



Republic of Liberia
National Elections Commission (NEC)



Guidelines on the Establishment of Electoral
Districts in Liberia

18 April, 2011

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Article 89 of the January 6, 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia established the Elections Commission as an autonomous public Commission;

WHEREAS, Section 9, Chapter 2 of the 1986 Elections Law empowers the Elections Commission to formulate and enforce electoral guidelines;

WHEREAS, the Joint Resolution LEG-002 (2010) of the Senate and House of Representatives of the 52nd Legislature mandates that sixty-four (64) electoral districts set up by the National Elections Commission (NEC) for the conduct of the 2005 Legislative elections continue to be used but for the purpose of the 2011 Legislative Elections, nine (9) additional electoral districts are prescribed and established making a total of seventy-three (73) electoral districts in the Republic of Liberia, which was approved by the President of Liberia and published into handbill;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission shall define (delineate the boundaries of electoral districts for each county) and publish the same on or before *June 25, 2011*;

NOW THEREFORE:

The National Elections Commission hereby promulgates the following guidelines pertaining to the establishment of Electoral Districts in Liberia for the sole purpose of the October 2011 Legislative Elections:

Part I: General

These guidelines may be cited as the Guidelines on the Establishment of Electoral Districts in Liberia for the 2011 Legislative Elections.

In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) “Electoral District” means one of seventy-three (73) units comprised of the amalgamated towns or wards sufficient for the purpose of electing one member of the House of Representatives within a given county;
- (b) “The Commission” means the National Elections Commission;
- (c) “Amalgamation” means the combination of towns or wards to form Electoral Districts;
- (d) “The Reform Law” means the Electoral Reform Law of 2004;
- (e) “Criteria” means those factors to be considered in the establishment of the amalgamation of towns or wards to form Electoral Districts;
- (f) “Population Quota” means the total number of registered voters in each county divided by the total number of House seats in that county;
- (g) “Contiguous” means wholly contained within one area in the establishment of Electoral Districts; and
- (h) “Joint Resolution” means joint resolution LEG-002(2010) of the Senate and House of Representatives of the 52nd Legislature of the Republic of Liberia on the setting up of an Electoral Threshold for the conduct of the 2011 Legislative Elections in Liberia.

Part II: Context

Article 83(b) of the 1986 Liberian Constitution prescribes that elections of public officers shall be determined by an absolute majority of the votes cast, and that if no candidate obtains an absolute majority (50% plus 1) in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be conducted on the second Tuesday following. The two candidates who received the greatest numbers of votes on the first ballot shall be designated to participate in the run-off election; therefore, pursuant to Section 1, Subsection (a) of the Joint Resolution LEG-002 (2010), it is necessary to allocate seats accordingly;

Furthermore, pursuant to Section 1, Subsection (a) of the Joint Resolution LEG-002 (2010) the sixty-four (64) electoral districts set up by the National Elections Commission (NEC) for the conduct of the 2005 Presidential and Legislative Elections shall remain;

And Nine (9) additional electoral districts are hereby prescribed and established, for a total of seventy-three (73) electoral districts. National Elections Commission (NEC) shall reapportion the districts accordingly;

Additionally, no Electoral District shall cross a county boundary, and Electoral Districts shall be contiguous as far as is practicable.

Part III: Seat Allocation

As prescribed in the Section 1, Subsection (a) of the Joint Resolution LEG-002 (2010) the sixty-four (64) electoral districts set up and used by the National Elections Commission (NEC) for the conduct of the 2005 Presidential and Legislative Elections shall remain;

And Nine (9) additional electoral districts are hereby prescribed and established, for a total of seventy-three (73) electoral districts. National Elections Commission (NEC) shall reapportion the districts accordingly;

Therefore, allocation of seats for each county will be as follows:

County	Allocated Seats
Bomi	3
Bong	7
Gbarpolu	3
Grand Bassa	5
Grand Cape Mount	3
Grand Gedeh	3
Grand Kru	2
Lofa	5
Margibi	5
Maryland	3
Montserrado	17
Nimba	9
River Cess	2
River Gee	3
Sinoe	3
Total Seats	73

Part IV: Establishment of Electoral Districts

The primary criterion for the establishment of the Electoral Districts is the total number of registered voters in a given county divided by the number of seats allocated to the County. The Voter Registration Centers, representing

administrative units called Amalgamated Areas, will be amalgamated to form an Electoral District.

When amalgamating Voter Registration Centers to form Electoral Districts, the Commission shall endeavor, as much as is practicable, to have relatively equal number of registered voters represented within each Electoral District.

Additional criteria guiding the establishment of Electoral Districts may include, as much as practicable, contiguity, geographical features, the existing administrative district, tribal/chiefdom boundaries, and communities of interest.

Part V: Publication

The Commission shall publish the final Electoral Districts on or before **June 25, 2011.**

These guidelines shall be effective as of the date of publication.

 Cllr. Jeanette A. Ebba Davidson COMMISSIONER	 Cllr. Sarah M. Jegede COMMISSIONER
 Hon. David S. Menyongai COMMISSIONER	 Hon. Ansumana F. Kromah COMMISSIONER
 Hon. Jonathan K. Weedor COMMISSIONER	 Cllr. Elizabeth J. Nelson CO-CHAIRMAN
 James M. Fromayan CHAIRMAN	

Done under our hands and seal in the city of Monrovia on the 18th day of April, A.D. 2011.