

Republic of the Philippines COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CONSTITUTION, COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD CANVASSERS (BOC); CONSOLIDATION / CANVASS; AND TRANSMISSION OF VOTES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 12, 2025 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS (NLE), AND BANGSAMORO **AUTONOMOUS** REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM) PARLIAMENTARY **ELECTIONS**

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Promulgated: January 22, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 11102

WHEREAS, Section 30 of Republic Act (RA) No. 8346, as amended by RA 9369 states that the Commission shall promulgate Rules and Regulations for the implementation and enforcement of said Act. Notwithstanding the canvassing procedure as enumerated in said Act, the Commission is authorized to prescribe other manner or procedure for the canvassing and consolidation of votes as technology evolves, subject to the minimum capabilities of the AES and other pertinent laws;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to its authority under the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code (OEC), Republic Act No. 8436 as amended by RA No. 9369, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections (Commission) RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES, to promulgate General Instructions on the Constitution, Composition and Appointment of the Board of Canvassers; Consolidation/Canvass; and Transmission of Votes/Canvass in connection with the May 12, 2025 National and Local Elections (NLE) and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Parliamentary Elections, to wit:

ARTICLE I CONSTITUTION, COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

SEC. 1. Scope. - These rules shall apply to the constitution, composition, and appointment of the Municipal Board of Canvassers (MBOC), City Board of Canvassers (CBOC), District Board of Canvassers (DBOC), Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBOC), and Regional Board of Canvassers (RBOC) for purposes of the May 12, 2025 NLE and BARMM Parliamentary Elections, except in the cases of local absentee voting and overseas voting, which are covered by separate resolutions.

- SEC. 2. Composition of the Board of Canvassers (BOC). There shall be a BOC whose members shall be appointed by the Commission in each municipality, city, district, province, and in the BARMM.
 - a. *MBOC*. The MBOC shall be composed of the Municipal Election Officer (Municipal EO) or a representative of the Commission holding a permanent appointment, as Chairperson; the Municipal Treasurer, as Vice-Chairperson; and the District School Supervisor, as Member-Secretary.
 - b. CBOC The CBOC shall be composed of the City Election Officer (City EO) or a lawyer of the Commission holding a permanent appointment, as Chairperson; the City Prosecutor, as Vice-Chairperson; and the Schools Division Superintendent, as Member-Secretary.

In cities within the National Capital Region (NCR) and other highly urbanized cities with more than one (1) City EO, the Regional Election Director (RED) shall designate the City EO who shall act as Chairperson.

In cities outside the NCR and with more than one (1) City EO, the Provincial Election Supervisor (PES) shall designate the City EO who shall act as Chairperson.

- c. DBOC for the Legislative District of Taguig-Pateros. The DBOC for the legislative district of Taguig-Pateros shall be composed of the City EO or a lawyer of the Commission holding a permanent appointment, as Chairperson; the City Prosecutor, as Vice-Chairperson; and the Schools Division Superintendent, as Member-Secretary.
- d. *DBOC for SGA* The DBOC for SGA shall be composed of the COMELEC Supervising Lawyer of SGA, as chairperson and two (2) other lawyers of the Commission, as Vice-Chairperson and as Member-Secretary.
- e. *PBOC*. The PBOC shall be composed of PES or a lawyer of the Commission holding permanent appointment, as Chairperson; the Provincial Prosecutor, as Vice-Chairperson; and the Schools Division Superintendent, as Member-Secretary;
- f. RBOC The RBOC for BARMM shall be composed of the Regional Election Director (RED) of BARMM, as Chairperson, the Regional Prosecutor of BARMM as Vice-Chairman; and a representative from the MBHTE with the rank of Bangsamoro Director General (Director IV), as Member-Secretary.
- SEC. 3. Boards for Newly Created Political Subdivisions. The RED concerned shall constitute the BOC and appoint the members thereof for the first election in a newly created province, city, or municipality in case the official members under Section 2 of this Resolution have not yet assumed their duties and functions. The PES of the newly created province, city, or municipality, as the case may be, shall, not later than three (3) days from the promulgation of this Resolution, submit to the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations (ODEDO), the names of the recommended officials for appointments as members of the BOC, subject to the approval of the Commission *En Banc*.
- **SEC. 4. Substitution of Chairperson and Members of the BOC**. In case of non-availability, absence, disqualification due to relationship, or incapacity for any cause of the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, the following shall appoint the substitute:

- 1. The PES, for the CBOC and MBOC in the province;
- 2. The RED, for the PBOC and DBOC in the region;

3. The RED of NCR, for the DBOC, CBOC, and MBOC in the region;

- The RED of Region IX and Region XI for CBOC of Zamboanga City and Davao City, respectively;
- 5. The DEDO, for the RBOC in BARMM.

