



Fact Sheet

The Palestinian Elections Law

August 2005

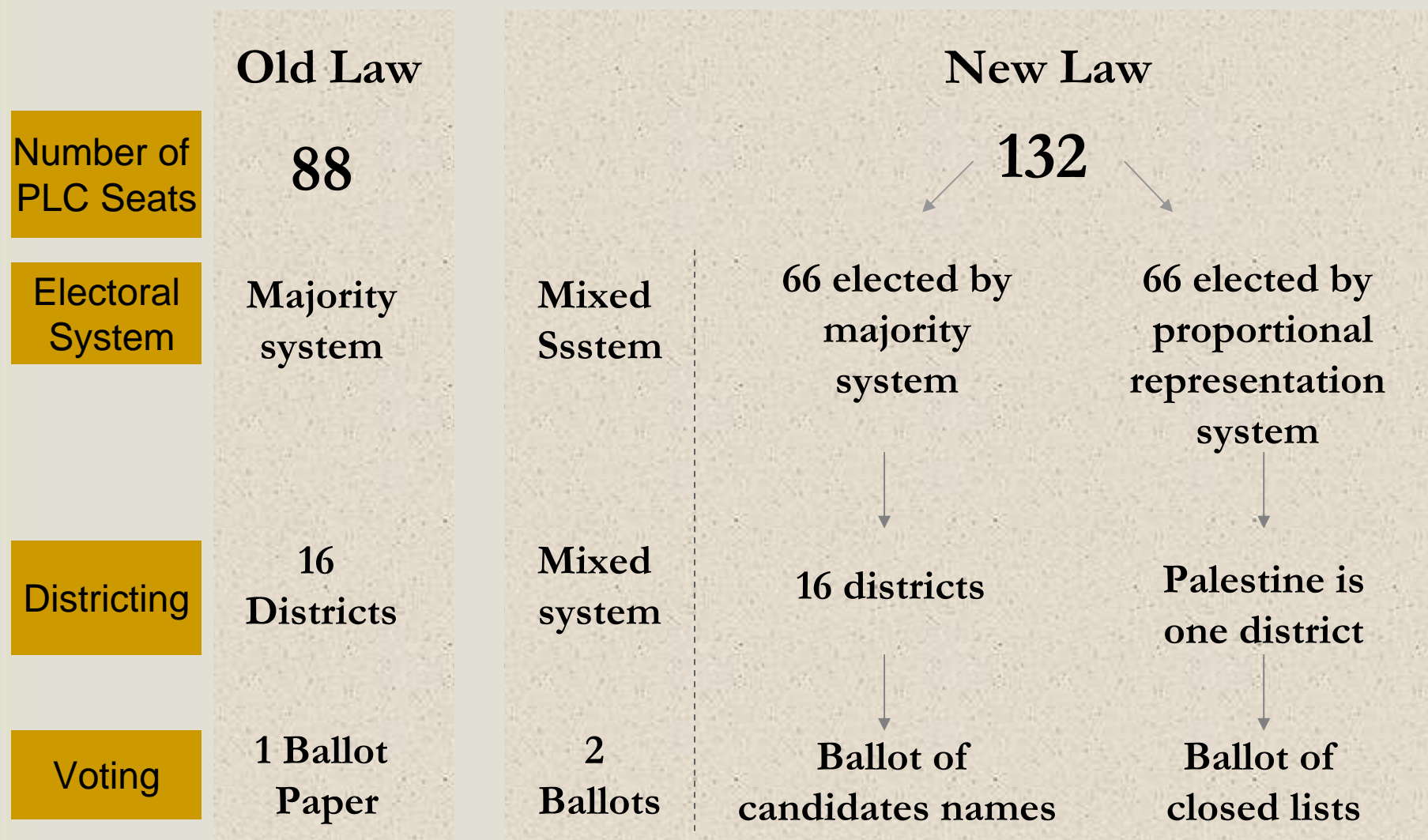


The New Elections Law

On the 18th of June 2005 the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) approved amendments to the 1996 elections law.



Amendments to the Law





The Mixed Electoral System

Majority System

Proportional Representation System



Mixed System: Basic Facts

Majority

- 66 Seats.
- Candidates compete over PLC seats allocated for their district.
- The number of seats differs from one district to another and is allocated in proportion to the population of each district.

Proportional Representation

- 66 Seats.
- Competition is between closed lists comprised of political parties or coalitions instead of individual candidates.
- The order in which candidates appear is determined by the list which must include a minimum of 7 candidates and a maximum of 66 candidates.



