

Trinidad and Tobago

Background	Name of EMB:	Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC), Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
	Status:	Permanent
Establishment of the EMB	Number of commissioners:	Five: a chairman and not less than two nor more than four other members.
	Number of full-time EMB staff:	347
	Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:	The EBC is established under Section 71(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Its substantive law is the Representation of the People Act, Chap. 2:01 (ROP).
	EMB's mandate:	The EBC is mandated to register electors to vote at elections of Members of the House of Representatives, municipal councils and the Tobago House of Assembly, and conduct said elections. This includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the continuous registration of voters; b. publication of the Annual List of Electors on 1 July; c. delimitation of constituencies, cities, boroughs and municipal corporations and preparation and submission of relevant reports; d. the regulation of the process by which parties nominate candidates for elections; e. voter and civic education; f. facilitating the holding of elections; and g. reporting of elections held.
	EMB model:	Independent
Appointment, tenure and removals	What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?	See the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
	Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:	The chair and members are appointed by the president, after consultation with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition. Senior staff who are public officers are appointed by the Service Commissions Department of the Public Service Commission; EBC recruits senior contract positions competitively.
	Political status of commissioners:	The commission is an apolitical organisation.
	Chair qualifications:	This is within the purview of the president.

	<p>Commissioner qualifications: As above.</p> <p>Tenure of chair and commissioners: The chair and members of the commission are appointed for a period of five years and are eligible for re-appointment. Senior staff can remain in office up to the compulsory retirement age of 60 years.</p> <p>Provisions for the removal of commissioners: The chairman and members of the commission may be removed: where any circumstances arise that, if he/she were not a member of the commission, would cause him/her to be disqualified for appointment as such; for inability to perform the functions of his/her office (whether arising from infirmity of mind or body or any other cause); or for misbehaviour.</p> <p>Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff: Senior staff can be removed in accordance with the Public Service Commission Regulations, 1966.</p> <p>Tenure of EMB senior staff: None specified</p> <p>Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff: None specified</p>
Funding arrangements	<p>Setting and control of EMB's budget: The EBC submits its Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure to the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance, and thereafter receives its allocation annually.</p> <p>Financial autonomy: The EBC's financial autonomy is limited to expenditure as approved by parliament. The chief election officer, who is the accounting officer, is subject to the provisions of the Audit and Exchequer Act.</p> <p>Legal provisions for financial autonomy: Audit and Exchequer Act.</p>
Electoral system	<p>Number of chambers/houses within the legislature: The parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Voting system: First-past-the-post system (FPTP) voting is employed for all elections of Members of the House of Representatives, municipal councils and the Tobago House of Assembly. However, there is an element of proportional representation (PR) for the selection of Aldermen for municipal councils.</p> <p>Amendments to electoral laws: The EBC does not have the authority to amend electoral laws, but may be consulted by the Legislative Drafting Department of the Ministry of the Attorney-General when amendments are contemplated and submits its recommendations when necessary.</p>

	Drafting of electoral regulations:	The EBC does not have the authority to draft electoral regulations. However, the commission on its own initiative prepares draft proposals for legislative amendments and submits these to Cabinet for review.
Electoral disputes	Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:	Electoral dispute resolution does not fall within the purview of the commission. All disputes are handled via the courts.
Other issues:		
Secretariat	Administrative autonomy:	The EBC does not have the power to create, promote or abolish staff posts. Amendments to the staffing of the department must be approved by the Ministry of Public Administration before submission to Cabinet for final approval.
	Women in senior positions:	There is one female out of three existing members on the commission (33.3 per cent); at present there are two vacancies. Of the three senior positions in the department, one (33.3 per cent) is headed by a female.
	Administrative structure:	The commission is headed by a chair and four members; the chief election officer is the head of the department and reports directly to the commission. The chief election officer is assisted by the deputy chief election officer and assistant chief election officer, who are also subject to the direction and control of the commission with respect to the ROP. The department comprises ten sections, namely: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registration Services Unit; 2. Human Resource Management Unit; 3. Finance and Accounts Branch; 4. Boundaries Delimitation Unit; 5. Information Technology Unit; 6. General Administration and Facilities Management Unit; 7. Legal Services Unit 8. Research and Records Management Unit; 9. Communications and Public Relations Unit; and 10. Internal Audit Unit.