

Republic of Liberia  
**National Elections Commission (NEC)**



# Voter Registration Regulations

**12 April 2005**

**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 National Elections Commission successor to the Elections Commission, was reconstituted by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in Accra, Ghana, on 18th August 2003;

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement mandates that the electoral system in Liberia be reformed in order to ensure that the rights and interests of all Liberians are guaranteed, and that the elections are organized in a manner that is acceptable to all;

WHEREAS, the National Elections Commission recognizes the vital need for an accurate and comprehensive register of eligible Liberian voters, and the need to prepare such a register in a transparent and expedient manner;

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**The National Elections Commission hereby promulgates, pursuant to section 3.10 of the New Elections Law of 1986, the following regulations:**

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## **Part I: GENERAL**

### **1. Citation**

These regulations may be cited as the Voter Registration Regulations.

### **2. Definitions**

(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Registration Exercise" means the registration and exhibition activities as well as the determination of claims and objections.
- (b) "The Commission" means the National Elections Commission
- (c) "The Law" means the New Elections Law of 1986;
- (d) "The Magistrate of Elections" means the election official defined as such in the Law and appointed for a particular area or county;
- (e) "The Reform Law" means the Electoral Reform Law of 2004;
- (f) "Polling place" means a place in which voters cast their votes during an election, designated by the Commission as such to serve a voting precinct;
- (g) "Registrar" means the person appointed by, or on behalf of, the Commission who will manage and be responsible for the activities of a team of registration officials at a registration center.

(2) A reference in these regulations to a regulation shall be construed as a reference to a provision contained in these regulations.

## **Part II: REGISTRATION**

### **3. Dates of registration of all eligible Liberian voters in Liberia**

There shall be a registration of all eligible Liberian persons in Liberia from the period beginning 25 April through 21 May 2005. There will be no registration outside of Liberia.

### **4. Adjustment of dates for registration exercise**

If required due to exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, the Commission may decide to adjust the dates for the conduct of the registration exercise.

### **5. Eligibility criteria for registration**

Every citizen of Liberia who has attained the age of eighteen (18) or older between 25 April and 21 May 2005 who has not been judicially declared to be incompetent, or of unsound mind or who has not been disenfranchised as a result of conviction of an infamous crime will be eligible to register.

## **6. Requirements for registration**

- (1) Where the Registrar is satisfied that an applicant meets the legal criteria for registration, the Registrar shall register the applicant and issue a voter's card as provided in Annex 1.
- (2) Where the Registrar is not satisfied that an applicant meets the legal criteria for registration, the Registrar shall request proof of eligibility.
- (3) Proof of eligibility shall include any of the following:
  - (a) The sworn testimony of two other registered voters who shall appear in person before the Registrar and confirm the applicant's eligibility to register; or
  - (b) Confirmation by a Liberian traditional leader who shall appear in person before the Registrar and confirm the applicant's eligibility to register; or
  - (c) A valid Liberian passport; or
  - (d) A certificate of naturalization; or
  - (e) A birth certificate; or
  - (f) A certificate of renunciation of citizenship of another country.

## **7. Registration center**

- (1) The Commission may establish registration centers wherever it deems necessary that are accessible to all, especially those with disabilities, that are free from intimidation and located in politically neutral areas.
- (2) Not later than two (2) weeks before the first day of registration, the Commission shall publish the list of the location of the place of registration centers.

## **8. Prohibition against multiple registration**

A person shall be registered for no more than one registration center and shall not register more than once in any given registration center.

## **9. Internally displaced persons**

Internally displaced persons residing in camps who are eligible to vote may register either for the registration center in the camp where they reside or for their county of origin. If the internally displaced person registers for a registration center in his/her county of origin, he/she must vote only at the location of that registration center.