Mixed System: Minorities and Women

Majority

- Six out of the 66 seats are reserved for Christian representatives.
- The allocation of those six seats to districts is determined by a Presidential Decree.

Proportional Representation

- Women are assured a minimum level of representation on the electoral lists.
- Each list must include at least one woman in the first three names, at least one woman in the next four names and at least one woman in each of the five names that follow on the list.



Mixed System: Districting

Majority

- Palestine is divided into 16 electoral districts.

11 in West Bank

5 in Gaza Strip

- Jerusalem
- Jenin
- Tulkarem
- Tubas
- Nablus
- Qalqilya
- Salfit
- Ramallah & Al Bireh
- Jericho
- Bethlehem
- Hebron

- North Gaza
- Gaza
- Deir Al Balah
- Khan Younis
- Rafah

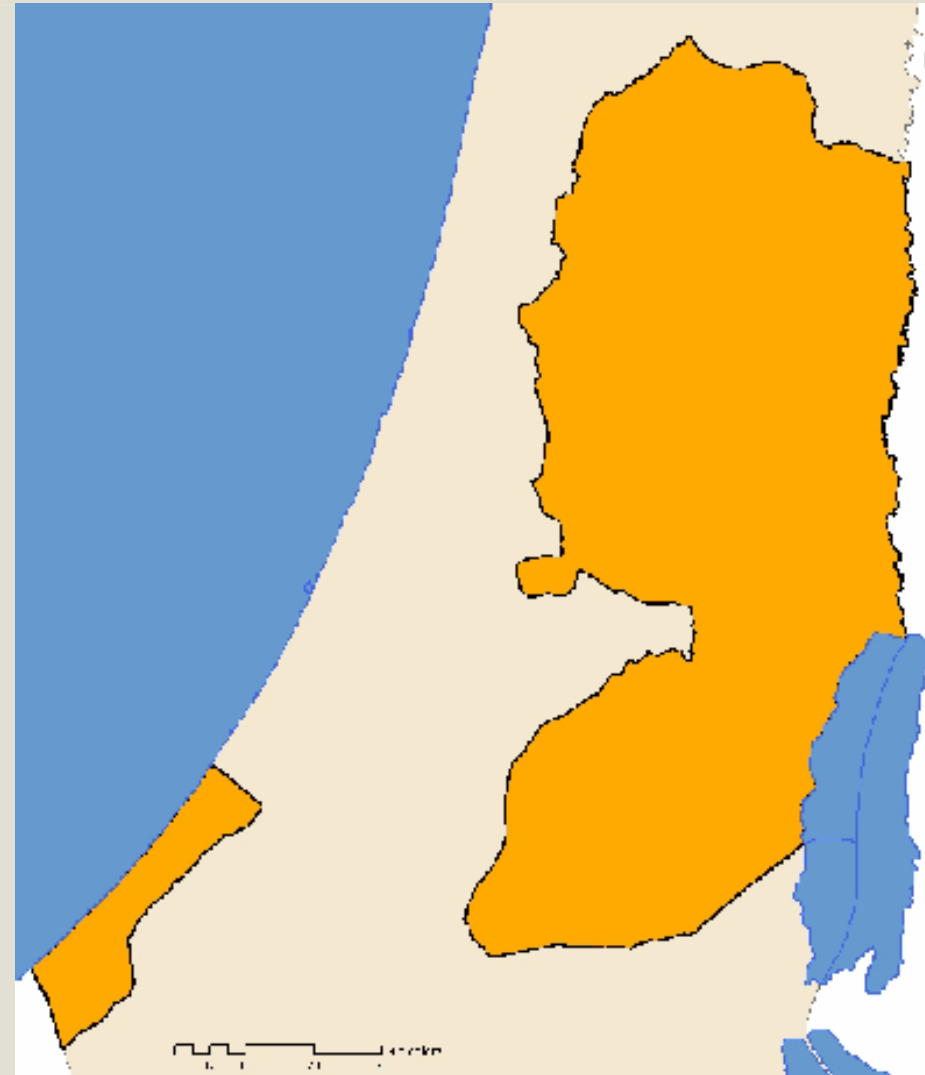




Mixed System: Districting

Proportional Representation

Palestine is considered one electoral district.





Mixed System: Winning Seats

Majority

The winning candidates are those who obtain the highest number of votes.

Proportional Representation

Each list obtains a number of seats in proportion to the number of valid votes obtained.

