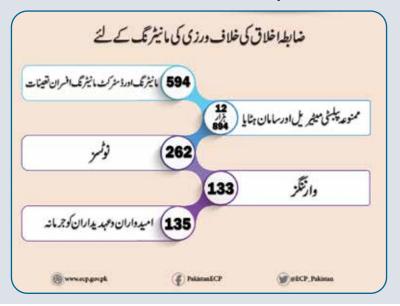
The Hon'ble Commission Receiving Briefing on EMCC

The Election Monitoring Control Center (EMCC), Pakistan was established on September 7, 2023 for the General Elections 2024. It operates 24/7 when an election is announced. It is dedicated to address and resolve election-related complaints. The EMCC has a four-tier monitoring system i.e. Headquarters (EMCR), Provincial Monitoring Control Room (PMCR), Regional Monitoring Control Room (RMCR), and District Monitoring Control Room (DMCR). It is a comprehensive digital system that relies on real-time information from the field. This information is analyzed and effectively made available to decision-makers for quick decision-making.

MONITORING



Removal of oversized political parties campaign material found in violation of the Code of Conduct issued by the ECP



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RECORD ROOM







The Record Room of the Election Commission of Pakistan was inaugurated on 5th January 2023 that serves as a central repository for all official documents, records, and data related to election administration. The relevant officer in charge is responsible for maintaining comprehensive records of administrative documents. This room ensures the secure storage, management, and easy retrieval of vital records.



SERVER ROOM



The Server Room of the Election Commission of Pakistan was established on January 25, 2024. The server room administers the management and security of electoral roll data, ensuring maintenance of accurate and up-to-date voter information. It handles critical internet infrastructure to support real-time data processing and communication between central and field offices. The facility is equipped with robust security measures to protect sensitive electoral data and facilitate seamless coordination across various operational units, improving efficiency of the electoral process.

THE NEW LOOK OF ERP FACAUE



Remodeled Facade of the ECP Secretariat Building, Islamabad

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OTHER VITAL SERVICES



Dispensary facility upgraded



ECP's additional office at Kohsar Block Secretariat



Library revamped and renovated



Employees facilitated through improved transport facility

THE ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

The Administrative wing of ECP manages the day-to-day administrative tasks, including office management, procurement of materials and supplies, logistics, and coordination of various electoral activities. It ensures that the necessary resources and infrastructure are in place for the smooth execution of official business, from organizing polling stations to managing election-related documents. The Admin Wing's efficiency is crucial in supporting the overall functioning of the ECP and ensuring that all operational aspects of the electoral process are well-coordinated and executed effectively. Following are the key areas of initiatives by the wing:

- A state-of-the-art dispensary has been established and equipped with all necessary medicine. A Medical Officer along with allied staff has also been deputed for the employees of the ECP Secretariat.
- The repair and maintenance work of this Commission's Secretariat building has been done which includes chemical polishing of floors, repair of door locks, and door closers, installation of workstations in branches as well as day-to-day repair as and when required.
- Established the Project Management Unit at the National Institute of Electronics building in Sector H-9, Islamabad. The building has been completely white-washed as well as renovated for the officers and staff of PMU as well as IT Wing.
- Shifting of Political Finance Wing and Gender and Social Inclusion Wing to 5th Floor, Kohsar Block. The Halls were completely renovated and new offices were established for the wings.
- The Library at this Commission Secretariat has been revamped. New racks have been installed for placing books, periodicals and other relevant materials.
- The Courtroom of the Commission's Secretariat has been renovated with the new visitor chairs, multimedia projectors and cabinet ACs. Also new roll-up blinds, and carpets were installed.

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- The Visitor Room of this Commission's Secretariat has been renovated. The new furniture, visitor chairs and cabinet ACs were also installed along with new roll up blinds.
- Pick and drop facility has been started for the employees for a smooth commute to office in an affordable manner. The transport facility runs on four different routes covering almost every corner of the twin cities for the benefit of officers/ officials.
- Two sets of quality liveries provided to all the Class-IV staff
- Time-to-time training/ counseling of Beavers staff is being conducted by Admin Wing in collaboration with Avari Xpress Hotel/ Islamabad Club.
- Placed tenders for hiring of Security services, and janitorial services, procurement of store items and stationery articles
- The Daycare Center has been completely renovated and shifted to larger room. A
 safe environment has been provided to the kids coming to daycare center, while
 also ensuring better attendant services.
- Security arrangements have been improved at this Commission's Secretariat during office hours and court hearings
- A cafeteria (indoor/ outdoor) has been established for the employees providing them hygienic meals at affordable rates in better ambience
- All vehicles are being timely maintained through authorized dealerships.
- The Gym has been uplifted and multidisciplinary exercise machines have been installed for the use of employees helping them to maintain their health and fitness
- The uplifting of the facade of ECP Secretariat has given a new image to the Headquarters building.
- For the parking of newly purchased buses and coasters, a new plot on the side of ECP has been acquired and leveled for the parking.
- The parking and garden of the ECP Secretariat building have been renovated. Road marking has been done along with the beautification of green belts.
- To beef up the security of this Commission's Secretariat, the CCTV surveillance has been upgraded.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



The Information Technology (IT) Wing plays an imperative role in facilitating the integration and advancement of process automation, and implementation of cutting-edge IT solutions tailored to meet the electoral needs of the ECP to uphold the international principles of transparency, efficacy, security, and inclusiveness. IT Wing also technically assists the Election Commission with the compliance of constitutional responsibilities and legal framework outlined in the Elections Act, 2017. It further provides technical recommendations

for the strategic planning and execution of various electoral technologies. Moreover, this Wing organizes and conducts high-quality training programs designed to equip ECP staff with the latest knowledge and skills in various technological areas by keeping the officials updated on new advancements and best practices in the rapidly evolving field of Information Technology.

