

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 09th February, 2026

No. F. 1(10)/2025-O/o-DD-Law: - In compliance with the order dated 16th October, 2025, passed by the Islamabad High Court, Islamabad in W.P. No. 785/2020 titled ECP vs. PIC, and pursuant to Article 19-A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, the Commission has framed the *Regulations For Right Of Access To Information, 2026*. Now, therefore, in terms of clause 20(A) of the General Clauses Act, 1878, the *Regulations For Right Of Access To Information, 2026* are hereby notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan with immediate effect. Following are the *Regulations For Right Of Access To Information, 2026*.

ELECTION COMMISSION REGULATIONS FOR RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION, 2026

WHEREAS, the Election Commission of Pakistan, being a Constitutional body, is mandated under Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan with the duty 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;

AND WHEREAS, as per its Constitutional mandate, the Commission holds the election to the office of the President, Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments while for election to Assemblies and local governments, the Commission prepares & updates the electoral rolls and also undertakes the task of delimitation of constituencies.

AND WHEREAS, to fulfil its constitutional and legal obligations relating to conduct of an election, the Election Commission deals with various government functionaries & election officials and for the purpose passes orders, issues directions, maintains records containing significant number of documents relating to different stages of electoral process and different stakeholders on and off seek the information or apply to obtain certified copies thereof for various purposes which necessitates the development of a proper mechanism for access to the said information for facilitation of general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission, in exercise of powers conferred upon it under Article 218(3) of the Constitution read with section 4 of the Elections Act, 2017 and the principle laid down by the Supreme Court in Civil Petition No.3532 of 2023 titled as "Mukhtiar Ahmad Ali Vs. The Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad and others" (reported as PLD 2024 SC 192) and in compliance with the Order of Islamabad High Court dated 16th October, 2025 passed in Writ Petition No.785/2020 titled as "Election Commission Vs. Pakistan Information

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Commission" and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, do hereby frame the following Regulations to ensure the right of access to information, in terms of Article 19A of the Constitution, relating to different aspects of aforesaid electoral processes.

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**— (1) These Regulations may be called as the "Election Commission Regulations for Right of Access to Information, 2026".

(2) These Regulations shall apply to all offices of the Commission.

(3) These Regulations shall come into force on such date as may be notified by the Commission for the purpose.

2. **Definitions.**— In these Regulations, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

- (a) "Applicant" means any citizen of Pakistan making a request for information under these Regulations;
- (b) "Chief Information Officer" means the officer designated by the Commission to manage requests under these Regulations at Secretariat level;
- (c) "Classified record" means any record, file, correspondence, or data declared classified by the Commission;
- (d) "Commission" means the Election Commission of Pakistan constituted under Article 218(2) of the Constitution;
- (e) "Document" means any matter expressed or described on any substance by means of letters, figures or marks, or by more than one of these means, intended to be used, or which may be used for the purpose of recording that matter;
- (f) "Information" means any material in any form including records, documents, reports, papers, data, orders, notifications, memos, press releases, circulars, and information held in electronic form by the Commission;
- (g) "Non-classified record" means a record or information not declared classified by the Commission and open to disclosure under these Regulations;
- (h) "Public Information Officer" means the officer designated by the Commission to manage requests under these Regulations at Provincial level;
- (i) "Secretary" means Secretary to the Commission; and
- (j) "Working day" means any day other than a public holiday.

3. **Right of access to information.**— (1) Every citizen of Pakistan shall have the right to access the information held by the Commission, subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law and these Regulations.

(2) The Commission shall ensure transparency in access to information for facilitation of the citizens in terms of Article 19A of the Constitution.

4. **Designation of information officers.**— (1) For the purpose of facilitating access to information under these Regulations, the Commission shall designate:

- (a) a Chief Information Officer at the Secretariat level; and
- (b) Public Information Officers at the Provincial level.

(2) The officers mentioned in sub-clause (1) shall process and decide the applications received for supply of information and maintain record thereof.