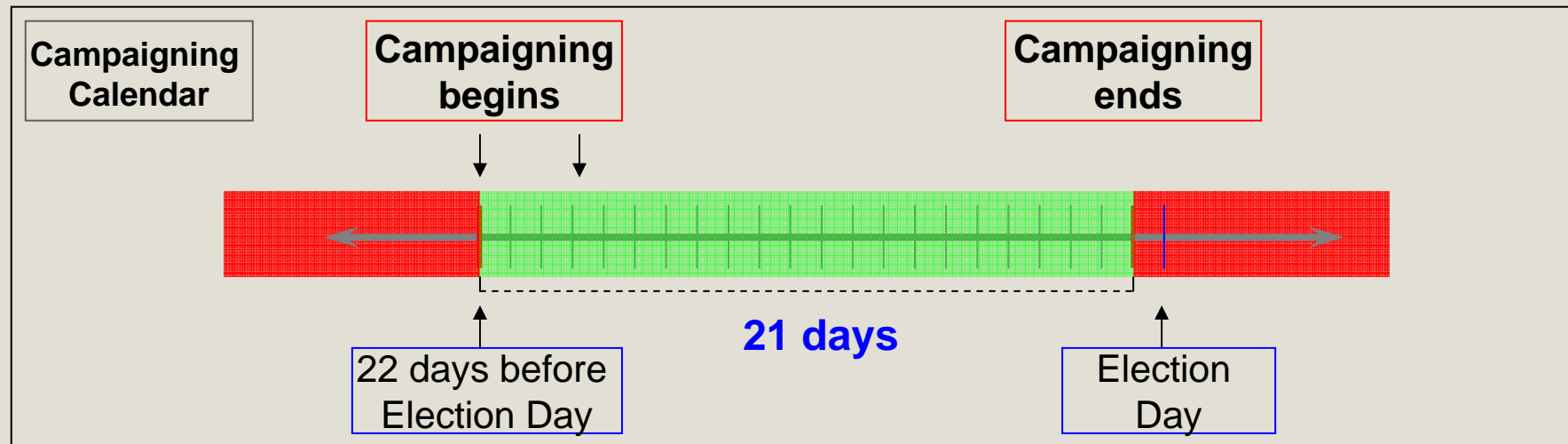


Electoral Campaigning



Electoral Campaigning

- Campaigning commences 22 days prior to Election Day.
- Campaigning must end 24 hours before Election Day and is prohibited on Election Day itself.
- The campaigning period is 21 days.
- No campaigning should be conducted before the allocated period.





The Electoral Campaign

- Any form of electoral campaigning is forbidden in mosques, churches, near hospitals or public and governmental institutions.
- Candidates and electoral lists participating in the elections are forbidden from receiving campaign funding from external or foreign sources either directly or indirectly.



Polling Day



Polling Day: When?

- A presidential decree announced the 25th of January 2006 as the date for the next PLC elections.
- Polling commences at 7 a m and ends at 7 p m.
- Polling day is an official holiday.





Polling Day: Ballot Papers

For the PLC elections, each voter gets 2 ballot papers:

- **Ballot Paper 1**

Contains the names of candidates competing over the seats of the electoral districts. The voter selects from those a number of candidates not exceeding the number of seats assigned for each district.

- **Ballot Paper 2**

Includes the competing lists. The voter must choose only one list.





Polling Day: Ballot Boxes



- There will be two ballot boxes in each polling station.
- One box will be for majority system ballots and the other for proportional representation ballots.



Election Observation

- The electoral process is conducted in the presence of local and international observers to guarantee the neutrality, integrity and transparency of the elections.
- Observers must be accredited by the CEC.





Electoral Offences

All electoral offences are punishable by law and carry either a financial penalty or imprisonment, or both.

Offences include:

- Bribery, vote-buying, influencing voters and feigning illiteracy.
- Making personal promises, providing money or rendering services to voters in order to influence them to vote or abstain from voting for a certain candidate or list.
- Forcing an elector to reveal the name of the candidate for whom s/he has voted.
- Intimidating voters into voting or abstaining from voting for a certain candidate or list.



Declaration of Results



- The CEC declares preliminary election results to the media 24 hours after their preparation.
- The CEC publishes final election results in the official Gazette and in the daily local newspapers.



Contact Us

For more information on polling procedures please :

- Visit our website on www.elections.ps
 - Email us on info@elections.ps
- or
- Call our PR Department on +(Intl Code*) (2) 2969700

* International code for Palestine: 970 from Arab World
972 from anywhere else