Responsibilities of Information Technology Wing

- (i) Assist Election Commission of Pakistan in all technology-related matters including
 - IT Innovations & Governance, IT Policy & Planning, Operations and Development;
- (ii) Managing the information technology infrastructure to provide IT services, for protecting the data resources and system applications;
- (iii) Continuous improvement and technological reforms across ECP to maximize the overall efficiency, coordination and effectiveness of its service delivery;
- (iv) Coordinate with development partners, electoral and technology consultants, international organizations like UNDP, IFES etc. to strengthen the development processes of Electoral technologies;

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- (v) Providing technical solutions, ensuring that these innovative solutions are aligned with ECP's vision, mission and strategy;
- (vi) Review the strategic roadmap, ensuring that information technology capabilities continually support the overall ECP's goals and objectives;
- (vii) Devise IT policies to enable strong security and risk-management capabilities;
- (viii) To coordinate and communicate with other government departments, private IT companies, Internet and web hosting services providers for reliable and smooth day to day operations;
- (ix) Management and operations of ECPs Data Center infrastructure along with hosting of various MIS applications such as EMS, Digital Services, IORMS, HRMS and EMCC;
- (x) Management of nationwide CERS network including its secure VPN based connectivity with NADRA to extend access of CERS application at all ECP field offices;
- (xi) Management of Information security infrastructure, software management & operations, servers & other hardware infrastructure and IT services;
- (xii) Management of ECP's official Website, Social Media Accounts and other Portals, related databases and security policies including recently implemented Internet usage policy and ISO-27001 series policies.
- (xiii) Management of ECP computer networks i.e. LAN, WAN, VPN and ensures smooth operations. Database, Network design and implementation.
- (xiv) Assist and support the Project Management Unit in all processes/ operations providing policy guidelines.

Glimpses of the Technological Projects

- (i) Nationwide Up-gradation of ECP Data Network
- (ii) Establishment of Data Centre
- (iii) Video Conferencing System (VC)

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- (iv) ECP's Official Website & Mobile App
- (v) Social Media Accounts
- (vi) Complaint Management System (CMS)
- (vii) Human Resource Management System (HRMS)
- (viii) Online Recruitment System (ORS)
- (ix) Short Message Service (SMS)
- (x) Optical Mark Recognition System (OMR)
- (xi) Integrated Office Record Management System (IORMS)
- (xii) Digitization of Delimitation Maps
- (xiii) Public Service Message through 8300 SMS (International Award Winning)
- (xiv) Online Scrutiny Facilitation Cell in General Elections
- (xv) Use of Geo Fencing Technology during elections
- (xvi) Election Monitoring and Control Centre (EMCC)
- (xvii) Monitoring and Reporting System (MRS)
- (xviii) Election Management System (EMS)
- (xix)Election City (General Elections-2024)
- (xx) ECP's Tele Helpline (Interactive Voice Response Service)
- (xxi) ECP Employees Empowerment
- (xxii) Pilot projects on EVM, BVM and Overseas Voting
- (xxiii) Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) [International Award Winning]





THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Project Management Unit (PMU) was established in January 2022 and plays a key role in the software development technologies. PMU aims to integrate state-of-theart IT solutions that can address the growing demands of electoral management in the digital age. The PMU is staffed by a team experienced IT developers, of who bring expertise from the private sector to deliver advanced technological solutions. These professionals, employed on competitive market-based salary structure, ensure that the unit has access to the latest skills and knowledge required to implement complex IT projects. The PMU was engaged in the development and



deployment of several projects such as a Data Centre, Digital Services, Election Management System (EMS), Human Resource Management System (HRMS), procurement of IT Equipment, and development of internal MIS, conduct of pilot testing of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), Biometric Verification Machine (BVM) and Overseas Voting. By leveraging emerging technologies, the PMU worked to improve the speed and accuracy of elections and to build a more transparent and reliable electoral system that fostered trust and confidence among voters and other stakeholders.

POLITICAL FINANCE

Traditionally, the ECP did not have a separate wing for political finance. The decision to establish political finance wing was taken in 2018 when the Supreme Court remanded the cases to the Election Commission for investigation of a foreign funding case against a political party. This incident made the ECP realize the need for a dedicated wing that could only deal with complex matters of political finance.



This wing was established in 2022 and is now fully functional and monitors the financial affairs

of political parties, MPs, candidates, and donors. The Political Finance Wing has moved towards IT to modernize its operations. It has created an indigenously developed software capable of handling all present and future financial challenges. The system can store historical records in an active database and cross-check information with government agency databases.

The Wing has also initiated training programs to improve the skills of its personnel. Multi-layered security measures are in place to protect data, including secure local area networks, firewalls, and separate servers. The wing has also prepared a comprehensive work manual covering all its functions and working methods. Apart from this, the Wing's Regulation Section also proposed amendments to laws and regulations to effectively implement provisions relating to assets and election expenses of political parties and elected members. Future projects of the wing include:

Big data analytics tools,

Artificial intelligence-based asset testing,

An online document submission portal.

These measures will help in implementing the Elections Act and making the Election Commission an independent body.

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COR VOITRAICSOOD RICEM HORESTUO



Delegation to take initiatives to facilitate People with special abilities with the cooperation of PILDAT



Winner of Painting Competition receiving Prize from Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan





One of the 1276 Students / Voters awareness workshops held between November 2021 to December 2023

Media coordination and outreach are crucial for effectively managing public image and communication strategy. This process involves strategically engaging with media outlets to ensure that the message is accurately and widely disseminated. It includes crafting press releases, coordinating interviews, and managing media relationships to secure favorable coverage. The ECP has worked for it on practical lines and through strategic plans has achieved milestones in this regard.

In a promising development for democratic participation, a recent **PILDAT survey** reveals a notable increase in **youth voter turnout** for the General Elections 2024, reaching an **impressive 48% compared to 37% in 2018**. This boost can be attributed to the proactive initiatives undertaken by the Election Commission of Pakistan to engage young voters.

Here are the significant achievements:

- Traditionally it was Public Relation Wing with limited scope and limited facilities which upgraded with a trained HR and technical team enhancing its scope and diversity.
- In light of Section 12 of the Elections Act, 2017, MCO conducted more than 1900 students' orientation sessions across the country since January 2022 aimed specifically at the crucial 18 to 25 age group to make them electoral ambassadors.
- Conducted more than 80 Media workshops and Dialogues with Media and Civil Society Organizations.
- Around 26000 voter education brochures were dispatched to Balochistan, 100, 000 to Sindh, 30,000 to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 50,000 to Punjab for distribution among masses in respect of LG Elections. A total of 346,000 awareness brochures/ IEC and material were distributed through District Voter Education Committees (DVECs).
- During the LG-Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh, radio messages in Pashto, Urdu and Balochi, Sindhi aired from different local radio channels describing and guiding masses about procedures and laws of local government.



- Published the first-ever magazine "A Pictorial Journey of Special Initiatives" taken at ECP during 2020-21 which highlights the milestones achieved in two years.
- Arranged the first ever ECP **National Youth Painting Competition** with professional judges to judge thousands of works.
- Restructuring the District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) and introducing Provincial Voter Education Committees (PVECs). Funds were allocated to organize and conduct workshops at district level to engage and sensitize the voters towards the electoral processes.
- Launched an awareness campaign on digital media related to deadline of E/Rolls in July 2023. The following videos were developed and disseminated on social media accounts of ECP i.e. Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram: (i) 21 short videos on Chapter X (Illegal and Corrupt Practices) of Elections Act 2017 (ii) 2 short videos on Codes of Conduct for national observers and media. (iii) Awareness video on combatting misinformation, and disinformation in elections.
- Published articles and features in newspapers, highlighting Commission's initiatives.
- Published quarterly ECP Newsletter on a regular basis since October 2022.