(3) The Secretary shall publish the designation and contact details of officers mentioned in sub-clause (1) and upload the same on official website of the Commission.

5. Procedure for filing of application.— (1) Any citizen may submit an application for supply of information in writing or through any of the electronic means to the designated Chief Information Officer, or, as the case may be, respective Public Information Officer.

- (2) The application submitted under sub-clause (1) shall include:
 - (a) the name and parentage of the applicant;
 - (b) a copy of national identity card of the applicant;
 - (c) contact number of the applicant;
 - (d) postal address of the applicant;
 - (e) email address of the applicant; and
 - (f) the details pertaining to requisite information along with purpose thereof;

6. Processing and disposal of the application.— The Chief Information Officer, or, as the case may be, the Public Information Officer shall process the application submitted under clause 5 and decide the same within fourteen working days from the date of its receipt:

Provided that the period shall be extendable by seven additional working days for reasons to be recorded.

7. Fee for provision of the information.— (1) The Commission shall charge a processing fee of rupees ten per page for provision of the requisite information under these Regulations in any of the form given below:

- (a) inspection of document(s);
- (b) hard copy of document(s);
- (c) certification of document(s); and
- (d) electronic data transfer of document(s).

(2) An application submitted under clause 5 for provision of the information shall be accompanied by:

- (a) the court fee stamps of requisite value (where the information sought comprises fifty pages or less); and
- (b) an original challan showing deposit of requisite amount in the Head of Account namely "C02-Receipts from Civil Administration and other Functions, C021-General Administration Receipts - Organs of State, C02166-Receipts of Election Commission of Pakistan under Elections Act 2017 (where the information sought exceeds fifty pages).

(3) The information under these Regulations shall be strictly provided on fulfilment of relevant provision contained in sub-clause (2) and the information shall not be provided against payment of processing fee in cash in any case.

8. **Appeal.**— A person aggrieved by the decision of the Chief Information Officer, or, as the case may be, the Public Information Officer made under clause 6 for non-provision of information may file an appeal within a period of fourteen working days before the Chief Election Commissioner or an officer authorized by him in that behalf and such appeal shall be decided on priority basis and after affording opportunity of hearing to the applicant, if required.

9. **Classification of record.**— (1) The Commission shall organize the record being maintained by it into the following categories:

- (a) classified record; and
- (b) non-classified record.

(2) The record being maintained by the Commission shall be classified into categories mentioned in sub-clause (1) in accordance with Schedule appended to these Regulations.

Provided that the Schedule shall be reviewed every three years to assess the necessity of declassification of any classified record.

(3) If a record is to be declassified under sub-clause (2), it shall be ordered by the competent authority and will be duly recorded in a declassification register to be maintained for the purpose.

(4) The classified record shall not be disclosed to anybody other than the authorized officials of the Commission and a competent court or a statutory body with the approval of the competent authority.

(5) Any attempt for unauthorized access, copying or communication of classified record shall lead to legal, or, as the case may be, disciplinary proceedings.

10. **Miscellaneous.**— The Commission may issue procedural guidelines from time to time for effective implementation of these Regulations.

SCHEDULE
[see Clause-9(2)]

The record maintained by the Commission shall be categorized as "Classified Record" and "Non-classified Record" respectively to be known as Category-A and Category-B as per following details:

