

# Elections' National Monitoring Guide

#نلبي - الواجب

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## Introduction

As a desire to complete the grounds of democratic governance, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, as amended in 2002, guaranteed the right to vote and to contest for election, as it stipulates in Article (1/e) that "**Citizens, both men and women, are entitled to participate in public affairs and enjoy their political rights, including the right to vote and the right to contest for elections, in accordance with the present Constitution and the conditions and principles laid down by law....**", whereas voting and nomination are considered necessary rights of inevitable necessity to implement democracy in its constitutional content.

In order to maximize the democratic gains, enhance the impartiality of the electoral process through a disciplined neutral national monitoring, the involvement of the civil society institutions in national monitoring, and the conviction of the Supreme Committee for General Supervision of the Soundness of Elections, with the fairness and transparency of the electoral process which is confirmed by full judicial supervision at all stages, the door is opened to the civil society institutions which are legally licensed in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which declare their desire to participate in the national monitoring of the elections.

This guide aims to provide a comprehensive and simplified overview of national monitoring of the elections to assist monitors that are approved by the Supreme Committee for General Supervision of the Soundness of Elections to perform their duties to the fullest and without compromising their freedom to monitor.

## **I. Definition of Monitoring:**

Election monitoring refers to all acts of monitoring and observation of the electoral process by field-based follow-up of the electoral process and collecting its data objectively with impartiality and neutrality, in order to ensure the proper application of the procedures related to the electoral process and monitor the violations related thereto.

## **II. Scope of Monitoring:**

The scope of monitoring shall be as follows:

- 1- Monitoring the electoral process through all its stages.
- 2- Monitoring the conduct of candidates, political societies and other civil institutions in regard to abiding the Laws related to the electoral process.
- 3- Monitoring the conduct of voters, citizens and individuals in regard to abiding the Laws related to the electoral process.
- 4- Monitor and observe the use of places of worship or harness religious discourse to promote candidates or disparage others, or any other violations considered punishable according to the relevant laws.

## **III. Requirements of Monitoring:**

- 1- To be a Bahraini national with good reputation and enjoying full civil and political rights.
- 2- Not to be a member of any of the political societies.
- 3- Not to be a candidate nor a candidate's agent, legal agent or recommender.
- 4- To monitor under the name of the civil society institution that he/she follows (that doesn't mean the requirement to have a membership in such institution).

## **IV. Submission of the Monitoring Request:**

- 1- The civil society institution that wishes to monitor shall submit its application in writing to the Supreme Committee for General Supervision of the Soundness of Elections. Applications shall be submitted in the third floor of the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments in the Diplomatic Area during official working hours.

2- The application shall be accompanied by forms of the monitors' quartet names, their personal ID numbers and two personal photos, through filling out the specific forms on the official website of the elections [www.vote.bh](http://www.vote.bh).

3- Each society of civil society institutions participating in the national monitoring shall name a person of their choice as a coordinator between the monitors of the society and the Supreme Committee for General Supervision of the Soundness of Elections. The coordinator shall inform the Supreme Committee immediately of any violation of any party as soon as it occurs.

4- Each monitor shall sign a declaration and a pledge stating his/her consideration and compliance with the rules and ethics of monitoring.

#### **V. Rules and Ethics of Monitoring:**

The monitor shall abide the following rules in performing his/her work:

1- To have the knowledge and familiarity of the legislations, regulations, and directives related to the electoral process, in order to perform his/her monitoring work professionally, objectively, and with awareness.

2- Respect the sovereignty of Law, and have full compliance to the laws, regulations, and directives issued in respect of the elections.

3- To be fully impartial in performing his/her work and shall not express any differentiation or bias to any of the authorities, political societies, candidates or any other controversial subject related to the electoral process.

4- Not to expose or wear anything that demonstrates any political affiliation, whether a slogan, writing, colors or any posters related to such matter.

5- Refrain from carrying out any electoral campaign or placing, carrying or displaying any symbols related to any of the candidates.

6- To carry out his/her work in a quiet manner, without personal intervention that would obstruct the electoral process or influence the ballot or counting processes. He/she shall not carry out any action that might prevent or impede the members of the ballot and counting committee from exercising their functions.

7- Not to give instructions or statements carrying cancellation or curbing, explicitly or implicitly, to the decisions of the competent authorities of the elections.

8- To carry his/her identity document at all times, as well as his/her card or license issued to him/her as a monitor, and to identify himself to the concerned authorities if requested.

9- He/she shall not to interfere to provide advice, consultation or guidance to the voters. He/she is also prohibited from influencing the freedom of voters on the ballot day or asking them about their choice before or after the ballot.

10- To disclose the constituency in which he/she has the right to vote in, and whether any of his/her relatives is a candidate or has a direct concern in the electoral process.

#### **VI. Monitoring Process:**

The Monitor shall notarize the results and conclusions of his/her work performance and the observations he/she has made, including the facts and the evidence supporting them. He/she shall also record the information that he/she has personally noticed and witnessed, and shall avoid - when assessing the conduct of the electoral process or judging it - relying on a piece of information, testimony or a statement whose authenticity and facts have not been verified.

The Monitor shall indicate the name of the constituencies that he/she visited and the time of visit, and shall refrain from giving any comments about his/her observation that are not proven or been based on personal criteria for the media or other persons related to the electoral affairs. The comments shall be limited to the information related to the nature of his/her work as a monitor.

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هيئة التشريع والإفتاء القانوني  
Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission

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Done by  
The Legal Committee For  
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