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TRAININGS



In-Service Training for ECP Officers

The Election Commission of Pakistan is responsible for equipping election staff and officials with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct free, fair, and efficient elections. The Training wing focuses on providing comprehensive training programs that cover various aspects of the electoral process, including voter registration, polling procedures, and election monitoring.

Traditionally, this was taken as simply training in respect of officials directly involved with elections, however, in the recent past the scope of the training has been increased by redefining it as Pakistan Electoral Academy for Democratic Practices, Research and Management (PADRM). Now it deals with a greater number of trainings not limited to elections but to improve the working skills of ECP officials at all tiers in a multidisciplinary manner.

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In 2024, a comprehensive series of training activities were organized by the ECP to ensure the smooth conduct of various electoral processes, including the General Elections, Presidential Election, Senate Elections, and Bye Elections. These training sessions were meticulously planned and executed across different regions of Pakistan, targeting a wide set of participants including polling personnel, election officials, security personnel, and ECP officers. This report summarizes the key aspects of these training activities, including the types of training, areas covered, number of participants, duration, venues, and time frames.

28.1 General Elections Training

The General Elections of 2024 required extensive trainings to equip the personnel involved in the election process with the necessary skills and knowledge. The trainings were conducted and divided into several categories:

- a. Half-Day Orientation Sessions: Arranged for Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) and Polling Officers (POs) across Pakistan during General Elections-2024. A total of 785,060 persons were trained in 19,630 sessions from December 25, 2023, to January 11, 2024. These half-day sessions were held at the district and tehsil levels.
- b. **2-Days' Training for Presiding Officers and Senior APOs:** This training included a one and half-day session on the polling process and a half-day session on the use of the Election Management System (EMS) Mobile App. It trained 191,526 individuals in 7,659 sessions from January 13 to February 1, 2024 at district and tehsil levels.
- c. 2-Days' Training of Master Trainers for Security Personnel: This training, for the security personnel engaged in the General Elections 2024, ECP trained 1,509 Master Trainers from the individuals of Law Enforcing Agencies, across the country in 40 sessions at the Divisional level between January 19 and January 28, 2024.
- d. **One Day Training of Security Personnel (Police):** 10070 sessions were conducted from January 29 to February 4, 2024 and 503,495 police personnel were trained at the district level.

These trainings were vital in preparing the polling staff and security personnel to manage the electoral process effectively and to ensure the elections were conducted in a fair, transparent and secure manner.

28.2 Presidential and Senate Elections Training

For the Presidential and Senate Elections of 2024, the ECP organized specialized training programs to address the unique requirements of these electoral processes:

a. Presidential Election-2024:

- o **Training for Beat Reporters**: A one-day high-profile session on Presidential election for Beat Reporters was held on March 5, 2024, in Islamabad, wherein, 40 participants were trained.
- o **Online Training for Election Officials**: A one-day online training for the Elections Officials involved in the Presidential election was conducted on March 7, 2024. A total of 30 participants from across Pakistan attended this session online.

b. Senate Elections-2024:

- o Online and In-person Training for Returning Officers and Polling Officers: Online training for the election officials involved in by-elections of the Senate of Pakistan was conducted on March 12, 2024. This session trained 19 participants.
- Two Days' Training for ROs and POs: A two-day training for ROs and POs for Senate Election, 2024 was held from March 25 to March 26, 2024, in Islamabad. 35 participants were trained in this session.

These trainings were critical in ensuring that the officials were well-prepared to handle the specific demands of the Presidential and Senate Elections.

- 28.3 **Bye-Elections and Local Government Elections Training:** The subsequent Bye-Elections to the General Elections, 2024, involved training at various levels to ensure that all personnel were adequately prepared for the task:
- a. Training of District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs):

 During Bye-Election 23 session held on April 4, 2024, where 69 participants were in attendance.

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- b. **Training of Polling Personnel:** One-day sessions across multiple constituencies across the country, were held for Training of polling personnel.
- c. **Local Government Elections:** Training for Master Trainers and Polling Personnel for the Local Government Elections in Punjab and ICT was conducted, with sessions held from June to September 2024.

These sessions ensured that all personnel involved in the Bye and Local Government Elections were well-prepared to conduct the elections efficiently.

- 28.4 **Capacity Building:** Apart from election-specific trainings, the ECP also focused on the capacity building of its officers and imparted the following training:
- a. **In-Service Training for Newly Promoted ECP Officers (BS-18):** A two-week training was conducted from July 22 to August 2, 2024 for the newly promoted BS-18 officers of the ECP, at PADRM.
- b. BRIDGE Training on Disability Rights, Gender, and Elections: Conducted in June and July 2024, these three-day sessions aimed to sensitize ECP officers on critical issues related to elections.
- c. **System-Based Training on Oracle Apex:** A ten-day system-based training on Oracle Apex was held from August 26 to September 6, 2024, aimed at enhancing the technical skills of ECP officers.
- d. **Training on Secretariat Instructions:** Training of BPS 17-18 and 19 officers was held from 17-19 September, 2024 to sensitize the officers about official procedure etc.

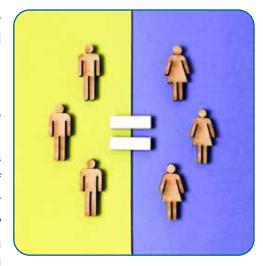
These capacity-building initiatives were designed to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the ECP in handling electoral processes, across a variety of important stakeholders.



GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

25. ECP's Special Measures to enhance Women's Political Participation and Representation as:

• Established a dedicated Gender and Social Inclusion Wing to ensure and enhance participation of women, transgender (TGs), people with special abilities, and religious minorities in the electoral process of Pakistan. In 2022, the Wing was further expanded with the recruitment of 03 Deputy Directors and 03 Assistant Directors with their dedicated staff in Secretariat and Provincial Headquarters.