In case of substitution of the Chairperson of the R/P/D/CBOC, an official or lawyer with permanent appointment of the Commission shall be appointed. In case of MBOC, a representative of the Commission holding permanent appointment shall be appointed.

With respect to the other members of the BOC, the following shall be appointed as substitute in the following order of preference:

In case of the RBOC:

- 1. The Next Ranking Official in the Office of the Regional Prosecutor;
- 2. The Next Ranking MBHTE Official in the Region; and
- 3. Any other available appointive regional official.

In the case of the PBOC:

- 1. The Provincial Auditor;
- 2. The Register of Deeds;
- The Clerk of Court nominated by the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court;
 and
- 4. Any other available appointive provincial official.

In the case of the CBOC, the officials in the city corresponding to those enumerated above.

In the absence or disqualification of the Vice-Chairperson of the MBOC:

- 1. The Municipal Administrator;
- 2. The Municipal Assessor;
- 3. The Clerk of Court of the Municipal Trial Court; or
- 4. Any other available appointive municipal officials.

In the case of the Member-Secretary of the MBOC, the District School Supervisor shall duly designate a substitute among the Principals in the district in accordance with their order of seniority in terms of rank.

As substitute of the two (2) members of the DBOC of Taguig-Pateros, the next ranking prosecutor or school's division superintendent in the district, as the case may be, shall be appointed.

All appointments for substitution shall be in writing, stating the reason/s for the substitution. Within twenty-four (24) hours from the issuance of the appointment, the issuing authority shall furnish copies of the appointment to the ODEDO and to the appointee.

SEC. 5. Officials in an Acting Capacity and Officers-In-Charge. - Officials designated in an acting capacity, officers-in-charge, or performing functions which involve

the exercise of discretion to the offices/positions enumerated by law as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Member of the BOC may be appointed thereto.

- SEC. 6. Secretary of the BOC. The District School Supervisor, or the next in rank Principal as substitute, and the Schools Division Superintendent, as the case may be, shall act as Secretary of the BOC, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. The Secretary of the BOC shall prepare the Minutes of Canvass (Annex "A") of the BOC by recording therein the proceedings and such other incidents or matters relevant to the canvass.
- **SEC. 7. Supervision and Control.** The Commission shall have direct control and supervision over the BOC and may *motu proprio* relieve, for cause, at any time, any member thereof and designate the substitute.
- SEC. 8. Consolidation and Canvassing System Operators (CCSO). Each BOC shall be assisted by an information technology-capable person authorized to operate the Consolidation and Canvassing System (CCS), to be known as the Consolidation and Canvassing System Operator (CCSO). The CCSO shall be designated by the Commission from among the deputized agencies and instrumentalities of the national government holding permanent appointments or COMELEC personnel holding permanent appointment.

The CCSO must not be related within the fourth (4^{th}) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the BOC or the Reception and Custody Group (RCG) or to any candidate whose votes shall be canvassed by the BOC where the CCSO is assigned.

The CCSO shall be designated by the PES concerned in the case of the MBOC and CBOC that are outside the NCR; and by the RED, in the case of the MBOC, CBOC, and DBOC in the NCR, SGA, Davao City, and Zamboanga City. The RED concerned shall designate the CCSO in the case of the PBOC in regions outside the NCR. The DEDO shall designate the CCSO in the case of the RBOC.

SEC. 9. Reception and Custody Group (RCG). - Each BOC shall constitute an RCG for the reception and safekeeping of the Automated Counting Machines (ACM) USB device, or CDs of the CCS and other documents intended for the BOC. There shall be one (1) RCG for every BOC.

The RCG shall be composed of three (3) members who are government appointive officials holding permanent appointments. They shall be designated by the concerned Chairperson of the BOC but shall not be related within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to each other or to the Chairperson or any member of the BOC, CCSO, or to any candidate whose votes will be canvassed by the BOC.

In no case shall Local Government Unit (LGU) employees be appointed or designated as RCG.

