



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
GUIDELINES FOR THE
CLUSTERING OF
ESTABLISHED PRECINCTS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE MAY
12, 2025 NATIONAL AND
LOCAL ELECTIONS (2025 NLE)**

GARCIA , George Erwin M.	Chairman
INTING , Socorro B.	Commissioner
CASQUEJO , Marlon S.	Commissioner
FEROLINO , AIMEE P.	Commissioner
BULAY , Rey E. Bulay	Commissioner
MACEDA , Ernesto Ferdinand P.	Commissioner
CELIS , Nelson J.	Commissioner

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Promulgated: January 17, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 10965

WHEREAS, the final Project of Precincts (POPs) shall be prepared and submitted by the Office of the Election Officer (OEO) of each district/city/municipality after the last Election Registration Board (ERB) hearing set by the Commission for the 2025 NLE. The POPs shall be necessary for the printing and/or allocation of official ballots, election returns, other election forms, supplies, and paraphernalia and ballot boxes. It shall also be the basis in determining the number of Members of Electoral Boards (EBs), Department of Education Supervisor Officials (DESOs), their respective Support Staff, and Members of District/City/Municipal/Provincial/Regional Board of Canvassers (D/C/M/P/RBOCs) to be constituted and appointed; and

WHEREAS, circumstances, such as, the inadequacy or non-availability of public schools or buildings, which can be used as voting centers, and the unstable peace and order situation in critical areas identified by the Philippine National Police/Armed Forces of the Philippines (PNP/AFP), in addition to the lack of qualified individuals who may serve as members of the EBs, are reasonable grounds, which warrant the clustering of all established precincts nationwide to ensure the successful, credible, peaceful, cost-efficient, accessible and safe conduct of the 2025 NLE.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the virtue of the powers vested upon it by the 1987 Philippine Constitution, *Batas Pambansa Bilang 881*¹, Republic Act Nos. 8189², 6646³, 8436⁴, 9369⁵ and other election laws, the Commission *En Banc* **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to promulgate the following guidelines in the clustering of established precincts in connection with the 2025 NLE:

¹ **OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

² **AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A GENERAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, ADOPTING A SYSTEM OF CONTINUING REGISTRATION, PRESCRIBING THE PROCEDURES THEREOF AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR**

³ **AN ACT INTRODUCING ADDITIONAL REFORMS IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

⁴ **AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO USE AN AUTOMATED ELECTION SYSTEM IN THE MAY 11, 1998 NATIONAL OR LOCAL ELECTIONS AND IN SUBSEQUENT NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTORAL EXERCISES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

⁵ **AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8436, ENTITLED "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO USE AN AUTOMATED ELECTION SYSTEM IN THE MAY 11, 1998 NATIONAL OR LOCAL ELECTIONS AND IN SUBSEQUENT NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTORAL EXERCISES, TO ENCOURAGE TRANSPARENCY, CREDIBILITY, FAIRNESS AND ACCURACY OF ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMPANSA BLG. 881, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166 AND OTHER RELATED ELECTIONS LAWS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

ARTICLE I

INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1. ORIGINAL AND SPIN-OFF ESTABLISHED PRECINCTS. – Original or mother established precinct refers to the basic unit of territory established by the Commission for the purpose of voting⁶.

Spin-off or daughter established precinct refers to established precinct created to accommodate additional voters residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the original or mother established precincts⁷.

The subsequent use of the term “established precinct” in this Resolution shall mean to refer to either original/mother precinct or spin-off/daughter precinct.

SECTION 2. PROJECT OF PRECINCTS (POPs). – POP is a public document prepared by the Election Officer (EO) of a district/city/municipality, which contains data on the number of barangays, established precincts, clustered precincts, voting centers and voters. The names of barangays and voting centers and the latter’s addresses are also provided in the POP.

The clustering of established precincts shall depend on the clustering scheme approved by the Commission *En Banc* for a particular election.

ARTICLE II

CLUSTERING OF ESTABLISHED PRECINCTS

SECTION 1. GUIDELINES IN THE CLUSTERING OF ESTABLISHED PRECINCTS. - In the clustering of established precincts for the 2025 NLE, the following shall be observed:

- a. Each established precinct shall have no more than two hundred (200) voters and shall comprise contiguous and compact territories;
- b. An established precinct shall be allowed to have less than 200 registered voters under the following conditions:
 - 1) As soon as the 200-limit for every precinct has been reached, a spin-off or daughter precinct shall be created automatically by the Commission to accommodate voters residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the original or mother precinct. Thereafter, a separate list of new voters shall be prepared by the EO; and
 - 2) An island or group of islands with less than two hundred (200) voters may comprise one (1) original precinct.
- c. Only established precincts belonging to the **same barangay** and located in the **same voting center** shall be clustered together;
- d. The original/mother established precinct and its spin-off/daughter established precinct shall, **as far as practicable**, be clustered together;
- e. The territories of the mother/original established precincts to be clustered together shall, **as far as practicable**, be contiguous and compact;
- f. **Each clustered precinct shall have unlimited number of established precincts but not more than One Thousand (1,000) voters;**