## **10. Special provisions for returnees**

- (1) There shall be a special extension period of registration for returnees between 23 May to 4 June 2005.
- (2) Only returnees who can produce a UNHCR issued Voluntary Repatriation Form indicating that they returned to Liberia after 21 May 2005 may register.
- (3) These Returnees must register at the Magistrate's office in the county where they intend to vote.

### **11. Accreditation of political party representatives**

- (1) Every registered political party shall be entitled to nominate not more than two representatives in connection with the registration exercise at every registration center, and at the Magistrate's office during the period of determination.
- (2) Only one political party representative from each political party shall be allowed inside the registration center and at the office of the Magistrate at a time while the registration exercise is underway.
- (3) Each registered political party may nominate its representatives to serve as political party representatives and shall, within three days after the nomination, inform the Magistrate of Elections in writing of the name of persons whom it has nominated.
- (4) Prior to being accredited by or on the authority of the Commission, the political party representatives shall sign a pledge to respect and uphold the code of conduct for political parties.
- (5) The Magistrate of Elections shall issue the representatives with identification cards.
- (6) The Magistrate of Elections shall inform the Commission in writing of all the names of political party representatives accredited in their respective counties.
- (7) A registered political party may at any time and with written notice to the Magistrate of Elections, revoke the nomination of any representative as a political party representative, and replace that person with another.

### **12. Duties and obligations of political party representatives**

- (1) Every political party representative duly accredited may monitor the registration exercise carried out by the registration officials at the registration center or office of the Magistrate of Elections for which he or she is accredited.
- (2) The Registrar may, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in these regulations, order any political party representative to leave the registration center until such time as the political party representative complies with his/her duties and obligations pursuant to this regulation.
- (3) Political party representatives shall not interfere with the registration exercise at a registration center except as provided for in these regulations.
- (4) Political party representatives in a registration center shall not make any remark aimed at influencing other persons on the premises.
- (5) Political party representatives shall not display anything which identifies them as a representative of a particular political party.
- (6) Every political party representative shall display the identification issued to him/her by the Magistrate of Elections. If requested by a Magistrate of Elections or registration official, the representative shall also produce a copy of the letter of his/her nomination by the political party.
- (7) The Registrar or Magistrate of Elections may, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in these regulations, order any political party representative to leave the registration center or office of the Magistrate of Elections until such time as the representative consents to comply with his/her duties and obligations pursuant to this regulation.

### **13. Domestic and international observers**

Observers duly accredited by the Commission may observe the registration exercise at registration centers and during the determination of claims and objections, at the office

of the Magistrate of Elections. Observers shall be governed by guidelines issued by the Commission.

#### **14. Security officials**

Police officers and other security officials shall be permitted to enter or remain in a registration center only if requested by the Registrar to do so. While in the registration center or office of the Magistrate, security officials shall be subject to the instruction of the Registrar or Magistrate.

#### **15. Restrictions on political activities and material near registration centers**

Distribution or posting of political materials inside registration centers or within two hundred (200) yards of the registration center shall be prohibited. No political or propaganda debates shall be allowed inside the registration centers or within two hundred (200) yards of the registration center.

#### **16. Registration officials**

(1) The Commission shall, in appointing registration officials pursuant to section 2.29 of the Law, ensure that every person takes and signs an oath or affirmation in the prescribed form to faithfully perform the duties imposed under the Law without partiality, fear, favour or affection.

(2) No person who is a political party official or representative, a candidate for election, a member of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly, or an executive appointee, shall be appointed as a registration official.

(3) No person shall be appointed to the office of registration official if he or she has not completed a course of training to the satisfaction of the Commission.

#### **17. Powers of the Registrar**

(1) The Registrar shall keep order at the registration center by regulating the number of applicants to be admitted at a time and excluding all other persons except other registration officials, political party representatives, observers and other such officials as authorized by the Commission.

(2) The Registrar may order any person excluding any person referred to in sub-regulation (1), to leave the registration center and shall, when he/she makes such an order, make a written report to the Magistrate of Elections.