S.No.	Information in respect of record maintained by the Commission	Category-A (Classified)	Category-B (Non-Classified)
A. Information relating to conduct of election			
(a) Election to the office of the President			
1	a. Appointment of Returning Officer and Presiding officers; and b. Election Programme.		B
2	a. Nomination of the candidates; b. Result of the Count; c. Ballot Paper Account; and d. Result of election.		B
3	Presidential Election report.		B
(b) Election to the Senate:			
4	a. Appointment of Returning Officers and polling officers; and b. Election programme.		B
5	a. List of nominated, validly nominated and contesting candidates; b. Result of the Count; c. Ballot Paper Account; d. Result of election; e. Return of election; f. Return of election expenses; and g. Declaration of result.		B
(c) Election to the Assemblies			
6	Appointment of delimitation committees.	A	
7	Reports on preliminary and final delimitation including maps.		B
8	a. Appointment of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers; b. Election Programme; and c. Code of conduct for the political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and polling agents.		B
9	a. List of polling stations; b. List of nominated, validly nominated & contesting candidates; c. Result of the count; d. Ballot paper account; e. Provisional consolidated statement of results of the count; f. Final consolidated result; g. Return of election expenses; and h. Declaration of result.		B
10	a. General Election Reports; b. Published Annual Reports; and c. Strategic Plans.		B
(d) Election to the local governments			
11	a. Appointment of delimitation committees; and b. Reports on preliminary & final delimitation including maps.		B
12	a. Appointment of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers; b. Election Programme; and		B

S.No.	Information in respect of record maintained by the Commission	Category-A (Classified)	Category-B (Non-Classified)
	c. Code of conduct for political parties & contesting candidates.		
13	a. List of polling stations; b. List of nominated, validly nominated & contesting candidates; c. Result of the count; d. Ballot paper account; e. Final consolidated result; f. Election expenses; and g. Declaration of result.		B
14	Local Government Election Reports.		B
B. Information relating to Electoral Rolls			
15	Appointment of Registration Officers, Assistant Registration Officers and Revising Authorities.		B
16	Appointment of supervisors, verifying officials, enumerators & display center in-charges	A	
17	a. Hard copy of final electoral rolls (without photograph); b. Hard & soft copy of electoral rolls (with photograph); [limited to candidates & election agents under sections 41(2) & 79(3) of the Elections Act, 2017]; c. Draft electoral rolls; d. Preliminary electoral rolls; e. Claims and objections to preliminary electoral rolls & applications for correction of any particulars included therein; and f. Decisions of the Revising Authorities.		B
18	Stats relating to: a. Province-wise voters; b. District-wise voters; c. Gender disaggregated voters; d. Persons with disabilities voters; and e. Transgender voters.		B
C. Information relating to legal framework			
19	The Elections Act, 2017, the Election Rules, 2017 and amendments made therein.		B
20	Representations against delimitation including orders passed by the Commission thereon.		B
21	Notifications regarding appointment of Appellate Tribunals and Election Tribunals.		B
22	Decisions and orders issued by the Commission in complaints or similar cases.		B
23	Copies of complaints, appeals, and applications (with annexures), written replies (with annexures) and reports of Returning Officers.		B
D. Information relating to Media Coordination and Outreach			
24	Press releases and rebuttals.		B
25	Documents related to advertising agencies & Press Information Department (PID).	A	
26	Reports on a. youth and student engagement at district, provincial and central level; b. Voter education, electoral education & awareness; c. National voters day activities; d. capacity building trainings; and e. New initiatives & outreach activities.		B
27	ECP Newsletters.		B