⁶ Section 3 (j), Rep. Act No. 8189 (The Voter’s Registration Act of 1996)

⁷ Section 5, Rep. Act No. 8189

- g. Each established precinct in a cluster shall retain its individual precinct number, Election Day Computerized Voter's List (EDCVL), Precinct Computerized Voter's List (PCVL) and Book of Voters;
- h. Clustering of established precincts shall, as far practicable, **be uniform or evenly done**, to ensure that the voters shall be fairly distributed among the clustered precincts, resulting to equitable load among the Electoral Boards (EBs);
- i. In the clustering of established precincts exclusively for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Senior Citizens (SCs) assigned in Accessible Polling Places (APPs) and Indigenous People (IP) voters assigned to Accessible Voting Centers (AVCs), the clustering scheme provided in letter f hereof shall be adhered to, unless the Vulnerable Sectors Office (VSO) comes up with a separate clustering scheme for the purpose;
- j. In the clustering of IP precincts assigned in Separate Polling Places (SPPs), the provision of Resolution No. 18-1046⁸ dated November 7, 2018 shall apply unless the VSO comes up with new guidelines for the purpose;
- k. In the clustering of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) voters in regular polling places, the clustering scheme provided in letter f hereof shall apply. If PDL voters are assigned exclusively to one or more established precinct/s, they shall be clustered with established precincts composed of non-PDL voters and not with each other. **No clustered precinct shall be composed exclusively of PDL voters**; and
- l. In the clustering of established precincts composed of PDL voters in SPPs to be established in jails or detention facilities, the provision of Resolution No. 10768⁹ dated March 9, 2022 shall apply unless the VSO comes up with new guidelines for the purpose.

SECTION 2. SEPARATE POPs FOR THE SPECIAL GEOGRAPHIC AREA (SGA) OF BARMM AND DISTRICTS OF A CITY. – the following shall have separate POPs:

1. The SGA of BARMM composed of 63 barangays from North Cotabato (**Annex A**), Region XII; and
2. Each district of a city composed of multiple districts.

SECTION 3. PRECINCT ASSIGNMENT OF REACTIVATED VOTERS. – As a rule, a registered voter whose registration record has been reactivated shall be returned to the established precinct where he/she originally belonged. However, if the said established precinct already reached the maximum 200 voters limit, he/she may be assigned to the spin-off/daughter precinct, which belongs to the same territory.

SECTION 4. AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION. - The Commission shall have the authority to order the adjustment of the maximum number of registered voters per clustered precinct provided in Section 1 (f) hereof, as it may deem necessary based on existing reasonable grounds.

SECTION 5. ONSITE POP VERIFICATION. – Onsite POP Verification Teams (OPVTs) composed of personnel from the Election and Barangay Affairs Department (EBAD) and Information and Technology Department (ITD) shall be deployed to the Offices of the Provincial Election Supervisors (OPESs) to conduct verification of POPs for the 2025 NLE.

⁸ IN THE MATTER OF THE CLUSTERING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ESTABLISHED PRECINCTS UNDER THE EXISTING CLUSTERING SCHEME FOR THE 2019 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS (NLE)

⁹ GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS ON VOTING OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDL) IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 9, 2022 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS (2022 NLE)

Supervising Lawyers (SLs) from the EBAD shall also be deployed to supervise OPVTs, assist them in the verification process, ensure that the POP verification shall be finished within the given timeframe and that accurate electoral data shall be gathered on time. If necessary, lawyers from other Departments/Offices of the Commission may complement SLs from the EBAD. To maximize time and for economic reasons, each SL shall be assigned a group or cluster of regions to visit and supervise.

The Onsite POP Verification shall be conducted from **November 3 to 22, 2024**, inclusive of travel from Manila to the place of assignment and vice versa.

SECTION 6. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES. – In order for the EBAD personnel to avoid carrying voluminous records necessary for POP verification, the ITD shall provide a laptop to each EBAD personnel who will participate in the activity until the final electoral data is submitted to the Commission *En Banc* for its consideration.

SECTION 7. PURPOSE OF POP VERIFICATION. - POP verification is necessary in order to ensure:

- a. The preparation of accurate, updated, complete and final POPs nationwide;
- b. The deployment of sufficient number of ballot boxes, election forms, supplies and paraphernalia;
- c. The safe, honest and orderly conduct of elections by providing correct clustering of precincts in all voting centers;
- d. That all voters are accounted for and that all voting centers are correct and accurate to prevent disenfranchisement of voters on election day; and
- e. Compliance with the 200-limit rule and clustering scheme herein provided.

SECTION 8. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF POPs. – All OEOs shall prepare and submit the final POPs to the EBAD personnel conducting POP Verification in the OPES in accordance with the period provided in Section 5 hereof.