(3) Any person who fails to leave the registration center when so ordered in accordance with these regulations shall be deemed to have committed an offence and may, by order of the Registrar, be removed from the registration center.

(4) The Registrar may take such steps as are deemed necessary for the protection of anyone in the registration center to stop or prevent any violence or disturbance therein.

(5) The powers conferred by this section shall as far as possible not be exercised to prevent a qualified applicant from having an opportunity to register.

**18. Rejection of application for registration**

- (1) Where the Registrar is not satisfied that the applicant meets the legal requirements for registration, he/she shall issue to that applicant a notice of rejection in the prescribed form stating the reasons for rejection.
- (2) The Registrar shall maintain a record showing the names and other particulars of every applicant whose application for registration has been rejected by him/her.

**19. Appeal against rejection of application**

- (1) Throughout the registration period, the Registrar shall publicize the manner in which, and the time within which, appeals against rejections may be made.
- (2) Any person who is aggrieved by a decision of the Registrar may appeal to the Magistrate of Elections concerned during the three day determination period of 6 July to 8 July 2005.
- (3) The Magistrate of Elections shall determine whether or not the appeal has any merit during the determination period of 6 to 8 July 2005.
- (4) If the Magistrate of Elections determines that the appeal has merit, a voter's card will be issued in the prescribed form (Annex 1).
- (5) A record will be kept of all appeals that are rejected by the Magistrate of Elections.
- (6) The results of the determination of all appeals shall be posted at both the registration center concerned and office of the Magistrate of Elections concerned.
- (8) Any person who wishes to appeal the decision of the Magistrate of Elections may make an appeal to the Commission.
- (9) Any person aggrieved of a decision by the Commission may appeal the matter to the Supreme Court not later than seven (7) days after the decision is rendered, whose decision shall be final.

**20. Registration roll**

The registration roll shall be prepared in separate parts for each polling place. Each record in the registration roll prepared for each polling place shall include the voter identification number, name, age, sex and photograph of the person whose name appears.

**21. Exhibition of provisional registration roll**

- (1) The provisional registration roll shall be exhibited at the registration centers between 30 June and 2 July 2005.
- (2) The Magistrate of Elections shall not later than seven days before the first day of exhibition of the provisional registration roll publish a notice in the prescribed form specifying the period and location of exhibition.
- (3) The provisional registration roll for those internally displaced persons who registered in camps for a registration center in their County of Origin shall be exhibited in both:
  - (a) the registration center in their County of Origin; and
  - (b) the registration center in the internally displaced persons camp in which they registered.

(4) The provisional registration roll for those returnees who registered during the extended registration period shall be exhibited at the registration center for which they registered.

## **22. Claims and objections during the exhibition of the provisional registration roll**

- (1) Only those with a valid voter's card may make a claim for inclusion or correction during the exhibition period.
- (2) Only those with a valid voter's card or those eligible to register may make an objection to inclusion during the exhibition period.
- (3) All claims or objections shall be made on the forms prescribed by the Commission.
- (4) For those internally displaced persons who have registered in camps for their county of origin, claims for inclusion and correction can be made at both:
  - (a) the registration center in their county of origin: and
  - (b) the registration center in the internally displaced persons camp in which they registered.
- (5) For those internally displaced persons who have registered in camps for their county of origin, objections can be made at only the registration center in their county of origin.

## **23. Statement of claims and objections**

A statement of claims and objections shall be made available for inspection at the exhibition center.

## **24. Time for making claims and objections**

A claim or objection in respect of the provisional registration roll can be made only during the exhibition period of 30 June to 2 July 2005.

## **25. Determination of claims for inclusion and correction**

- (1) The determination of claims for inclusion and correction shall be made by the Registrar at the time the claim is made.
- (2) If the Registrar determines that the claim for inclusion or correction is valid, such determination shall be transmitted to the Magistrate of Elections who will send the decision to the Data Center for inclusion or correction.
- (3) If the Registrar determines that the claim for inclusion or correction is invalid, the decision should be posted at the exhibition center during the exhibition period.