- Launched a nationwide Women NIC/Voter Registration Campaign in 2017 in 116 districts, with 4 phases completed. The Campaign aimed to decrease the Gender Gap in the Electoral Rolls by increasing the registration of women as voters. Resultantly, by December 2023, the gap had successfully decreased to 7.74% from 11.8% in 2017.
- To provide a conducive environment for the female workforce, "Anti-Harassment Committees" are working effectively at ECP Secretariat and Provincial Headquarters.
 Recently, the committees have been reconstituted and notified with updated membership. Training for the Inquiry Committees' members and ECP officers has been completed at the Secretariat and all provincial Headquarters, 121 officers were recently trained on the inquiry process under the Harassment Act 2010.
- Prepared and uploaded documentaries on its website to raise awareness among different segments of society about civic and voter education, voter registration, vote casting, and postal ballot facilities offered to persons with disabilities.
- Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) has been established at ICT and all provincial headquarters, a platform provided to Civil Society Organizations

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working on the political rights of women, PWDs, Transgender and minorities. The forum plans, discusses, analyzes issues and challenges and recommends strategies to enhance electoral participation of women, transgender, PWDs and minorities. Its sub-thematic groups have also been established with a focus on transgender, PWDs and minorities.

- ECP conducts gender-sensitive voter information campaigns regularly with grassroots communities through District Voter Education Committees (DVEC), Provincial Project Coordination Committees (PPC) and GDEWG.
- Ensures outreach messages through different modes including print, electronic and social media for grassroots level communities with special focus on voter education material in Braille and 3D pictures for PWDs.
- Throughout the electoral cycle, youth engagement and voter awareness sessions and mock poll exercises are held in schools, colleges, universities, community centers, and religious places to encourage young people.
- Before GE 2024, 139 female youth engagement sessions have been conducted in schools, colleges and universities to encourage and enhance their understanding on the electoral process.
- Ensures that as far as possible, polling stations are set up on ground floors and made accessible through ramps, these SOPs are shared with provincial authorities before each election.
- Ensures special polling arrangements and a "Preferential Voting Facility" (without standing in lines) for expecting mothers, PWDs, elderly people, and transgender.
- Conducted 26000 plus gender-sensitive training of electoral officials, security personnel and media on addressing gender-based violence and discrimination in the electoral process.
- Ensures that political parties comply with Section 206 of Elections Act 2017 and award 5% of tickets to women in general seats.
- Conduct spot checks of female polling stations to confirm a conducive environment for female polling staff with basic facilities such as the provision of clean drinking water, well-lit rooms and corridors, restrooms and ramps at the polling stations.
- Provides separate polling stations or booths for women with adequate privacy measures such as canopies at the entrances of combined polling stations for



separate entry/exit for male and female voters

- Ensures the presence of female staff and female security personnel at female polling stations and female polling booths at combined polling stations.
- ECP established dedicated Gender Desks with complaint numbers to address issues of discrimination, intimidation, undue influence and gender-based violence and concerns of women, PWDs, Transgender and minorities.
- District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring Officers of ECP vigilantly monitor any gender-based violence or discrimination and take immediate appropriate actions under the law.
- ECP holds consultations with stakeholders such as political parties, election experts, academia, researchers, and forums representing women's rights.
- For the first time, ECP conducted a sensitization workshop for its officers on Gender Responsive Budgeting at Secretariat and field.
- BRIDGE workshop on Gender Equality and Elections was held for women officers on global approaches and methodologies on women's electoral participation.
- ECP has successfully drafted Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework (GMSIF) which has been launched making ECP the first EMB in the region with such Framework.
- Women Parliamentary Electoral Working Groups are being established after the finalization of its TORs by the Commission.
- 5th Phase of the Inclusive NIC/Voter Registration campaign is approved with strategy to cover all districts and all eligible voters including men. Consultation with stakeholders is in process and the campaign will be launched by the Commission in the near future.



ELECTIONS & ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES

The Flection Commission of Pakistan is responsible for managing the electoral process, including voter registration, candidate nomination, and the organization of polling and counting. It ensures adherence to election laws, addresses disputes, and conducts public awareness campaigns to maintain a fair and transparent electoral process. Election Commission of Pakistan, for the public convenience, went through many vital steps to enhance the existing system which includes:

Improvement in Form-45

o For the facilitation of Presiding officers and candidates, Form-45 was translated into Urdu.



- o Exclusive space for affixing signature of candidates/election agents has been provided.
- o Pilot was conducted before large-scale use.
- o Form with Urdu version was also used during bye-elections and General Elections-2024.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) regarding Form-45 (Statement of the Court) were devised to provide guidance to presiding officers for filling of Forms.

Survey of Polling Stations

- o Survey of proposed polling stations was carried out for the facilitation of voters.
- o Systematic review of basic facilities at each building.
- o Geo tagging of each building proposed at polling station for easy search.
- o New buildings were proposed where old buildings were not fulfilling the basic criteria / facilitation.
- o New polling stations were established in case of an increase of voters in the electoral area.
- o In this regard, two proformas were forwarded for further circulation of the same to the DECs along with complete guidelines and necessary directions.

Result of Survey

A comparative chart of polling stations established in the General 2018 and General Elections 2024 is given below:

Sr.No	Province	Polling Stations in 2018	Polling Stations for G.E 2024	Increase of polling station
1	Balochistan	4,546	5,067	521
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	14,527	15,737	1,210
3	Punjab/ICT	48,259	52,453	4,194
4	Sindh	17,758	19,096	1,338
	Total	85,090	92,353	7,263

Updating SOPs/Guidelines

- o SOPs and Guidelines for conduct of elections are issued to assist the election officials.
- o Being live documents, these are updated periodically according to the new

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legislative requirement and present scenario.

New SOPs and Guidelines were issued before General Elections-2024 in keeping with the ground situation.

Digitization of Maps

- o For delimitation of constituencies maps are of prime importance.
- o In the past manual maps were used for delimitation exercises.
- o Due to the importance of making the maps easily accessible to the stakeholders, it was decided that the preliminary maps as well as final maps of delimitation may be scanned and made available on the ECPs Website. The exercise was done in collaboration with the IT Wing of the Commission.
- o During the hearing of representations filed before the Hon'ble Commission digitized maps were displayed on the screen.

