

# Iraq Parliamentary Elections: Council of Representatives

[7 March 2010]

## **Brief review**

The elections of the Iraqi Council of Representatives were held on March 7, 2010 according to the law amending Election Law number 16 of 2005 enacted on December 9, 2009. The new law introduced many amendments. It increased the Council's seats to 325 seats from 275, and introduced the open list and multiple-member constituencies electoral system, whereby Iraq was divided into different constituencies equivalent to the number of governorates. The law also entitled Iraqis living abroad to cast their ballots.

6,292 candidates from 86 political entities and coalitions vied in the elections. The most notable alliances were: the Iraqi National Alliance, the State of Law Coalition, the Unity of Iraq Coalition, the Iraqi Accord Front, the Iraqi List (Al Iraqiya) and the Kurdistan Alliance.

Army members, police officers, patients in hospitals and prisoners cast their ballots on March 4, 2010 in an early voting process. 16 foreign countries accepted to host polling centres, thus allowing their Iraqi residents to vote. The three-day voting process outside Iraq ended on the date scheduled for the elections in Iraq, i.e. on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2010. There were 19 million registered voters divided among 10 thousand polling stations.

[See also: [Legal background, detailed results and in-depth coverage](#) (external link)]

## **Summary of results and statistics**

The participation rate in these elections was around 62.40%. As show the final results declared by the Independent High Electoral Commission, the Al Iraqiya coalition ranked first with 89 seats and 2 compensatory seats, bringing the total number of seats to 91. The State of Law coalition followed with 87 seats and two compensatory seats, i.e. a total of 89 seats. The Iraqi National Alliance won 70 seats including 2 compensatory seats, compared with 43 seats for the Kurdistan Alliance, including one compensatory seat. In the governorates of Kurdistan, the Change electoral list won 8 seats compared to 4 seats for the Kurdistan Islamic Union, and 2 seats for the Islamic Group of Kurdistan. The Iraqi Accord Front in the provinces of Anbar, Nineveh, and Baghdad secured 6 seats, while the Unity of Iraq Coalition won 4 seats in the provinces of Salah Eddine, Nineveh, and Anbar.

As for the minorities, the Christian component won 5 seats, three for the Rafidin list and two for the Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Popular Council. Also, the Yazidis, represented by the Yazidi Movement for Reform, the Shabak and Sabeen each won one seat.

Women won 82 seats in the Council of Representatives in Iraq's constituencies compared to 70 seats in the past. 21 female candidates garnered the needed votes to reach the electoral threshold without relying on the so-called female quota, while other 61 women won seats thanks to the female quota which grants women 25% of seats in the Council of Representatives. Al Iraqiya list won the highest number of female seats (25) followed by the State of Law coalition (23), the Iraqi National Alliance (19), the Kurdistan Alliance (12), the Change list (2) and finally the Rafidin (Mesopotamia) List with only one winning female candidate.