

Local

# Kuwait's 13th Municipal Council elections, step within country's democratic march

## 44 candidates vie for 10 seats in Saturday's vote

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's 13th Municipal Council elections take place on Saturday in yet another manifestation of democracy and a boost to role of civil society in development and advancement in the Arab Gulf country. Municipal elections are important because of the vital role of Municipal Council which formulates policies of Kuwait Municipality, particularly health, environment and urban development. Saturday's elections will feature 44 candidates including two women, running in 10 constituencies. The government will then appoint six members in the 16-seat Municipal Council.

Kuwait Municipality was established in 1930, during which Kuwaiti citizens had a chance to elect their representatives in the Municipal Council, a historic development within Kuwait community. Since its independence on June 19, 1961, the State of Kuwait witnessed 12 Municipal Council elections. The first was held in June 1964. This council, chaired by Mohammad Al-Adsani, lasted until May 14, 1966. This council did not complete its term because an Amiri Decree was issued on May 19, 1966 that dissolved the house and formed a committee, chaired by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Yusuf Al-Rifae, carrying out the Municipal Council's mandate

until 1972. The second elections were held in June 1972 with a turnout of 36.6 percent. Bader Yusuf bin Essa was elected chairman. He resigned and replaced by Abdulaziz Al-Adsani.

The third Municipal Council was elected in June 1976 with a voting turnout at 36.8 percent. Mohammad Al-Adsani was elected as chairman. The fourth Municipal Council was elected in June 1980 with a turnout of 36.1 percent. Abdulaziz Al-Adsani was elected chairman. However, the Council was dissolved on December 20, 1983. The fifth council was elected in January 1984 and lasted until August 1986. Dawood Al-Saleh was elected as chairman. The turnout in this election was 67.6 percent.

Elections for the sixth Municipal Council were held on October 4, 1993, the first following the liberation of Kuwait. Turnout was 47.9 percent and Mohammad Al-Shaye was elected as chairman. However, an Amiri Decree was issued on December 11, 1994 that dissolved the council. Elections for the seventh Municipal Council, which saw a turnout of 54.1 percent, were held on June 6, 1995. Abdulrahman Al-Houti was named chairman.

The eighth Municipal Council was elected on June 9, 1999. Turnout was 61.3 percent. Ahmad Al-

constituency which includes 14 schools. Nafisa bint Al-Hassan Girls School and Abdelwahab Abdelrahman Al-Fares boys school were also cleaned.

The public relations department at Kuwait Municipality announced that a field work plan about the preparations for the municipal council elections was prepared, and field teams were formed and distributed to the eight constituencies. The plan calls for increasing field tours for specialized teams to make sure about the necessary preparations that leads to easing the election process and serve voters be it by placing dumpsters inside and outside voting centers besides the cleaning process, removing abandoned cars that occupy parking places.

It said that supervisory teams assigned a supervisor at each school, five sweeping workers for each voting center with cleaning equipment and supplies, five dumpsters with a capacity of 240 liters inside each center, two dumpsters of 1,100 liters outside each school. It said the number of schools where voting will take place is 76, and the committees and sub-committees is 443 both for males and females.



### Council formulates Kuwait Municipality policies



**KUWAIT:** Members of the Municipal Council attend a session on May 16, 2022. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Adsani was elected chairman of council. The ninth Municipal Council was elected on June 2, 2005, which was the first time that women ran for council seats. Three days later, the government appointed two women as members of the council: Assistant Undersecretary at the Amiri Diwan Fatma Al-Sabah and Fawziya Al-Bahar. The 10th Municipal Council was elected on June 25, 2009 with a low turnout at 20.56 percent. Zaid Ayesh was elected as chairman.

The next elections for the 11th Council were held on September 28, 2013. On May 12, 2018, elections for the 12th Municipal Council took place, Osama Al-Otaibi was elected as council chairman. Women indeed ran for Municipal Council elections but were unlucky. However, the government appointed female members. Ashwaq Al-Mudhaf, Jenan Bushehri and Mona Buresli in 2009 and Maha Al-Baghli in 2018. —KUNA

## Municipality cleans up polling stations

By Yousuf Al-Mutairi

**KUWAIT:** As part of Kuwait Municipality preparations for the Municipal Council 2022 elections scheduled to be held Saturday, the supervisory team of the public cleanliness department at Jahra Municipality branch started a field tour Thursday at the eight constituencies that includes 10 polling schools.

The team cleaned Nouriya Al-Sabeeh Girls Secondary School and Saad Al-Abdallah Boys Secondary School from inside and outside in addition to yards and roads leading to the schools, to make it easy for citizens to cast their votes. 20 abandoned cars were removed, while all schools will be cleaned before voting day. The supervisory team of Mubarak Al-Kabeer moved to clean the schools of the ninth



## No changes from ministry on restaurant delivery charges

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The delivery fees of restaurants in Kuwait are still the same without any new increase, according to a government official. Restaurants are only allowed to charge 250 fils for delivery in the same area, and 500 fils to different area. Yet, some restaurants are charging higher prices, and many customers complained of being charged KD 2 and 3 for the delivery of their food.

The 500 fils and 250 fils charge was set by a decision that applies on all restaurants and no new changes were applied, said Mish'al Al-Manea, President of the Consumer Protection Association (CPA). "There is no exception for any far area no matter how far it is from the restaurant. The restaurant can only charge a maximum of 500 fils. If the restaurant had many customers in a far area, then they should open new branch there," Manea told Kuwait Times.

The delivery fees may be higher for other than restaurants delivery. "If the company was licensed as a restaurant, then they can't change the above-mentioned fix charge for their delivery. This rule is not applied on delivery companies. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is currently studying issuing a new law to apply the same rule on these companies. The law will be based on the verdicts issued by the court in this matter. This law is expected to be issued soon," he further said.



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