Data Bank of Polling Personnel

- o Around one million personnel were to be appointed for General Election-2024.
- o To have this appointment systematically it was decided that data of government officers/officials may be obtained from all Federal/Provincial Departments, Autonomous, Semi-Autonomous and Corporations.
- o Each District Election Commissioner was directed to maintain a data bank of officers/officials well in advance, this initiative helped to assess the shortfall and filter the data.
- o Data brought comfort to the Returning Officers during actual appointment and training.
- No shortage of staff was reported which usually occurred in all previous elections.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS



Under Article 140A (2) and 219(d) of the Constitution, ECP is under obligation to organize and conduct the Local Government Elections. The Election Commission directed the Governments for conduct of Local Government Elections after the expiry of tenure of Local Governments. Due to concerted efforts of the Commission following activities and elections have been conducted:

Local Government Elections Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Local Government Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were conducted, in two phases:

- a) 1st Phase in 17 districts held on 19th December, 2021
- b) 2nd Phase in 18 districts

held on 31st March, 2022

Local Government Elections Sindh Province

Local Government Elections in Sindh Province were conducted, in two phases:

- a) 1st Phase in 14 districts held on 26th June, 2022
- b) 2nd Phase in 16 districts held on 15th January, 2023

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Local Government Elections in Balochistan province

Local Government Elections in 35 districts (except Quetta District) of Balochistan Province were conducted in 2022-23. Local Government Elections. Upper Dir—Women in early morning at a polling station to cast their vote 134

Local Government Elections In Punjab Province

- 0 Since year-2019, ECP completed the process of delimitation thrice.
- Local Government Elections in Punjab Province have been delayed due 0 to frequent changes in the Local Government Laws by the Provincial Government, despite constant pressure by ECP.
- 0 As requested by the Provincial Government, four weeks given for necessary legislation (completed on 8th August 2024)

Local Government Elections in ICT

- As far as the ICT LG Election is concerned, the process of delimitation 0 is currently underway. However as soon as the delimitation process is completed, Election programme for conduct of ICT LG Elections will be issued.
- Since the expiry of term of Local Governments, ECP completed the process 0 of delimitation four times.
- Local Government Elections in ICT are delayed due to changes in the 0 existing laws and changes in number of UCs and wards by the Federal Government.



LAW, LEGAL PROVISIONS, CASES B PROCEEDINGS



The Commission while performing its duties and functions under the Constitution and law. receives and decides various complaints, petitions and applications in respect of the delimitation of constituencies. disputes regarding Electoral Rolls during the conduct of General Elections. Local Government Elections, Intra Party Elections of the Political Parties, allocation of Election Symbols, transfer of Election Petitions. Petitions regarding violations of Code of Conduct. qualification and disqualification of Candidates, etc. These cases

require focused and concerted inputs from the Law Wing.

The Law Wing is one of the important wing of the Election Commission; however, it was not given its due importance until 2020. It did not have proper legal professionals and the officers from the General Cadre having no legal background were working in the Law Wing who faced difficulty in dealing with a plethora of cases, in the ECP as well as higher courts.

Restructuring of Law Wing

The Election Commission of Pakistan deals with a large number of cases pending before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, High Courts at the Provincial level and its benches, Federal Service Tribunals, Information Commission of Pakistan, and District and Sessions Courts. Initially, the Law Wing was working only at the Secretariat level and there was no viable setup at the provincial levels. Only three Senior Law Officers were stationed at Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta which was not sufficient to cope with the large number of

AN INTRODUCTION TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

litigation pending before different foras. To meet this critical challenge and to effectively handle the legal cases significant measures were taken for strengthening the Law Wing.

In 2015 appointment of an Additional Director General (law) was made, requiring a proper legal background. The post was later upgraded to Director General (Law). In 2017, the posts of Deputy Director (Law) and Assistant Director (Law) were created and filled with qualified legal professionals, further enhancing the Wing's capability. Additionally, in 2020 following steps were taken:-

- Creation of post of Additional Director General (Law): In the year 2021 a post of ADG (Law) for the ECP, Secretariat, Islamabad was created and filled through direct recruitment.
- 2. Creation of posts of Directors (Law): Two (2) posts of Director (Law) were created at PEC office Sindh and Punjab, which have been filled through promotions, while the post at the Secretariat was designated as a direct recruitment position and is filled on contract basis for a term of two years.
- 3. Creation of posts of Law Officers: 15 posts of Law Officers were created across the country, distributed as per the workload of the respective High Courts and filled with eligible candidates on merits.
- 4. Creation of Additional Posts: Posts of Legal Consultant, Legal Assistant, and Court Reader were created and filled with qualified candidates.
- 5. Creation of New Branches: A Diary and Attestation Branch and a Law-III branch were created to streamline the process of preparation and delivery of attested copies of the orders passed in the petitions decided by the Commission.
- 6. Promotion Policy: Previously, there was neither a promotion policy nor an established seniority list for the Law Wing. To address this, a comprehensive promotion policy has been formulated, incorporating a futuristic approach and providing a career path for the officers and staff of the Wing.

These steps underscore a significant effort to revamp and enhance the legal framework of the ECP, ensuring stronger legal support across the country.

Scanning of Record

The law wing conducted the scanning and digitization of records, including various files and documents, converting them into PDF format for easy access and immediate retrieval through digital means. This initiative has been undertaken entirely by the Law Wing, as numerous cases are filed before the Hon'ble Commission on daily basis. To date, approximately 338 GB of data has been scanned into PDF format without any third-party assistance. The scanning process is ongoing.

Weeding of Record

The cases relating to delimitation were heard and decided twice. Nine folders for each case were prepared for presentation before the Commission. After the final disposal of the cases, the original folders were retained, while the remaining eight folders were weeded out, totaling over 35,000 folders.

Steps Regarding Disposal of Pending Election Petitions

After the conduct of General Elections 2018, a large number of Election Petitions were filed before the Election Tribunals which were required to be decided by the concerned Tribunals within 120 days. However, after lapse of more than 2 years, a considerable number of Election Petitions were pending, causing difficulties for the parties. The Commission, in order to expedite the trial and disposal of pending Election Petitions made efforts and addressed numerous letters to the Election Tribunals through Registrars for swift disposal of the petitions.

Hiring of Legal Advisors and Panel of the Advocates Supreme Court

Services of Legal Advisors were hired for Islamabad High Court, Lahore High Court, Peshawar High Court, Peshawar and Balochistan High Court. In addition, to ensure the effective representation before the Supreme Court of Pakistan on case-to-case basis, 19 Senior Advocates were taken on the panel of ECP after due process, keeping in view their reputation and competence level.

Delay in Conduct of Local Government Elections and Steps Taken by the Commission

The Election Commission of Pakistan characteristically encounters obstacles in holding timely Local Government Elections due to the following reasons:-

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- TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN
- Generally insufficient support from provincial governments,
- Changing Local Government laws at the nick of time.
- Court cases and restraining orders on delimitation and election schedules

These obstacles traditionally hindered the Election Commission's ability to hold elections within 120 days of the previous term's expiration, as mandated by the Constitution and the Elections Act, 2017. To address this delay, the ECP proposed amendment to Article 140A of the Constitution. Additionally, the Commission held a series of meetings with the provincial administrations and diligently followed the cases in courts to ensure compliance with the Constitution/ Supreme Court orders, to hold the Local Government Elections on time.