In cities with more than one (1) legislative district, one (1) RCG for every legislative district may be constituted.

SEC. 10. BOC Support Staff. - The BOC Chairperson shall appoint three (3) support staff to assist the BOC in the performance of its duties.

Plantilla casuals, contracts of service, job orders or permanent employees may be appointed or designated as BOC support staff, except employees of the LGU regardless of the nature of appointment.

The support staff shall not be related within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to the Chairperson or any member of the BOC, CCSO, RCG, or to any candidate whose votes will be canvassed by the BOC.

SEC. 11. Honoraria of the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, CCSO, RCG, and Support Staff. - The following shall be the honoraria of the pollworkers during canvassing, to wit:

Designation	Honoraria	
Chairperson, Members of the BOC, and CCSO	Php 16,000.00	
RCG	Php 12,000.00	
Support Staff	Php 7,000.00	

SEC. 12. Absence of a Regular Member of a BOC. - In case a regular member of the BOC is absent, the members present shall first verify whether notice has been served on the absent member. In case no such notice was sent, one shall be immediately served to the absent member. If the latter cannot be located or his or her whereabouts are unknown, the absent member shall be substituted in accordance with Section 5 of this Resolution. These facts shall be recorded in the Minutes of the BOC. As soon as the absent member appears, the substitute member's seat shall be relinquished in favor of the regular member of the BOC.

SEC. 13. Prohibited Degree of Relationship. - The Chairperson and Members of the BOC must not be related within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to each other, the CCSO, the RCG, Support Staff, or to any candidate whose votes will be canvassed by said BOC.

SEC. 14. Notice of Disqualification. - The Chairperson or any Member of the BOC who is disqualified to serve for any reason shall immediately notify in writing the appointing authority concerned, who shall in turn, immediately appoint a substitute in accordance with Section 5 of this Resolution.

SEC. 15. Prohibition Against Leaving Official Station. - During the period beginning May 12, 2025, until the proclamation of the winning candidates, no Chairperson, Member, or substitute member of the BOC shall be transferred, assigned, or detailed outside the official station nor shall leave said station without prior authority of the Commission under Section 223 of the Omnibus Election Code (OEC).

SEC. 16. Feigned Illness. - Any member of the BOC feigning illness in order to be substituted on election day until the proclamation of the winning candidates shall be guilty of an election offense.

SEC. 17. Incapacity of a Regular Member of the BOC. - In case of sickness or serious injury of a regular Member of the BOC, a medical certificate duly issued by any government hospital, shall be required attesting to the incapacity of said Member. Upon submission of the medical certificate, a substitute shall be appointed in accordance with Section 5 of this Resolution. Said medical certificate shall be recorded in and form part of the Minutes of the BOC.

SEC. 18. Quorum. - A majority of all members of the BOC shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its official business and to render a decision. In no case shall the Chairperson be absent.

SEC. 19. Insurance and Other Benefits of the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, CCSO, RCG, and their Support Staff. - Persons serving as Chairperson and Members of the BOC, CCSO, RCG, and their Support Staff shall be entitled to the following:

- a. Death Benefits The amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) shall be awarded to the beneficiaries of persons who died due to risks related to their function as Chairperson and Members of the BOC, CCSO, RCG, and Support Staff;
- b. *Medical Assistance* An amount not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) shall be awarded to persons who suffered injury or illness related to their abovementioned BOC function;
- c. Legal Indemnification Package An equitable legal indemnification package for the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, CCSO, RCG, and Support Staff who have been parties in any administrative, civil, or criminal action, suit, or proceeding by reason of or on the occasion of the performance of their duties during the canvassing of votes is hereby established in the form of:
 - i. Legal assistance;
 - ii. Lawyer's fees;
 - iii. Indemnification for legal costs and expenses reasonably incurred; and,
 - iv. Other forms of legal protection.

The legal indemnification shall not cover any action or suit initiated by the claimant in the latter's personal capacity or on behalf of the Commission, unless such action, proceeding or claim was authorized by the Commission.

- d. Funds for Legal Indemnification Package The amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) as legal indemnification package shall be made available to each claimant, subject to prevailing rules.
 - Committee on Claims and Assessment (CCA) Claims for death benefits and medical assistance shall be filed with the CCA through the EO (for CBOCs/MBOCs/DBOC of the 1st District of Taguig), Supervising Lawyer (for SGA DBOC); PES (for PBOCs), or RED (for RBOC).