In the preparation of the POP, the EO shall be guided by the following in addition to those enumerated in Section 1 hereof:

1. The correct names of municipalities and barangays based on the Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC) master list previously disseminated to the field offices shall be reflected in the POP for the 2025 NLE;
2. The correct address of voting center as a result of the immediately preceding number shall be effected **WITHOUT** need of submission of a request for change/correction of address of voting center to the PVCD, EBAD, in accordance with Resolution No.10884¹⁰ dated January 25, 2023 or any approved amendments thereto in connection with the May 12, 2025 National and Local Elections (2025 NLE). **This rule shall NOT apply if the request includes a change/correction of the name of a voting center and/or the address of the voting center is wrong from the very beginning.** It shall ONLY apply to cases when a voting center follows the wrong name of the barangay where it is located and the correct name of the latter was based on the master list issued by the PSGC;
3. Established precincts already existing in the POP for the 2023 BSKE shall be retained in the POP for the 2025 NLE;
4. All established precincts shall NOT have more than 200 voters;

¹⁰ IN THE MATTER OF THE GUIDELINES AND DEADLINE IN THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR TRANSFER/CHANGE/CORRECTION OF NAME/ADDRESS OF VOTING CENTER IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 30, 2023 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAN ELECTIONS (2023 BSKE), MAY 12, 2025 NATIONAL, AND LOCAL ELECTIONS (2025 NLE) AND THE SUCCEEDING ELECTIONS.

5. Collapsing of established precincts due to minimal number of voters and merging of said voters to another established precinct shall NOT be allowed;
6. Transfer of one or more voters from one established precinct to another, unless done through administrative transfer, shall not be allowed;
7. To ensure the equitable distribution of voters per clustered precinct, the established precincts to be clustered NEED NOT BE IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER in the POP, so long as all the established precincts in a cluster belong to the same barangay and the same voting center;
8. The clustered number must be sequential, **as practicable as possible**;
9. The correct names and addresses of voting centers must be reflected in the POP. If the name and/or address of a voting center in the POP for the 2023 BSKE is/are erroneous, a request for change/correction thereof must be submitted to the EBAD within the period provided in the appropriate Resolution. **Change or correction of name/address of a voting center by the OEO without proper authority shall not be allowed**; and
10. The summary at the last page of the POP must correspond to the MANUAL COUNT of all the data in the POP as reflected therein.

Non-compliance with the foregoing shall be a ground for the EBAD verifier to invalidate the submitted POP and require the EO to submit an amended one.

SECTION 9. SUBMISSION OF VOTER'S POP AND VOTER'S DATABASES TO THE ITD. - The POP and Voter's Databases shall be submitted to the ITD personnel member of the Onsite Verification Team, who shall ensure that the data therein contained are the same as that in the print out POP verified and finalized by the EBAD personnel.

SECTION 10. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF POPs TO THE COMMISSION EN BANC. - The EBAD shall consolidate all POPs and submit the Regional, Provincial and OEO Summaries thereof to the Commission *En Banc* **on or before December 16, 2024** for its consideration.

ARTICLE III

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELECTION OFFICERS, PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISORS AND REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTION OFFICERS. - The EOs are mandated to conduct the INITIAL verification of their POPs, POP and Voter's Databases before submitting the same to the EBAD and ITD, respectively, during the Onsite Verification of POPs.

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTORS (REDs) AND PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISORS (PESs). - All REDs and PESs shall have the responsibility to closely monitor and supervise their respective EOs to ensure their strict observance to the provisions of this Resolution.

ARTICLE IV


PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

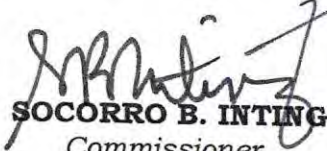
SECTION 1. PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION. - This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Commission *En Banc*. The Education and Information Department (EID) and the ITD are hereby directed to cause the widest

dissemination and posting of this Resolution in the official website of the Commission, respectively.

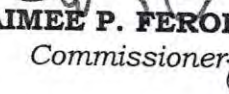
The Office of the Executive Director, Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations, Election and Barangay Affairs Department, Information and Technology Department, Finance Services Department, Education and Information Department, Offices of Regional Election Director, Offices of Provincial Election Supervisor and Offices of Election Officer shall implement this Resolution.

SO ORDERED.



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GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA
Chairman

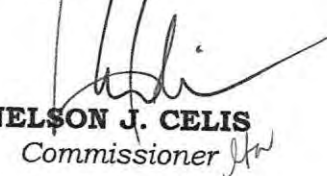

SOCORRO B. INTING
Commissioner


MARLON S. CASQUEJO
Commissioner


AIMEE P. FEROLINO
Commissioner



REY E. BULAY
Commissioner


ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR.
Commissioner


NELSON J. CELIS
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED for publication, January 17, 2024.


ATTY. CONSUELO B. DIOLA
Director IV
Office of the COMELEC Secretary

This Resolution can be verified at this number (02)8527-2987 and e-mail address at comsec@comelec.gov.ph