



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Republic of Liberia
NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION
(NEC)

TUBMAN BLVD., SINKOR - P. O. BOX 2044
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



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DECISION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Decision Number: 2005 -052

Subject: The Board of Commissioners decides the following regarding the Directives to the Magistrates for the second ballot for Presidential elections.

Reference: Memorandum Number -52

Time and date of meeting: 15:00 P.M. 19 October 2005

Meeting Number: Number -52

Commissioners Present: Chairman Johnson -Morris
Co-Chairman Fromayan
Commissioner Brownell
Commissioner Chelley
Commissioner Boyenneh
Commissioner Sackor
Commissioner Weedor

The Board of Commissioners decided:

1. To adopt attached Directives to the Magistrate in their entirety for purpose of the Run-off election, date to be specified on the Writ of Elections.
2. That all registered voters may participate in the Run-off elections regardless of whether they initially voted in the October 11, 2005 Presidential and General elections.
3. Internally Displaced Persons who are registered to voter in their county of origin but who have not been able to return there will again be able to vote in the precinct where they physically registered.
4. To permit NEC Polling Staff, NEC Civic Educators and LNP to vote in the Polling places where they are stationed after production of their organizational identification and Voter Identification Cards.
5. To punch a hole in the Voter Identification Card and apply indelible ink to the index finger nail bed to indicate an individual has voted in the Run-Off election.
6. That the Run-Off campaign period will begin the morning after the announcement of results and end twenty-four (24) hours prior to Run-Off Election Day.



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7. That the ballots will contain the photographs of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates as well as their designated emblem.
8. That the ballots for the Run-Off elections will have a red frame.
9. That there will be no replacement of Voter Identification Cards.
10. That all credentials issued by the NEC to observers, media and party of candidate representatives remain valid for the second round.
11. That recounts will be automatic where the final tally indicates the margin between candidates is one thousand (1000) valid votes cast less.
12. That in the event of a tie, the Liberian Inter-Religious Council will draw candidate names from envelopes that will be sealed in a container with the candidate whose name is drawn being elected.

**Commissioners in Support
Of the Decision:**

**Commissioners Opposed
to the Decision:**

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | | Chairman Johnson-Morris | _____ |
| 2. | | Co-Chairman Fromayan | _____ |
| 3. | | Commissioner Brownell | _____ |
| 4. | | " | Chelley _____ |
| 5. | | " | Sackor _____ |
| 6. | | " | Boyenneh _____ |
| 7. | | " | Weedor _____ |

Directive to the Electoral Magistrates
Presidential Run-Off Election

Based on the writs returned to the NEC, no Presidential candidate has received an absolute majority (50% plus one (1) vote) of the valid votes cast as required by law to be certified. In compliance with the provisions of Section 4.15 (a) of the New Elections Law of 1986, as modified by Section 15 of the Electoral Reform Law, a second ballot ("Run-Off Election") to elect the President and Vice-President has been scheduled for the second Tuesday after the announcement of results on **TBD/TBD/2005**. The two candidates who obtain the highest number of valid votes at the first ballot will participate in the run-off election, and the candidate who obtains the majority of the valid votes cast at the second ballot shall be elected. In connection with the Run-Off Election, you are hereby ordered to comply with the following instructions pertaining to the conduct of the second ballot. You are mandated to make public the substance of this directive so that voters are informed and will be able to participate in the Run-Off Election. You must disseminate the following information as widely as possible:

General Information

You are hereby ordered to publicize this information as widely as possible to ensure the citizenry is adequately informed of the Run-Off Election for the office of President of the Republic of Liberia. The polls will be open between 08:00 AM and 18:00 PM. You must take special measures to conduct voter education to inform *all* registered voters, *regardless of whether they participated in the first round*, that they are eligible to participate in the Run-Off Election. You are hereby ordered to inform the public they must bring their Voter Identification Cards in order to vote in the second Presidential and Vice Presidential Ballot.

Writ of Elections

Pursuant to Section 4.3 of the New Elections Law, the NEC issued the Writ of Elections on July 13, 2005. The NEC will issue a special writ of elections for the Presidential and Vice Presidential Run-Off Election that you are hereby ordered to post in the same manner as you did the original. The Special Writ of Elections will inform the public of the date of the Presidential and Vice Presidential Run-Off Election and the date for the return of said writ.

Publication of Official List of Voting Precincts and Polling Places

The official list of Voting Precincts and Polling Places was made public on September 30, 2005 and has been established by the NEC, in accordance with the requirements of the Law. You are directed to use all means at your disposal to notify the general public that the same Voting Precincts and Polling Places will be in use for the Run-Off Election. If any changes are made to these, you will be notified and required to post that information no less than forty-eight (48) hours before the Run-Off Election Day.

Special Polling Procedures

All NEC Polling staff, LNP, and NEC Civic Educators with the appropriately issued identification will be afforded special provisions for voting in the Run-Off Election. They

will be permitted to vote at the Polling Place where they are assigned to work on Run-Off Election Day. IDPs who are registered to vote in their county of origin but who have not been able to return there will again be able to vote in the precinct where they physically registered. All other individuals **must** vote at the Polling Place in the Voting Precinct where they are registered. You must remind all voters they can only vote where they have been registered and must produce their Voter Identification Card before the second ballot will be issued.

Security measures

You are hereby instructed to inform the public that indelible ink will be used to mark the second digit (index finger) of persons who have voted, after their ballot has been cast in the Run-Off Election. The Voter Identification Card of each voter will also be punched in the lower right-hand corner to indicate they have voted in the Run-Off Election. You are hereby ordered to remind voters that they may mark the ballot only once for the Presidential and Vice Presidential ticket of their choice.

Campaigning

You are hereby ordered to announce the commencement of the Run-Off Election campaign period, which shall begin on the morning following the announcement of results. The campaign period will end 24 hours before the Run-Off Election Day. You are reminded that all codes of conduct are applicable during the Run-Off campaigning period as during the original period. You are instructed to commend the candidates and the public on the peaceful campaign period for the 11 October 2005 election, and encourage continued peaceful campaigning.

Credentials

All credentials issued by the NEC to observers, media, and party or candidate representatives remain valid for the second round.

Ballot Design

You are hereby ordered to inform the public of the ballot design to be used during the Run-Off Election. The Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates contesting in the second ballot will appear as a single ticket on the ballot, in alphabetical order by the last name of the Presidential candidates. The ballot will also contain the pictures of both the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates as well as their NEC approved emblem and a space for voters to mark their choice. You must inform voters they are to mark one (1) choice only. The ballot will again have a red frame.

Replacement Voter Identification Cards

There will be NO replacement of Voter Identification Cards for the purposes of the Run-Off Election. You are instructed to inform the public that only those voters who produce their valid Voter Identification Card will be given a ballot on Run-Off Election Day.

Re-counts

In the event the number of valid votes cast is within one thousand (1,000) of each other once the *final* count has been completed, an automatic re-count will take place in the same manner as the original count. Re-counts shall be conducted at the Office of the Magistrate of Elections in the presence of observers and political party representatives.

Ties

In the event of a tie in the final results, there will be an automatic re-count. If the results of the re-count still indicate a tie, the tie break mechanism will take effect. To break a tie, the names of both candidates will be placed in separate envelopes and then sealed. The envelopes will then be placed in a container. A member of the Liberian Inter-Religious Council will draw an envelope from the container bearing the name of one of the candidates. The candidate whose name is drawn first will be elected.