Claims for legal indemnification package shall be filed with the respective agency/ies of the claimant/s or with the Commission in case of private persons.

If filed with the respective agency/ies of the claimant/s, the concerned agency may give a favorable recommendation to the CCA through the EO (for CBOCs/MBOCs) DBOC of 1st District of Taguig), Supervising Lawyer (for SGA DBOC); PES (for PBOCs), or RED (for RBOC).

The CCA shall be composed of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations as Chairperson and the Directors IV of the Law Department, Personnel Department, and Finance Services Department (FSD) as Members.

- ii. Legal Assistance Persons serving as Chairperson and Members of the BOC, CCSO, RCG, and Support Staff are hereby authorized to engage the services of a government or private lawyer immediately upon receipt of a notice that an administrative, civil, or criminal action has been filed against them, in relation to their canvassing duties and functions.
- iii. Lawyer's Fees In the engagement of the services of a government lawyer, no claims for lawyer's fee shall be awarded.

Should the claimant prefer to engage the services of a private lawyer, the Commission, upon the recommendation of the CCA or the concerned national government agency shall bear the reasonable lawyer's fees of the counsel of choice, which, in no case, shall exceed the maximum limit of the legal indemnification package herein provided; otherwise, the claimant shall bear the excess.

In the event that private lawyers accept the case "pro bono", no claims for lawyer's fees shall be awarded.

- iv. Legal Costs and Other Reasonable Expenses Legal costs shall constitute the expenses directly incurred by reason of the case, such as but not limited to:
 - a. Filing fees, if applicable;
 - b. Mailing;
 - c. Notarial fees; and
 - d. Gathering and photocopy of evidence.

A reasonable amount from the legal indemnification package shall be allocated by the Commission for the payment of the actual expenses incurred for legal costs and other reasonable expenses.

- v. Other Forms of Legal Protection. The claimant may avail of any legal protection and remedies available under existing laws by filing a request for legal protection with the CCA.
 - If, upon evaluation, the CCA finds the request to be meritorious due to existing or imminent threat, violence, harassment, or intimidation against the claimant or any immediate member of claimant's family, it shall recommend to the Commission En Banc, the deputation of law enforcement agencies to provide security to the claimant and/ or claimant's immediate family member within a specified period of time or until such time that the condition for the protection no longer exists.
- vi. Entitlement to Legal Indemnification Package. -The claimant shall be allowed reimbursement for reasonable legal expenses incurred if found not guilty of an election offense or exonerated from civil, criminal, or administrative case filed against him/her, in relation to canvassing duties and functions, subject to pertinent accounting and auditing rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit (COA).

SEC. 20. Reportorial Requirements. - Not later than February 3, 2025, all REDs shall submit to the ODEDO and FSD the following:

 List of names and their corresponding designations of the MBOC, CBOC, DBOC, PBOC, RBOC constituted in their regions;

2. List of names and addresses of the canvassing venue;

- List of names of the CCSO, arranged by province and by city, municipality, district, or region;
- 4. List of members of the RCG arranged by region, province, district, city/municipality, as the case may be; and
- 5. List of the names of their respective support staff.

The lists mentioned shall be accomplished in excel format (see format as **Annex "B"**) and submitted through email at odedo@comelec.gov.ph and fsd@comelec.gov.ph.

ARTICLE II GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 21. Notice of Meetings of the BOC. - Not later than May 5, 2025, the Chairperson of the BOC shall give written notice to its members and to each candidate, political party, or coalition of political parties fielding candidates and party, organization/coalition participating under the party-list system and parliamentary elections in the BARMM of the date, time, and place of the canvassing, which shall be held, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, in the session hall of the Sangguniang Bayan / Panlungsod / Panlalawigan or the Regional Assembly, as the case may be.

Notices of the canvassing shall be posted at the concerned Office of the Election Officer (OEO), Office of the Supervising Lawyer (OSL) in SGA, Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor (OPES), Office of the Regional Election Director (ORED) in NCR, Davao City, and Zamboanga City, ORED-BARMM, and in three (3) conspicuous places in the building where the canvass will be held.

Similar notices shall also be given for subsequent meetings unless notice has been issued in open session of the BOC. Proof of service of the written notice to each member, candidate, political party/organization/coalition participating under the party-list system, and parliamentary elections shall be attached in the Minutes and form part of the records of the proceedings. If notice is given in open session such fact shall be recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings.

