

A/28/07/2018
-4**Representation to Election Commission in respect of delimitation of constituencies of Chiniot District**

That the Election Commission of Pakistan published in the official Gazette on March 5, 2018 a preliminary list of constituencies specifying the areas proposed to be included in each constituency (Form 5) draft list of constituencies and invited representations.

As per the Elections Act 2017 section 20. Principles of delimitation.—(1) 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 cognate factors to ensure homogeneity in the creation of constituencies.

The Petitioner, a voter of Chiniot District respectfully submits, that these cardinal principles have not been followed while demarcating draft constituencies for District Chiniot as 2 constituencies i.e PP-94 Chiniot-II and PP-95 Chiniot-III or 682,953 people have been deprived and their rights blatantly violated with regard to existing boundaries of administrative units, physical features, facilities of communication and public convenience and other cognate factors to ensure homogeneity in the creation of constituencies to suit vested interests.

Furthermore as per The Election Rules 2017 Rule 10. Draft proposals for delimitation of constituencies.— sub rule (5) As far as possible, the delimitation of constituencies of an Assembly shall start from the Northern end of the district, or, as the case may be, the agency and then proceed clockwise in zigzag manner keeping in view that population among the constituencies of an Assembly shall remain as close as may be practicable to the quota. Sadly, this sub Rule has also been flagrantly ignored and prima facie proposed delimitation does not appear lawful and a bonafide exercise.

The petitioner keeping in view the mentioned Act and Rules has proposed changes in the constituencies (Annex A). Once the proposed changes are accounted for nearly 3 out of 4 provincial assembly seats will be within administrative boundaries and the remaining one will start from the Northern end of the district and then proceed clockwise in zigzag manner compromising of 2 contiguous rural QHs from 2 neighboring tehsils each attached together to form a totally rural constituency.

All the cardinal principals of Delimitation, i.e. compactness, contiguity, homogeneity, equality of population, and other cognate factors have been taken care of and only minimal population (2 Patwar Circles) i.e 29,820 people have been attached to another administrative unit and that too only to remove the population disparity and to keep within 10% margin. In fact, biggest variation in proposed constituencies is also less than 3% margin.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully prayed that the District Chiniot constituencies be ordered to be delimited as proposed in Annex A in the supreme interest of justice, equity and fairplay.