S.No.	Information in respect of record maintained by the Commission	Category-A (Classified)	Category-B (Non-Classified)
E. Information relating to Training and Evaluation			
28	Personal data of trainers and trainees.	A	
29	Stats of trainers, trainees and trainings.		B
30	Training material for the training of election officials (handbooks, leaflets, placemats).		B
F. Information relating to Monitoring and Evaluation			
31	a. Appointment of District Monitoring Officers (DMOs) and Monitoring Teams under section 234 of the Elections Act, 2017; b. Terms of reference of Monitoring Teams under section 234 of the Elections Act, 2017; and c. Notifications of activation of provincial monitoring centers and regional monitoring centers for coordinating monitoring activities.		B
32	a. Orders by DMOs relating to imposition of fines on violation of Code of Conduct; b. Notices issued by the Commission and DMOs on violation of any provision of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Rules, 2017 & Code of Conduct; c. Notification regarding declaration of defaulters on account of non-payment of fines imposed for violation of code of conduct under rule 171(3B) of the Election Rules, 2017; and d. Statistics relating to violations, fines and actions taken over violations committed during election campaign.		B
33	Monitoring reports submitted by DMOs and Monitoring Teams.	A	
G. Information relating to Political Finance			
34	a. Form-A (Nomination papers of returned candidate); b. Published Form-B (Statement of assets and liabilities); c. Form-C (Return of election expenses); d. Published Form-D (Consolidated statement of party accounts); e. Form-65 (Certificates regarding intra party elections); and f. Form-68 (Details of campaign finance by the political parties).		B
35	Notification of Intra-party elections.		B
36	Copies of party constitutions.		B
37	Certificates furnished by political parties under sections 200 & 206 of the Elections Act, 2017.		B
38	Application for allocation of symbol to a political party or combination of political parties under rule 162(2) of the Election Rules, 2017.		B
39	a. List of symbols allocated to political parties or combination of political parties; and b. List of symbols available to independent candidates.		B
H. Information relating to Gender and social inclusion			
40	Gender & social inclusion plans.	A	
41	Reports on: a. special measures for gender mainstreaming & social inclusion; b. inclusive voter registration campaigns; and c. Gender Mainstreaming & Social Inclusion Framework.		B
42	Stats related to: a. women participation; b. persons with disabilities, transgender and minorities; c. candidates and polling staff; d. gender gap and voter awareness; and e. Gender & Disability Electoral Working Group meetings.		B
I. Information relating to Administration			
43	a. Hiring matters, allotment of residential and government	A	

S.No.	Information in respect of record maintained by the Commission	Category-A (Classified)	Category-B (Non-Classified)
	accommodation to employees; and b. Purchase and registration of vehicles.		
J. Information relating to Information Technology			
44	a. All information published on ECP official website as per law; b. Public services: website, 8300 SMS service; and c. Officially published election results.		B
K. Miscellaneous information			
45	Note portions of files.	A	
46	Correspondence portions of files [letters, drafts for approval (DFAs)].	A	
47	All Notifications issued by ECP.		B
48	All public advertisements & corrigenda.		B
49	Any other document declared as classified by the authority.	A	

By order of the Hon'ble Election Commission of Pakistan

(Saima Tariq Janjuha)
Deputy Director (Law)

Copy forwarded to:

- i. Director to Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan, Islamabad
- ii. PS to Hon'ble Member Election Commission-I, Islamabad
- iii. SPS to Hon'ble Member Election Commission-II, Islamabad
- iv. PS to Hon'ble Member Election Commission-III, Islamabad
- v. PS to Hon'ble Member Election Commission-IV, Islamabad
- vi. PS to Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad
- vii. PS to Special Secretary (Policy), Election Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad
- viii. PS to Special Secretary (Law), Election Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad
- ix. Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab, Lahore
- x. Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh, Karachi
- xi. Provincial Election Commissioner, KPK, Peshawar
- xii. Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan Quetta
- xiii. Director General (Elections) ECP Secretariat, Islamabad
- xiv. Director General (IT) ECP Secretariat, Islamabad, (With the request for upload on the ECP's Website.
- xv. Additional Director General (Law) ECP Secretariat, Islamabad
- xvi. Additional Director General (Election-I) ECP Secretariat, Islamabad
- xvii. Additional Director General (Election-II) ECP Secretariat, Islamabad
- xviii. Deputy Director (Coordination) ECP Secretariat Islamabad
- xix. Deputy Director (Election-I) ECP Secretariat Islamabad
- xx. Deputy Director (Election-II) ECP Secretariat Islamabad
- xxi. Deputy Director (Estt-I) ECP Secretariat Islamabad
- xxii. Deputy Director (Estt-II) ECP Secretariat Islamabad
- xxiii. Deputy Director (Admn) ECP Secretariat Islamabad

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