Failure to give notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting of the Board (BOC) is an election offense under Section 261 (aa) (l) of the OEC.

- SEC. 22. Transfer of canvassing venue. If the designated canvassing venue is not suitable based on reasonable ground such as but not limited to (a) existence of violence; (b) security concerns in the area; (c) venue is under renovation or construction; or (d) such other justifiable reasons, the following procedures shall be observed:
 - i. What to File: A memorandum requesting for the transfer of canvassing venue containing:
 - a. The reason therefor;
 - b. The details of the original and the proposed canvassing centers;
 - c. Documentation to support the request; and
 - d. Additional details, if any.

- ii. Where to File: All requests for transfer of canvassing venue shall be sent to the ODEDO email: odedo@comelec.gov.ph, for recommendation by the Deputy Executive Director for Operations to the Executive Director for the latter's approval.
- iii. When to file: All requests for transfer of canvassing venue shall be filed not later than **January 31**, **2025**. Late submissions shall not be acted upon.
- iv. Criteria for the approval of the request: The venue where the canvassing may be transferred shall comply with the following criteria:
 - a. Located in a public building or if none is available, in a private building, provided that the latter must not be owned, leased, or occupied by any incumbent official or any person who is related to any incumbent official within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, or any officer of the government or leader of any political party, group, or faction, nor in any building or surrounding premises under the actual control of a private entity, political party, or religious organization;

b. As far as practicable, of sufficient size to admit and comfortably accommodate a reasonable number of persons;

- Located within the territory or jurisdiction of the receiving office as centrally as possible, and whenever possible, such location shall be along a public road; and
- d. Not located within the perimeter of or inside a military or police camp or reservation or within a prison compound.
- v. Upon approval of the request to transfer the canvassing venue, the concerned OEO/OPES/OSL/ORED shall post copies of the said request at the OEO/OPES/OSL/ORED and bulletin boards of the City/Municipal/Provincial/District/Assembly Hall for a period of five (5) calendar days from receipt of the notice of approval. Copies of such request shall likewise be furnished to the political parties, candidates, and citizens' arms of such locality.

The proof of compliance to the posting/notice requirement shall be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director.

- SEC. 23. Convening of the BOC. The BOC shall convene at one (1) o'clock in the afternoon on May 12, 2025 at the designated place to initialize the CCS and thereafter to canvass the electronically-transmitted Election Returns (ERs) or the Certificates of Canvass (COCs). The BOC shall meet continuously from day to day until the canvass is completed and may adjourn but only for the purpose of awaiting the other ERs / COCs.
- SEC. 24. Powers and functions of the BOC. The BOC shall have full authority to maintain orderliness within the canvassing room or hall including its premises and enforce obedience to its lawful orders. If any person refuses to obey any lawful order of the BOC or acts in such a disorderly manner as to disturb or interrupt its proceedings, the BOC may order in writing a peace officer to take such person into custody until adjournment of the meeting. In the absence of any peace officer, any other competent and able person deputized by the BOC in writing may execute such order.

Further, the BOC shall:

- 1. Canvass/ consolidate the electronically transmitted results;
- 2. Generate and print the COC, Certificate of Canvass and Proclamation (COCP), and Statement of Votes (SOV);
- 3. Digitally sign the reports;
- 4. Electronically transmit the results;
- 5. Proclaim the winning candidates; and
- 6. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Commission.

SEC. 25. Duties and Responsibilities of the Reception and Custody Group (RCG). - The RCG shall:

1. Receive from:

- a. The Electoral Board (EB), the envelope containing the ACM USB device labelled "TRANSMITTED" or "NOT TRANSMITTED" and the envelopes containing the printed copies of the ERs intended for C/MBOC;
- b. The P/D/C/MBOC, the envelope containing the USB device of the province/district/municipality/city CCS labelled "TRANSMITTED" or "NOT TRANSMITTED," and the envelope containing the printed copy of the COC intended for the R/P/DBOC.
- 2. Log the date and time of receipt of the envelopes containing the USB device and ERs/COCs, including the condition and serial numbers of each envelope and its corresponding paper seal, the precinct number, and the province/city /municipality/ district (Annexes "C" and "C-1");
- 3. Place the envelopes containing the ERs/COCs intended for the BOC inside the ballot box, then close and lock the same;

