

## Barbados

<b>Background</b>	<p><b>Name of EMB:</b> Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Barbados (EBC).</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Number of commissioners:</b> Five</p> <p><b>Number of full-time EMB staff:</b> Sixty-six staff permanently employed; 30 are employed by the EBC and 36 by the Ministry of the Civil Service (MSC). For the conduct of elections, approximately 2,200 additional staff are employed by the EBC and an additional 12 by the MCS.</p>
<b>Establishment of the EMB</b>	<p><b>Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:</b> The EBC was established under Section 41A of the Constitution of Barbados and its substantive legislation is found in the Representation of the People Act Cap 12, including the Rules for the Conduct of Elections, Regulations for the Registration of Electors, Regulations for the Allocation of Broadcasting Time and the Election Offences and Controversies Rules.</p> <p><b>EMB's mandate:</b> The registration of voters and the conduct of elections in every constituency, or matters that appear to the EBC to be incidental to or consequential upon either, are subject to the direction and supervision of the EBC particularly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the continuous registration of electors;</li> <li>b. the maintenance of an accurate and up-to-date Register of Electors;</li> <li>c. management of the nomination day process;</li> <li>d. ensuring the conduct of free, fair and transparent parliamentary elections;</li> <li>e. reviewing the number and boundaries of the constituencies into which Barbados is divided, ensuring, as far as practicable, that the number of persons in constituencies does not exceed constitutional provisions and submitting a report on the boundaries to the minister for presentation to parliament;</li> <li>f. allocation of broadcasting time;</li> <li>g. the EMB is currently responsible for continuous national registration and the issue of national identification cards, which will shortly be brought under the purview of the EBC through legislation which is awaiting debate and approval by the parliament;</li> <li>h. regulating the amount of money that may be spent by or on behalf of a candidate in respect of an election and the publication of the monies spent by each candidate.</li> </ol>

	<b>EMB model:</b>	Mixed
	<b>What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?</b>	No legislated standards
<b>Appointment, tenure and removals</b>	<b>Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:</b>	The chairman and two other members are appointed by the Governor-General, acting on the recommendation of the prime minister after consultation with the leader of the opposition. The deputy chairman and one other member are appointed by the Governor-General, acting on the recommendation of the leader of the opposition after consultation with the prime minister.
	<b>Political status of commissioners:</b>	Based on political party affiliation
	<b>Chair qualifications:</b>	There is no legislative or other documented academic qualification requirement.
	<b>Commissioner qualifications:</b>	There is no legislative or other documented academic qualification requirement.
	<b>Tenure of chair and commissioners:</b>	Commissioners are appointed for a five-year term, which is renewable.
	<b>Provisions for the removal of commissioners:</b>	A commissioner can be removed by the Prime Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, on the advice of a tribunal established for that purpose.
	<b>Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff:</b>	The senior staff of the commission are appointed by the Public Administration Department of the Ministry of the Civil Service after an interviewing process.
	<b>Tenure of EMB senior staff:</b>	Senior staff can remain in office until retirement at age 66.
	<b>Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff:</b>	Senior staff may be transferred or removed under the terms of the disciplinary procedures outlined in the Public Service Act.
<b>Funding arrangements</b>	<b>Setting and control of EMB's budget:</b>	The Ministry of Finance
	<b>Financial autonomy:</b>	Only with the approval of the Ministry of Finance.
	<b>Legal provisions for financial autonomy:</b>	The EMB does not have financial autonomy.

<b>Electoral system</b>	<p><b>Number of chambers/houses within the legislature:</b> Bicameral: nominated Senate (upper house) and an elected House of Assembly (lower house).</p> <p><b>Voting system:</b> First-past-the-post (FPTP)</p> <p><b>Amendments to electoral laws:</b> Recommendations are made by the EBC to the Cabinet of Barbados; if Cabinet approves, they are then debated and passed in parliament.</p> <p><b>Drafting of electoral regulations:</b> The EMB may draft but not adopt regulations; the draft regulation would be approved by the Cabinet and laid in parliament.</p> <p><b>Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:</b> Pre-poll disputes are determined by the EMB; post-poll disputes are heard before three High Court judges, who constitute an Election Court.</p>
<b>Other issues:</b>	
<b>Secretariat</b>	<p><b>Administrative autonomy:</b> No, this autonomy is with the Ministry of the Civil Service.</p> <p><b>Women in senior positions:</b> Two of the five commissioners, the chief electoral officer and the senior executive officer, are women.</p> <p><b>Administrative structure:</b> The Commission is the policy organ with respect to the registration of electors and the conduct of elections. The cabinet secretary is the (equivalent of) permanent secretary, heading the administrative arm/secretariat (the Electoral Department). The Electoral Department is headed by the chief electoral officer (CEO) and assisted by a deputy and an assistant CEO.</p> <p>There are five main units or sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Registration Unit, responsible for national and electoral registration;</li> <li>• The Photography Unit, responsible for the production and delivery of Identification cards;</li> <li>• The Updating Unit, responsible for updating the Register of Electors after investigation and validation of registrations;</li> <li>• The Information Technology Unit, responsible for IT and geographic information service (GIS) matters;</li> <li>• The Administrative Units, responsible for human resources, procurement and accounting, and general administrative matters.</li> </ul>