

Liberia's General ELECTIONS 2011: What is It?

The New Elections Law of Liberia (1986) defines "General Elections" as elections for the president and vice president and members of the national legislature that occur every six years. For the 2011 General Elections the 1,798,930 registered voters will vote for:

- a President and a Vice President
15 Senators – one Senator for each of the 15 counties
- 73 members of the House of Representatives

What Constitutes the Legal Framework for ELECTIONS 2011?

The legal framework for ELECTIONS 2011 is rooted in the Constitution of Liberia and spelt out in the following laws, regulations and guidelines:

- ✓ The New Elections Law of 1986
- ✓ The Electoral Reform Law of 2004
- ✓ The Voter Registration Regulations of 2010
- ✓ Guideline on Determination of Objections
- ✓ Regulation on the Removing of Under-aged Voters from the Registration Roll
- ✓ Resolution on Reinstating the Under-aged Voters Who have been Excluded from the Voter Rolls
- ✓ Guidelines Relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates
- ✓ Guidelines Establishing Electoral Districts in Liberia
- ✓ County Threshold for the Establishment of Electoral District
- ✓ Referendum Regulations

- ✓ Campaign Finance Regulations for Political Parties and Candidates
- ✓ Regulations on Challenges and Complaints Arising before and during Elections
- ✓ Resolution on Endorsement of Referendum Results
- ✓ Regulations on Polling and Counting

What is the Electoral System for ELECTIONS 2011?

The 2011 electoral system is based on absolute majority for the presidential election (Article 83, Section B – Constitution of Liberia) and simple majority for the Senate and members of the House of Representatives, based on the recent Supreme Court ruling on the outcome of the National Referendum. For the Presidential election, in order for one to be declared a winner he/she must obtain an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the valid votes cast. If no candidate receives absolute majority in the first ballot, a run-off election will be organized between the two (2) candidates who received the greatest numbers of votes in the first ballot. The run-off elections are to take place on the second Tuesday following the first ballot. For the Senate and House of Representatives elections, the candidate with the highest number of votes wins.

Liberia has been redistricted into 73 single-member electoral districts constituting 73-member House of Representatives. For the purpose of the 2011 General Elections, only one senator will be elected from each of the 15 counties of Liberia.

Who will Organize the 2011 Elections?

Article 89 of the Constitution of Liberia and the New Elections Law of 1986 give the National Elections Commission of Liberia (NEC) the authority to organize all elections for public offices.

Composition of the NEC:

- ✓ A Board of seven (7) Commissioners, headed by a chairman and assisted by a co-chairman and five commissioners

- ✓ A secretariat comprising three departments (Administration, External Relations, & Field Operations) headed by an executive director. Each department is further divided into a number of sections and units.
- ✓ At the helm of the secretariat, there are three deputy executive directors, a financial comptroller, a legal counsel, an auditor, 8 directors, 19 Elections magistrates and assistants, and other senior and junior staff members.

NEC'S Legal Responsibilities:

- Administers and enforces all laws related to the conduct of elections;
- Suggests changes to the National Legislature on elections rules and laws;
- Gives accreditation and registers all political parties and independent candidates who meet the minimum requirements set by the Commission;
- Revokes the registration and accreditation of political parties if they are found guilty by a judge for breaking elections laws;
- Prepares lists of all qualified voters which can be officially inspected;
- Decides on how Liberia will be divided into electoral districts (or constituencies)
- Keeps all registration documents of political parties;
- Educates Liberians on voter and civic issues;
- Gives accreditation to elections observers.

Some Basic Facts and Figures about ELECTIONS 2011

- October 11, 2011 is ELECTION DAY

- There are **1,798,930** registered voters; **1,780** voting precincts, divided into **4,457** polling places
- There are a total of **925** candidates; of the total number of candidates, 105 are female and **820** are male. Also, there are **779** political party candidates and **146** independent candidates
- Each polling place will be staffed by six (6) persons:
 - ✓ Presiding Officer (PO)
 - ✓ Voters Identification Officer (VIO)
 - ✓ Ballot Paper Issuer (BPI)
 - ✓ Inker
 - ✓ Ballot Box Controller (BBC)
 - ✓ Queue Controller (QC)
- One seat for president and vice president will be contested
- 15 senatorial seats will be contested
- 73 representative seats will be contested
- Voting will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., all in queue will be allowed to cast their ballots
- Ballots will be counted on the spot at the close of the polls in the full view of party and candidate agents
- The three categories of ballots will have three different colored stripes as follows:
 - ✓ Presidential Ballot – **RED**
 - ✓ Senatorial Ballot – **BLUE**
 - ✓ Representative Ballot – **GREEN**
- Ballot boxes will also be marked with the corresponding ballot paper colors
- Where you registered is where you will vote!
- Take your voter ID card with you when you go to vote

- Take your food and umbrella with you
- Each ballot paper will be marked only once, indicating only one choice
- All ballots will be marked in secret.
- People in need of help to vote will be allowed to take along a trusted family member or a friend who is a registered voter to help them
- Absolutely, no poll worker is allowed to help any voter behind the voting screen

What are the Voting Steps?

- Join the queue at the place where you registered with your voter ID card on hand
- Proceed to the Voter Identification Officer (VIO) on instruction of the Queue Controller (QC)
- Proceed to the Ballot Paper Issuer (BPI) when identified
- Proceed behind the voting screen with your 3 ballot papers and mark each one once
- Proceed to the Inker to be inked
- Insert each of your ballot papers in the corresponding ballot box
- Leave the polling place

For any inquiry, questions, comments or suggestions, please contact the Civic and Voter Education Section of NEC at:

Cell # +23166519014/ +231777519014/ +2316603336

Primary Email: scoble@neclib.org

Secondary Email: sbcole10000@yahoo.com



LIBERIA ELECTIONS

2011

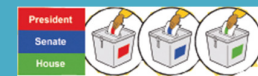
CIVIC AND VOTER

EDUCATION

FACTS

&

FIGURES



PUT LIBERIA FIRST:

Vote Wisely!