4. Mark/Indicate:

- a. In the Project of Precincts (POP), the corresponding precincts of the envelope containing the ACM USB device; or
- b. In the list of provinces/cities/municipalities, the corresponding BOC envelope containing the USB device of the CCS;
- 5. For purposes of manual uploading in the CCS, if applicable, immediately submit to the BOC after recording the data in Sec. 25.4, the envelope containing the ACM/CCS USB device with label "NOT TRANSMITTED". The ACM/CCS USB device with label "TRANSMITTED" shall likewise be submitted; and
- 6. Forward to the BOC, the ballot box containing the ERs/COCs and one (1) copy of the POP of the list of precincts or list of provinces/districts/cities/municipalities as marked in No. 4 hereof.

SEC. 26. Right to be present and to counsel during the canvass. - Each candidate, registered political party, or coalition of political parties fielding candidates and party, organization/ coalition participating under the party-list system and parliamentary elections in the BARMM has the right to be present and to counsel during the consolidation/ canvass of the ERs or COCs: Provided, that the counsel appearing must be duly appointed by the candidate, registered political party, or coalition of political parties fielding candidates, accredited political parties, organization/ coalition participating under the party-list system and parliamentary elections in the BARMM; Provided further that only one (1) counsel may argue for each party or candidate. They shall have the right to observe

the transmission, consolidation, and canvass of the ERs or COCs without touching the CCS, make observations thereon, and file their challenges in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission. The BOC shall not allow any dilatory action.

SEC. 27. Watchers; Qualifications and Disqualifications; Rights and Duties. - Each candidate, registered political party, or coalition of political parties fielding candidates and party, organization/ coalition participating under the party-list system and parliamentary elections in the BARMM, shall be entitled to one watcher in every canvassing center; Provided, that the candidates for the Parliamentary, Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Panlalawigan belonging to the same slate or ticket shall collectively be entitled to only one (1) watcher. There shall also be recognized six (6) principal watchers, representing the six (6) accredited major political parties, who shall be designated by the Commission upon nomination of the said parties. The duly accredited citizens arms, or other organizations with prior authority of the Commission, shall be entitled to two (2) watchers to serve alternately.

If the space in a canvassing center reserved for watchers is insufficient, preference shall be given to the watchers of the duly accredited citizens' arms, dominant majority and dominant minority political parties, as determined by the Commission.

No person shall be appointed as a watcher unless said person:

- (a) is a registered voter of the city or municipality;
- (b) is of good moral character;
- (c) has not been convicted by final judgment of any election offense or of any other crime;
- (d) knows how to read and write Filipino, English or the prevailing local dialect; and
- (e) is not related within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the BOC, CCSO, RCG, and support staff.

Under no circumstance shall barangay officials including barangay tanods be appointed as watchers.

Upon entering the canvassing venue, the watchers shall present to the Chairperson of the BOC their appointments and proof that they are registered voters of the city or municipality where they are assigned. Their names shall be recorded in the Minutes with a notation under their signatures that they are not disqualified to serve as such under the immediately preceding paragraph.

The watchers shall have the right to:

- Be present at the venue of canvassing and take notes of all the proceedings of the BOC;
- 2. Stay at the designated watchers' area; and
- 3. File a protest, in writing, against any irregularity noted in the consolidation/canvass of the ERs/COCs and obtain from the BOC a resolution thereon in writing.

Watchers shall not be allowed to participate in the deliberation and proceedings of the BOC at any given time.

SEC. 28. Submission of list of lawyers and watchers. The Chairperson of the BOC shall require candidates and political parties/organizations/coalitions participating in the party-list system and BARMM parliamentary elections to submit the names of their lawyers

and watchers who may be present at the canvassing venue not later than May 5, 2025, in person or through the official email of the Chairperson of the BOC.

SEC. 29. Persons not allowed inside the canvassing venue. During the canvass, it shall be unlawful for the following persons to enter the canvassing venue where the transmission, consolidation and canvass are being held or to stay within a radius of fifty (50) meters from such canvassing venue.

1. Any officer or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

2. Any officer or member of the Philippine National Police;

3. Any peace officer or any armed or unarmed persons belonging to an extra-legal police agency, special forces, strike forces, or Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGU), or its equivalent;

4. Any barangay tanod or any member of barangay self-defense units;

5. Any member of the security or police organizations of government agencies, commissions, councils, bureaus, offices, instrumentalities, or government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries; or

6. Any member of a privately-owned or operated security, investigative, protective or intelligence agency performing identical or similar functions.

