

Kiribati

Background	Name of EMB:	Electoral Commission Kiribati
	Status:	Non-permanent
Establishment of the EMB	Number of commissioners:	Four Commissioners and the Chair.
	Number of full-time EMB staff:	One (Chief Electoral Officer). Electoral commissioners and others, such as electoral officers and polling staff, are involved during election periods.
	Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:	The Electoral Commission is established under Sections 62 and 99 of the Constitution of Kiribati.
	EMB's mandate:	<p>The responsibilities of electoral commissioners are spelled out in the Constitution of Kiribati and the Election Act in terms of their supervising the registration of electors, elections of Members of Parliament and referenda. In this regard they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct the election of the president under supervision of the chief justice; • at intervals of not more than four years, review the number of electoral districts, the boundaries of those district and the number of Members of Parliament to be elected to represent each electoral district; and • issue election notices. <p>Meanwhile, the Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publishing election notices; • providing nomination papers to candidates and assisting candidates, if required; • validating nomination papers according to the Election Act; and • publishing candidates' names.
	EMB model:	Independent
	What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?	None specified

Appointment, tenure and removals	Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:	Electoral Commissioners are appointed by the President, acting in accordance with advice from the Cabinet. The Chief Electoral Officer is appointed by the Minister under Section 99 of the Constitution of Kiribati.	
	Political status of commissioners:	None specified	
	Chair qualifications:	The Chair should be a judge or a magistrate.	
	Commissioner qualifications:	Not stated in law.	
	Tenure of chair and commissioners:	For five years from the date of appointment.	
	Provisions for the removal of commissioners:	The President may revoke the appointment of Commissioners if any circumstances arise.	
	Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff:	Election Act	
	Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff:	Senior staff are subject to the National Conditions of Service procedures.	
	Funding arrangements	Setting and control of EMB's budget:	This is carried out by the Chief Electoral Officer, the senior responsible officer from the ministry and the Ministry of Finance.
		Financial autonomy:	No: clearance from the senior responsible officer is required.
Legal provisions for financial autonomy:		None specified	
Number of chambers/houses within the legislature:		None specified	
Electoral system	Voting system:	Two-round elections. Candidates who receive 50 per cent plus one (a majority) of the votes are declared as MPs. The second round is necessary if no candidate in the first round receives a majority of the votes. In this case, the candidate who receives the highest score is declared.	
	Amendments to electoral laws:	The Chief Electoral Officer and Commissioners can propose amendments to the minister concerned to discuss in Cabinet. These may then be put into a Bill for approval during parliament.	
	Drafting of electoral regulations:	Yes, drafting goes through the same procedure as discussed above.	

Electoral disputes	Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:	The High Court deals with electoral disputes; these are not the responsibility of the Electoral Commission.
Other issues:		
Secretariat	Administrative autonomy:	No
	Women in senior positions:	One out of six electoral commissioners is a woman. The Chief Electoral Officer (Secretariat) is also female and 21 out of 23 appointed electoral officers are women during the most recent election.
	Administrative structure:	The commissioners are the policy organs; the Secretariat is the CEO. There are 23 electoral districts (local governments) that are headed by clerks, appointed by the CEO, as electoral officers before the election process. These officers deal with registration and the forms for nomination of candidates; they also supervise and conduct the elections, reporting to the CEO. In addition, electoral officers are responsible for appointing polling staff and assisting polling officers.