The Commission conducted numerous hearings by issuing notices to the Federal Secretary Interior and Provincial Local Governments Secretaries and sensitized them on the timely conduct of Local Government Elections in ICT and Provinces. Also, petitions were \neg led before the August Supreme Court of Pakistan for the conduct of Local Government Elections in ICT and the four Provinces with the assistance of the legal team. Resultantly, the Supreme Court of Pakistan disposed of the matter on March 15 2021 and the Commission successfully conducted the local government elections in KP, Sindh, Balochistan, and Cantonment Boards.

After the conduct of first phase of LG elections in KP (17 Districts) on 19th December 2021, the Commission received several petitions under sections 8, 9 and 95, of the Elections Act 2017 and decided accordingly.

Proposed Amendments to the Elections Act, 2017

The Election Commission of Pakistan has established a Law Reforms Committee to review and amend the Elections Act, 2017 ensuring conformity with the Constitution and transparency in the electoral process. 66 amendments to various provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, as well as to Articles 140A and 223 of the Constitution of 1973 were forwarded to the Parliament for consideration and legislation, being the competent forum on the subject. Similarly, Legal Reforms Committee also proposed amendments to the Election Rules 2017 and got them approved from the Commission. These amendments are given below:

Proposed amendments to sections of the Elections Act, 2017

2,12,13,15,18,19,20,55,57,59,60,61,66,68,76,79,83,86,90,93,95,

96,99,105,107,108,109,110,118,122,127,130,132,133,140,144,

148,155, 157,158,167,170,170,172,190A,193,203,208,211,219,23

0,231 & 233 and Form-A & Form-C.

Amendment to Articles of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973

140A & 223

Amendments Proposed and Incorporated in the Election Rules 2017

The Legal Reform Committee after review of the Election Rules, 2017 proposed the following amendments which were incorporated in the Election Rules after getting approval from the Commission:

Proposed amendments to the Election Rules, 2017
6,39,48,51,52,56,66,71,84,85,87,88,134A,138,
140,143,161,171,& 173 and Form-41 & Form-68

Delimitation after 6th Population and Housing Census, 2017 Officially Published on 6th May 2021

The delimitation process was started based on the Population and Housing Census, which was officially published on May 6, 2021. A draft list of constituencies was made public, allowing voters to le objections from June 1 to June 30, 2022. SOPs were formulated for the ease of objectors to le the representations; which were subsequently heard and decided in July 2022 (within thirty days). The statistics of the representations received are as follows:



Province	Representations received	Representations disposed of
Punjab	568	568
Sindh	79	79
KP	163	163
Baluchistan	92	92
ICT	8	8
Total	910	910

Afterwards the final list of constituencies (Form-7) was published in the official Gazette on August 5 2022. Additionally, the final delimitation and maps were made available on the ECP's website for public information.

Delimitation of Constituencies after Publication of 7th Population and Housing Census 2023.

The Election Commission re-conducted the delimitation of general seats for the National and Provincial Assemblies after the official publication of 7th Population and Housing Census 2023.

The draft delimitation was made public on September 27 2023, inviting the public to file representations against the preliminary list of constituencies. The representation period lasted from September 28 2023, to October 27 2023. Right after it, the Election Commission decided the filed representations and objections. Following are the statistics of the representations received and resolved:

Province	Representations received	Representations disposed of
Punjab	675	675
Sindh	228	228
KP	293	293
Baluchistan	124	124
ICT	7	7
Total	1327	1327

The \neg final list of constituencies (Form-7) was published on 30th November, 2023 in

the official Gazette. The final delimitation along with maps was uploaded on the ECP's website for public information.

In 2022, the Commission disposed of 1553 cases after hearing the parties on different issues. The Law Wing handled all the petitions, assisted the Commission during hearings of the matters by issuing notices to the parties in preparation of cause lists, and circulation of rosters, case research, maintenance of original record of the petition, issuing of attested copies of the orders and complete les of the cases. An overview of the cases is as follows:

Sr. No.	Subject	Cases disposed of
1.	Conduct of LG elections (Suo-moto)	11
2.	Complaints	6
3.	Representations of delimitation (LGs):	60
4.	Cases under Article 63A of the Constitution	46
5.	Disqualification cases	7
6.	Foreign Funding cases	3
7.	Local government and general petitions	338
8.	Writ Petitions	6
9.	Intra Party elections	27
10.	Cases on Statement of accounts	42
11.	Code of Conduct	77
12.	References under Article 63(2) of the Constitution	2
13.	Contempt matters:	7
14.	Allocation of Symbol	6
15.	Enlistment of political parties	5
16.	Representation of delimitation of National and Provincial Assembly constituencies	910
	1553	



APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION TRIBUNALS

To settle post-election disputes arising from Local Government Elections in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, the Election Commission appointed District and Additional District and Sessions Judges as Election Tribunals. The details are as follows:

Sr. No. Province		Election Tribunals appointed
1.	Sindh (1st Phase)	14
2.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	118
3.	Balochistan	32
Total		164

Hearing of Cases on Code of Conduct (COC) Violations, Contempt Proceedings, and Election Disputes (2022)

The Law Wing provided legal assistance to the Hon'ble Commission in addressing cases of CoC violations, contempt proceedings, and election disputes during 2022. Key actions included:

- I. **Disqualification:** The Provincial Minister for Transport was disqualified from the Provincial Assembly on account of corrupt practice.
- ii. **Debarment:** Mr. Mamoon Rashid, son of a minister, was barred from contesting the election of Chairman Tehsil Council on account of corrupt practice.
- iii. **Notices:** 30 public office holders were issued notices for violating the CoC.
- iv. **Contempt Proceedings:** Were initiated against six political figures for derogatory remarks against the Commission.
- v. **Defection Cases:** After receipt of reference from the Speaker National Assembly and Provincial Assembly, the Commission disqualified 20 MNAs and 25 MPAs under Article 63A of the Constitution by confirming the declaration passed by the party head.

Cases Decided by High Courts

In the year 2023 the matters regarding the disputes over delimitation of constituencies,

intraparty election, allocation of election symbols, and the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers were fixed before the High Courts of the provinces which were handled and resolved by the ECP's legal team at the Secretariat and Provincial level. The details and number of cases decided with the assistance of the legal team are given below:

Sr. No.	The Court	Cases resolved
1.	Lahore High Court, Lahore & its benches	1,357
2.	High Court of Sindh, Karachi & its benches	162
3.	Peshawar High Court, Peshawar & its benches	118
4.	Balochistan High Court, Quetta & its benches	120
5. Islamabad High Court, Islamabad		527
Total		2284

2024 was the year of General Elections in which legal team of the Law Wing performed various activities before different fora including august Supreme Court of Pakistan and different benches of the High Courts.