## **26. Determination of objections**

- (1) Objections are received at the exhibition center by the Registrar during the exhibition period and forwarded to the Magistrate of Elections for determination.
- (2) The determination of objections shall be made by the Magistrate of Elections during the period for the determination which shall be from 11 July to 13 July 2005.
- (3) The Magistrate of Elections shall not later than seven days before the period of determination of objections post a notice stating the period and location.

(3) If the Magistrate of Elections determines that the objection is not valid, the reasons for the Magistrate's determination shall be made available and recorded in the prescribed form.

(4) If the Magistrate of Elections determines that the objection is valid, the reasons for the Magistrate's determination shall be recorded in the prescribed form. Such decision shall be posted at the exhibition center. Moreover, the person whose inclusion is objected to and accepted shall be notified by public notice.

(5) Objections to the inclusion of internally displaced persons on the provisional registration roll shall be referred to the Magistrate of Elections in their County of origin.

### **Part III: APPEALS**

#### **27. Appeals to the Commission**

Any person affected by a determination by the Magistrate of Elections may appeal within seven (7) days of the determination to the Commission.

#### **28. Appeals to Supreme Court**

Any person affected by a determination of the Commission may appeal the matter to the Supreme Court not later than seven (7) days after the decision is rendered. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be final.

### **Part IV: REGISTRATION ROLL**

#### **29. Certification of the registration roll**

(1) The Board of Commissioners shall, after the claims and objections have been determined and alterations made, certify the registration rolls and cause them to be printed and bound separately in respect of each polling place.

(2) The certified rolls shall be deemed to be the registration rolls for the respective polling places and shall remain in force until rendered invalid by subsequent certified registration rolls.

#### **30. Publication of certified registration roll**

The Commission shall make a copy of the certified registration roll available to the Magistrate of Elections at his/her office where it shall remain available for inspection.

#### **31. Copies of the certified registration roll**

The Commission shall make electronic copies of the certified registration roll available upon request as prescribed by the Commission.

**32. Publication of documents**

- (1) Any failure to publish a document in accordance with these regulations shall not invalidate the document, however, it shall not relieve the appropriate officer from any penalty for such failure.
- (2) Documents shall be made available for inspection, pursuant to these regulations, during ordinary business hours.
- (3) Where a document is made available for inspection, any person may make a copy of, or take extracts from, such document.

**33. Misnomer**

No misnomer or inaccurate description of any person or place in any notice, registration roll, list of claims or objections, shall prejudice the operation of that document with respect to that person in any case where the description of the person or place is such as to be commonly understood.

Annex

**NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
**TRAINING Voter's Card TRAINING**


County: MONTSEERADO      Registration Center Code: 30001

Age: 25      [XXXXXXXXXX]      Voter ID Number: 123456789

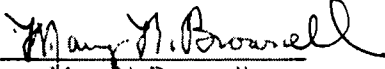
Sex: M

Name: SMITH ROBERT

Photo

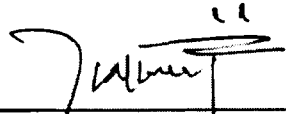


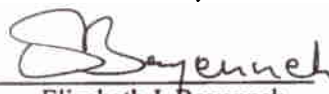
**DONE UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THE NATIONAL  
ELECTIONS COMMISSION (NEC) THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF April A.D. 2005**

  
Mary N. Brownell  
**COMMISSIONER**

  
James K. Chelley Sr.  
**COMMISSIONER**

  
Karmo Soko Sackor, Sr  
**COMMISSIONER**

  
Jonathan K. Weedor  
**COMMISSIONER**

  
Elizabeth J. Boyenneh  
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Clir. Frances Johnson-Morris  
**CHAIRMAN**