

## Jamaica

<b>Background</b>	<b>Name of EMB:</b>	Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ)
	<b>Status:</b>	Permanent
<b>Establishment of the EMB</b>	<b>Number of commissioners:</b>	Nine
	<b>Number of full-time EMB staff:</b>	330 staff; permanently employed.
	<b>Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:</b>	The ECJ was established under The Electoral Commission (Interim) Act 2006. The Commission replaced the Electoral Advisory Committee (EAC) that had been established in 1979. Its substantive law is codified in the Representation of the People Act and the accompanying regulations.
	<b>EMB's mandate:</b>	<p>The ECJ's responsibility is to protect the electoral process from the immediate direction, influence and control of the government, which may influence its functioning to the detriment of persons with opposing views who may wish to participate in the process. Its mission is to conduct national elections so that no advantage is given to any party or individual contesting the polls, ensuring that the objective of 'one man one vote' is met under the six stated principles of universal adult suffrage. In addition to conducting general elections, by-elections, local government elections or referenda, the commission is responsible for compiling and maintaining the register of eligible electors; verifying the identity of every eligible elector; approving political parties eligible to receive state funding; and administering electoral funding and financial disclosure requirements. The commission also manages the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determining polling division and constituency boundaries;</li> <li>• using geographic information system (GIS) to record and define boundaries;</li> <li>• continuous registration of electors and residence verification of applicants;</li> <li>• printing and issuing voter ID cards;</li> <li>• conducting external elections for schools, universities, associations and organisations</li> <li>• recruiting and training election day workers;</li> <li>• producing and printing electoral maps for planning and general information;</li> <li>• voter education.</li> </ul>
	<b>EMB model:</b>	Independent

	<p><b>What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?</b></p>	<p>None specified</p>
<p><b>Appointment, tenure and removals</b></p>	<p><b>Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:</b></p>	<p>With respect to commissioners, the commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor-General in writing, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. four nominated commissioners – two members appointed on the advice of the prime minister and two members on the advice of the leader of the opposition;</li> <li>b. four selected commissioners are appointed by the Governor-General, after consultation with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition</li> <li>c. the director of elections is appointed on the recommendation of the eight commissioners appointed;</li> <li>d. the selected commissioners elect one of their number to be chair of the commission and so inform the Governor-General.</li> </ul> <p>With respect to senior staff, the commission recruits competitively.</p> <p>Mixed. The four nominated commissioners are representatives from the two major political parties.</p>
	<p><b>Political status of commissioners:</b></p>	
	<p><b>Chair qualifications:</b></p>	<p>The chair is elected from one of the four 'selected commissioners' and therefore satisfies qualifications as set out in the Electoral Commission Interim Act.</p>
	<p><b>Commissioner qualifications:</b></p>	<p>Same as above.</p>
	<p><b>Tenure of chair and commissioners:</b></p>	<p>Selected commissioners are appointed for a period of seven years and nominated commissioners for a period of four years.</p>
	<p><b>Provisions for the removal of commissioners:</b></p>	<p>The office of a member of the commission shall become vacant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. if he or she resigns;</li> <li>b. in the case of a selected commissioner, if his or her appointment is revoked by a resolution passed by the majority of all the members of the commission having a right to vote or a resolution of each house of parliament approved by not less than two-thirds of all the members of that house;</li> <li>c. if any circumstances arise that, if he/she were not a member, would cause him/her to be disqualified for appointment; and</li> <li>d. in the case of the director, if he/she is removed from office by a vote supported by not less than six commissioners, including at least three selected commissioners.</li> </ul>

	<b>Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff:</b>	With respect to senior staff, the commission recruits competitively.
	<b>Tenure of EMB senior staff:</b>	None specified
	<b>Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff:</b>	Provisions for removal of staff are set out in the staff orders for the public service.
<b>Funding arrangements</b>	<b>Setting and control of EMB's budget:</b>	Funding for the commission is administered by the Ministry of Finance and Planning.
	<b>Financial autonomy:</b>	Expenditure for the commission is guided by an approved budget.
	<b>Legal provisions for financial autonomy:</b>	None specified
<b>Electoral system</b>	<b>Number of chambers/houses within the legislature:</b>	Bicameral
	<b>Voting system:</b>	First-past-the-post
	<b>Amendments to electoral laws:</b>	While the commission makes recommendations for amendments to the law and drafts regulations, legislative authority is vested in the parliament.
<b>Electoral disputes</b>	<b>Drafting of electoral regulations:</b>	Yes and recommends to parliament for adoption.
	<b>Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:</b>	Any matter not covered in the electoral laws is resolved in the courts.
<b>Other issues:</b>		
<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Administrative autonomy:</b>	Yes, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Finance.
	<b>Women in senior positions:</b>	At the commission level, the sole female is the chairperson of the commission, while at the senior management level, five of nine members are women.
	<b>Administrative structure:</b>	The commissioners are the policy organ of the commission. The director of elections manages the operations of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (the operational arm of the commission) and reports to the commission. The electoral office is divided into three main departments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• administration;</li> <li>• field operations; and</li> <li>• information systems.</li> </ul>