Following is the description of certain milestones achieved by Law Wing:-

Sr. No.	Description
1.	620 Petitions / Applications were filed before the Commission under Section 8, 9 and 95 of the Elections Act, 2017 which have been handled by the Law Wing and were decided accordingly, after the Conduct of General Elections 2024.
2.	4340 Notices were issued and served on the parties through concerned DECs/RECs & PECs. These notices were E-mailed to them and SMS service was also utilized to inform the litigants.
3.	400 Reports obtained from the ROs have been placed before the Commission during hearings.
4.	More than 4000 certified copies of petitions, orders and RO reports have been issued by Law Wing.
5.	Latest books covering all possible disputes, cases in respect of elections were provided to all law officers in the Secretariat and concerned filed offices.



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THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

(SUMMARY) DASKA CASE

The Bye-Election to the vacant seat of NA-75 Sialkot-IV was held on 19th February 2021. During the election proceedings a report was received in the Commission on 20th February 2021 whereby, it was informed that the result of 20 polling stations was received late on the next date 20th February 2021 at around 06:00 A.M from the concerned Presiding Officers. A contesting candidate Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar of PML (N) also submitted an application under Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan, read with Section 9 of the Elections Act, 2017 to the Commission in respect of tampering of result of 20 polling stations and also stated that the Presiding Officers of 20 polling stations remained missing. Furthermore, several incidents were also reported to the Commission including two murders, lack of cooperation of law enforcement agencies and manipulation and tampering with the results of the Constituency. The Commission while taking cognizance of the matter fixed it for hearing with notice to the parties including contesting candidates and Returning Officer & District Returning Officer (R.O & D.R.O) concerned. After hearing the concerned parties, the Commission declared the election in the entire Constituency void on the ground that due to major violation of election laws the election was not conducted free, fair, transparent, and in a peaceful manner. Fresh poll was ordered in the entire Constituency on 18th March 2021.

The Respondent Ali Asjad Malhi challenged the order of the Commission before the Supreme Court of Pakistan under section 9(5) of the Elections Act, 2017 which was dismissed by the Supreme Court on 02.04.2021 and order passed by the Commission was upheld.

The Commission also initiated disciplinary proceedings under Section 55 of the Elections Act, 2017 against all the Election Officials and the Officers of other departments including Police who remained involved in the process of manipulation and tampering with the results. Criminal complaints for corrupt practices were also lodged under section 190 of the Elections Act, 2017.

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SCRUTINY OF SOURCES OF FUNDS

The Commission is charged with the duty, in terms of Article 17(3) of the Constitution read with Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, to conduct an audit of the consolidated statements of party accounts of all the political parties enlisted with the Commission. The Political Parties are also under legal obligation to submit their details of campaign finance. In order to fulfill its Constitutional duties, the Commission has established a Political Finance Wing headed by an accomplished Director General. The Commission has also constituted a scrutiny committee to scrutinize the financial record and sources of funds of the Political Parties. So far the scrutiny committee has undertaken the task of scrutiny of major Political Parties while the Political Finance Wing undertakes the exercise of scrutiny on a regular basis. This has brought a lot of transparency in the internal financial matters of the political parties.

DELISTMENT OF ALL PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (APML)

Political parties are established under Article 17(2) of the Constitution, read in conjunction with Sections 200, 202, 203, and 204 of the Elections Act, 2017. The All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) was an enlisted political party but failed to comply with the necessary legal requirements under the aforementioned provisions. The intra-party elections of APML were disputed as they did not align with the party constitution, the Elections Act, 2017, or the Election Rules, 2017. Furthermore, the party failed to submit a consolidated statement of accounts, signed by an authorized person, to the ECP since 2017. Three applicants sought the allotment of the "Eagle" election symbol for the upcoming General Elections 2024. On 13.10.2023, the Election Commission of Pakistan ruled that the APML had not provided the required consolidated statement of accounts for the past four years and had not conducted valid intra-party elections. As a result, the ECP delisted the APML as a political party under Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan, read with Section 202(5) of the Elections Act, 2017. The APML challenged the ECP's order before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which, after hearing the appeal, dismissed it and upheld the ECP's order dated 13.10.2023. Some other political parties have also been delisted and certain cases are pending before the august Supreme Court & High Courts.

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ALLOCATION OF SYMBOLS AND CONDUCT OF INTRA-PARTY ELECTIONS

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) submitted documents related to its intra-party elections held on 02-12-2023 to the Election Commission of Pakistan. Various applications were led against PTI's intraparty elections. The ECP issued notices to the concerned parties and, after hearing their submissions, rendered its decision on 19-12-2023. The ECP found that PTI had failed to comply with the directions issued in its order dated 23-11-2023 and had not conducted intraparty elections in accordance with the party's constitution (2019) and the Elections Act, 2017. Consequently, the certificate dated 04-12-2023 and Form-65 submitted by the alleged chairman were rejected, and PTI was declared ineligible to obtain the election symbol. PTI challenged the ECP's order before the Hon'ble Peshawar High Court, which, on 10-01-2024, set aside the ECP's decision. The ECP then led an appeal against the Peshawar High Court's order before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Supreme Court allowed the appeal, setting aside the judgment of the Peshawar High Court and upheld the ECP's order dated 19-12-2023.





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SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS AND WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website:

www.ecp.gov.pk

X:

@ECP_Pakistan

Facebook:

Election Commission of Pakistan- ECP

YouTube:

@ElectionCommissionofPakistan





VISITOR GLIDELINES

Protocols for Visiting ECP Offices

For visiting Election Commission of Pakistan offices, it's important to follow specific protocols to ensure a smooth and effective visit. Here are the general protocols you should adhere to:

i. Appointments:

- Some ECP offices may require you to schedule an appointment in advance, especially for specific services or queries.
- Use the ECP's official website or call the office directly to find out if an appointment is necessary and to book one if needed.

ii. Identification:

Always carry a valid Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) or other official identification document. This is often required for accessing certain services or for verification purposes.

iii. Follow Office Hours:

Visit during the office's official working hours. Confirm the hours in advance as they may vary.

iv. Adhere to Security Protocols:

• Security Checks: Be prepared to undergo security checks at the en trance. Follow any instructions given by security personnel. • Prohibited Items: Avoid bringing prohibited items such as weapons, large bags, electronic devices, or other items that may not be allowed inside.

v. Maintain Professional Conduct:

- Be respectful and courteous to the staff. Professionalism helps in resolving your queries efficiently.
- Dress appropriately for a formal meeting. It is good practice to adhere to a professional appearance.

vi. Prepare Your Documents:

- Bring all necessary documents relevant to your visit, such as forms, proof of address, and any other required paperwork.
- If you need to submit forms, ensure they are complete in all respect and in accordance with the guidelines provided.

vii. Follow COVID-19 Protocols (if applicable):

Adhere to any health and safety protocols, such as wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and using hand sanitizers if required.





