Republic of Liberia

National Elections Commission

Amendments to the Guidelines Relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates

March 30, 2011
Monrovia, Liberia
Preamble

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

WHEREAS Chapter 2, Section 9(h) of the New Elections Law of 1986 empowers the National Elections Commission to formulate and enforce Guidelines and Regulations for all elections;

WHEREAS The Guidelines Relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates were adopted and published by NEC on June 1, 2009;

WHEREAS Joint Resolution LEG-002 (2010) of the senate and House of Representatives of the 52nd legislature on the setting of an electoral threshold for the conduct of the 2011 Presidential and legislative election in Liberia provides that NEC shall reapportion districts that require delay in previously provided timelines;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby promulgated as follows:
Article 1.

Paragraph 1 of Section 2 (2.1) of the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines is hereby amended by inserting sub-paragraph (f) following the sub-paragraph (e) with the following:

“f. “Qualified Voter” means a registered voter.”

Article 2.

Paragraph 1 of Section 14 (14.1) of the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines is hereby amended by deleting the existing provision and inserting instead the following:

“National and local conventions shall be held by every registered political party at least once every six (6) years in an orderly manner to elect its national executive committee to serve for a period not exceeding six (6) years. They may be re-elected to serve for as many terms as the party may wish.

A registered political party that desires to nominate one or more candidates for elective public office for any election shall hold a national and/or local convention not later than ninety (90) days prior to Election Day. At the National Convention the party shall nominate its presidential and vice-presidential candidates. At the local convention, the party shall nominate its candidates for the National Legislature. In the case of a special or by-election, a registered political party desirous of participation, shall hold a national and/or local convention not later than sixty (60) days prior to the election.”

Article 3.

Paragraph 1 of Section 15 (15.1) of the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines is hereby amended by deleting the existing provision and inserting instead the following:

“No later than sixty (60) days prior to Election Day, each political party shall submit to the Commission a list of candidates nominated at the convention indicating the public offices which they are to fill. The List shall contain the name, address, age, sex, phone number, occupation, position (s) previously held (if any), elective office sought, and such other qualifications required for the elective office sought as provided by the Constitution and the Elections Law. The said submission must be under the signatures of the national chairman and secretary general.

In addition, each political party candidate must submit to the Commission a completed application accompanied by the required documents prescribed in Sections 16 through 21 and a letter of intent stating his/her willingness to serve when elected, sixty (60) days prior to Election Day.”

Article 4.

4.1. Paragraph 1 of Section 22 (22.1) of the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines is hereby amended by deleting the existing provision and inserting instead the following:

“No independent aspirant shall be allowed to submit his/her letter of intent to the Commission later than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to Election Day.”
4.2. Paragraph 3 of Section 22 (22.3) of the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines is hereby amended by deleting the existing provision and inserting instead the following:

“An Independent aspirant must file the completed application, accompanied by the required documentation with the Commission within the Candidate Nomination Period as specified by the Commission. The Commission shall within three (3) days of receipt of the application, notify the independent aspirant if any of the required documents are missing and/or incomplete, and offer the candidate an opportunity to correct and return them to the Commission no later than the close of the candidate nomination period. The application shall not be corrected after the completion of the Candidate Nomination Period.”

4.3. Paragraph 5 of Section 22 (22.5) of the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines is hereby amended by deleting the existing provision and inserting instead the following:

“The Commission shall make a determination on the independent aspirant’s request to stand for elective public office as an independent candidate no later than thirty (30) prior to Election Day. If the completed application is in compliance with Sections 16 through 21 of these guidelines, the independent aspirant has met all of the requirements contained in the guidelines, and the Commission determines that he/she is qualified under the Elections Law and the Constitution, the Commission shall grant the candidate’s request for registration.”

4.4. Paragraph 7 of Section 22 (22.7) of the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines is hereby amended by deleting the existing provision and inserting instead the following:

“If the Commission rejects the request of the independent aspirant to stand for the elective public office as an independent candidate, the Commission shall notify the independent aspirant of the reason(s) therefore in writing no later than 30 days prior to Election Day.”

4.5. Paragraph 8 of Section 22 (22.8) of the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines is hereby amended by deleting the existing provision and inserting instead the following:

“An appeal of the Commission’s decision may be made to the Supreme Court no later than 3 days after the notice on determination has been delivered to the candidate.”

Article 5.

These amendments to the political party and independent candidate registration guidelines shall enter into effect immediately upon publication.

Signed:

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Cllr. Sarah Jegede           Cllr. Jeanette A. Ebba-Davidson
COMMISSIONER                COMMISSIONER

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Hon. Ansumana F. Kromah     Hon. David S. Menyongai
COMMISSIONER                COMMISSIONER

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COMMISSIONER                CO-CHAIRMAN

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Hon. James M. Fromayan
CHAIRMAN