IFES Voice

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Elections to Watch in 2015

Notes on Democracy

The challenges facing democracy promotion in recent years have been immense. In this post, Thomas Carothers and Bill Sweeney detail these challenges and argue that international crises, while distracting from the democracy agenda in the short term, ultimately make the case for robust democracy promotion efforts.

Elections provide insight into the responsiveness and resiliency of political systems and offer a convenient measure of the practice of democracy in a given country. This is true for countries with varying levels of experience with democracy, from those undergoing transition to those with long-established democratic practices. In this New Year, several countries will experience crossroads elections in which political and electoral systems are being tested and voters will be faced with clear choices. This post discusses some of the key elections to watch in 2015.

Photo Gallery

Liberians Vote in Delayed Special Senate Elections

Election Management

Voter Registration Improvement is a Priority for Iraqi Leadership

While Iraq continues to face serious political, socioeconomic and security challenges, credible elections offer the best hope of bringing democracy and security to the country. In late 2013, the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) began introducing technology into the election process. The IHEC continues to make improvements to the electoral process in Iraq, the most notable being the introduction of technology in the electoral process by using electronic voter cards. This article discusses the automated voter registration modernization efforts in Iraq.

Originally slated for October 14, 2014, Liberia's special senatorial elections were moved to December 20 due to the Ebola outbreak. Amid this public health crisis, Liberians headed to the polls to choose half of the country's 30-member Senate for an election that was an important marker of the progress made in the fight against Ebola.

Election Integrity and Transparency

Strengthening Electoral Integrity and Confidence in Georgia

Strengthening confidence in a country's electoral processes is a delicate and gradual undertaking, one that targets key factors that define electoral integrity and the level of democratic development. Losing focus of a single factor may lead to a loss of public trust and a deterioration of electoral integrity. This article highlights IFES' holistic approach in Georgia to help support integrity and confidence in elections.

Citizen Participation

IFES' People Against Violence in Elections Program Paves the Way for Credible Elections

Elections in Bangladesh have been characterized by highly divisive political competition and entrenched distrust between political parties. IFES' People Against Violence in Elections (PAVE) is designed to promote peaceful elections and political processes in Bangladesh. The training provides young leaders the opportunity to consider the political beliefs and strategies of different parties, breaking down barriers created by years of one-sided party propaganda.

Inclusion and Empowerment

New Disability Rights and Elections Training Module Piloted in South and Southeast Asia

IFES is leading a series of regional trainings in Nepal and Myanmar to promote the electoral and political enfranchisement of people with disabilities. IFES' field teams from around the globe are working together to develop a Disability Rights and Elections BRIDGE module with support from the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Alumni Update

Former Senior Development Manager Triona O'Connor excels at helping others understand how to navigate and make sense of complex international grants, cooperative agreements and contracts. In this Q&A, she discusses highlights from her time at IFES and the challenges of expanding relationships and funding for democracy programs.

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