PUBLIC SERVICES AND SUPPORT

a. How to file complaints or grievances

Submission Channels:

- Online: Visit the ECP's official website. There is an online Complaint Management System (CMS) wherein one can lodge complaints and enclose evidence.
- Mail: One can send a complaint via postal mail to the ECP's office. Address it to the Election Commission of Pakistan, G-5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan or to relevant District Election Commissioner Office. Addresses are available on website.
- **In Person:** Visit the relevant ECP office and submit complaint directly.

b. Resources for disabled or elderly voters

The Election Commission of Pakistan recognizes the importance of ensuring that all voters, including those who are disabled or elderly, have the ability to participate in the electoral process. Here are some resources and measures available to assist these voters:

Accessible Voting Centers

The ECP center aims to ensure that polling stations are accessible to voters with disabilities. This includes providing ramps and other facilities to make voting easier for elderly and disabled individuals.

Assistance at Polling Stations

Voters who require assistance can usually request help from polling staff. This assistance can include help with physical mobility or assistance in casting their vote.

Special Voting Arrangements

In some cases, postal voting is available for those unable to attend polling stations. Check with the ECP for details on eligibility and procedures.

Helplines

The ECP has helplines where voters with special needs can seek information and assistance regarding voting procedures.

Voter Education Programs

The ECP conducts voter education programs aimed at informing disabled and elderly voters about their rights and the available facilities. There are brochures and number of online resources for facilitate of elderly voters.

District Election Offices

Contact local election offices for specific assistance and information relevant to your area and constituency they will provide proper guidance and assistance.

Feedback and Complaints

If you encounter issues or require further assistance, you can file a complaint with the ECP or provide feedback about the accessibility of polling stations and services.

c. Educational Materials

The Election Commission of Pakistan provides various educational materials to help voters understand the electoral process, their rights, and their responsibilities. These materials are designed to ensure that all citizens, including first-time voters and those needing additional guidance, are well-informed. The types of educational materials by the ECP include:

i. Brochures / Voter Guides

These brochures include detailed instructions on how to register to vote, how to find your polling station, and how to cast your vote correctly. It guides explaining the step-by-step process of voting, including what to expect at polling stations.

ii. Educational Videos:

There are many short videos explaining the voting process, laws, rules and other relevant information. These videos promote voter awareness and encourage their participation in elections. This information is available on the website.



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iii. Posters and Flyers:

- Awareness Posters: Displayed in public places, published in newspapers, broadcasted on TV channels, these provide quick facts about voting and registration.
- Flyers: Distributed through various channels i.e. universities, colleges, banks, public places, etc. to educate the public about upcoming elections, registration deadlines, and other important information.

iv. Online Resources:

- Website Content: The ECP website (www.ecp.gov.pk) hosts a range of resources, including downloadable guides and updates on electoral processes. This website is continuously updated.
- Social Media: ECP uses its official social media channels to share updates, educational content, and reminders about important electoral dates and procedures.

v. Workshops and Seminars:

The ECP conducts workshops and seminars to educate voters about their rights and the voting process. These may be targeted at specific groups, such as first-time voters, students, or marginalized communities. Information is available on website.

vi. Printed Publications:

There are Annual Reports and Newsletters as well published by the ECP. These documents provide insights into election statistics, voter turnout, and other relevant data, helping voters understand the broader context of their participation.

To access these materials:

Visit the ECP Website: Check the ECP's official website for downloading any required data and up-to-date information.

Contact ECP Offices: Reach out to District ECP offices or regional offices for printed materials or specific inquiries.

Follow ECP on Social Media: Stay updated with the latest information and educational content by following ECP's social media pages.



FORMER CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Sr. No	Name	Tenure Start	Tenure End
1.	F.M. Khan	March 1956	April 1962
2.	Akhter Hussain	April 1962	October 1964
3.	G. Moinuddin Khan	October 1964	December 1967
4.	N. A. Farooq	December 1967	April 1969
5.	Justice Abdus Sattar	April 1969	January 1971
6.	Justice Wahid Uddin Ahmad	January 1971	October 1973
7.	Justice Sajjad Ahmad Jan	October 1973	July 1978
8.	Justice Dorab Patel	July 1978	September 1979
9.	Justice Maulvi Mushtaq Hussain	September 1979	May 1980
10.	Justice Karam Ilahi Chohan	May 1980	March 1982
11.	Justice S.A. Nusrat	March 1982	April 1988
12.	Justice Naeem Uddin	April 1988	July 1993
13.	Justice Fakhr-e-Alam	July 1993	February 1997
14.	Justice Mukhtyar Ahmad Junejo	February 1997	March 1999
15.	Justice A.Q. Chaudry	March 1999	January 2002
16.	Justice Irshad Hasan Khan	January 2002	January 2005
17.	Justice Q Muhammad Farooq	March 2006	March 2009
18.	Justice Hamid Mirza	March 2009	July 2012
19.	Justice Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim	July 2012	July 2013
20.	Justice Sardar Muhammad Raza Khan	December 2014	December 2019
21.	Sikandar Sultan Raja	January 2020	Incumbent





CONTACT INFORMATION

ECP SECRETARIAT ISLAMABAD

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Islamabad

Telephone: (+92) (51) (9205611)

Fax: (+92) (51) (9205300)

PEC OFFICE PUNJAB

Provincial Election Commissioner Office Punjab

10-Court Street, Lahore, Punjab

Telephone: 04299214684

Fax: 04299211027

PEC OFFICE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Provincial Election Commissioner Office KP

Bungalow No. 11-A Michni Road, Peshawar, KPK | Fax: 0919211036

Telephone: 0919211036

PEC OFFICE SINDH

Provincial Election Commissioner Office Sindh

Pak. Sectt. Block No. 44-A, Shahrah-e-Iraq,

Saddar, Karachi

Telephone: 02199203385

Fax: 02199206646

PEC OFFICE BALOCHISTAN

Provincial Election Commissioner Office

Balochistan

Bargenza Villas Street 1, Zarghoon Road Quetta

Telephone: 081-9202334

Fax: 081-9202317, 9202112

and 9203674







Tel: +92 51 9205811 | Fax: 92 51 9205300



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