However, the BOC may, whenever necessary, by majority vote, direct in writing for the detail of policemen or peace officers for their protection or for the protection of the machines, election documents and paraphernalia, or for the maintenance of peace and order, in which case said policemen or peace officers, who shall be in proper uniform, shall stay outside the room but near enough to be easily called by the BOC at any time.

SEC. 30. Issues that may be Raised During the Consolidation/Canvass. - Issues affecting the composition or proceedings of the BOC may be initiated by filing a verified petition before the BOC or directly with the Commission.

If the petition is filed directly with the BOC, its decision may be appealed to the Commission within three (3) days from receipt. However, if commenced directly with the Commission, the verified petition shall be filed immediately when the BOC begins to act illegally, or at the time of the appointment of the member of the BOC whose capacity to sit as such is objected to.

There shall be no pre-proclamation cases on issues/controversies relating to the generation/printing, transmission, receipt and custody, and appreciation of ERs or the COCs.

SEC. 31. Submission of the Minutes of Canvass of the BOC. - Immediately after the termination of canvass, the Member-Secretary of the BOC shall submit to the Chairperson a copy of the Minutes. Thereafter, the Chairperson shall, by registered mail or thru accredited courier services, submit to the Law Department of the Commission a certified copy of the Minutes of Canvass of the proceedings and shall notify, by the fastest means available, said department of the date and the manner of transmittal of the Minutes of Canvass.

In no case shall the Chairperson submit the Minutes of Canvass later than five (5) days after the termination of canvass.

ARTICLE III PROCEDURES FOR CANVASSING/CONSOLIDATION

- **SEC. 32. Preliminaries to Canvassing**. Before the canvassing begins, the BOC shall observe the following procedures:
 - 1. Show to the public and the watchers present that the CCS box is sealed;
 - 2. Remove the plastic seal of the CCS box;
 - 3. Open the CCS box;
 - 4. Check whether the following are inside the CCS box:
 - a. CCS laptop box, which contains:
 - i. Laptop;
 - ii. Secure Digital (SD) card (installed in the laptop);
 - iii. Power cable of the laptop; and
 - iv. Electrical adaptor of the laptop.
 - b. Resealable plastic pouch containing:
 - i. Three (3) envelopes with label for each BOC member. Each envelope contains:
 - 1. One (1) Username;
 - 2. One (1) USB security token;
 - 3. Two (2) Passwords:
 - a. One (1) username Login User Password to enter the system; and
 - b. One (1) security Token Password.
 - ii. USB modem with SIM card installed;
 - iii. USB extension cable;
 - iv. Gender USB cable;
 - v. Extra SIM card;
 - vi. Three (3) CCS USB devices;
 - vii. Checklist of the contents of the box;
 - viii. Plastic Security Seal to secure the CCS box after election day; and
 - ix. Memory Card Reader.
 - c. Extension Cord;
 - d. Printer box containing:
 - i. Printer;
 - ii. Pre-installed toner;
 - iii. Power cable of the printer; and
 - iv. USB cable to connect the laptop and printer.
 - i. Extra toner; and
 - j. Reams of paper.
 - 5. Retrieve the envelopes containing the system's username and password which shall be in the custody of the Chairperson of the BOC, and the USB tokens for each Member of the BOC which shall be distributed among themselves; and

- 6. Retrieve the CCS laptop from its box and place the CCS laptop properly on top of the table.
- SEC. 33. Procedures for Canvassing. Immediately after convening, the BOC shall undertake the canvassing procedures hereto attached as Annex "D."
- SEC. 34. Proclamation of the Winning Candidates A candidate who obtained the highest number of votes shall be proclaimed by the BOC, except the following:
 - 1. In case the candidate who obtains the highest number of votes has been disqualified under Section 1(c) of COMELEC Resolution No. 11046 by a final and executory Decision or Resolution after the elections and he/she obtains the highest number of votes cast for a particular position, the BOC shall not proclaim the candidate and the rule on succession, if allowed by law, shall be observed. If the winning candidate has been disqualified by a final and executory Decision or Resolution before the elections, the candidate who obtained the second (2nd) highest number of votes shall be proclaimed. In case the position does not allow the rule of succession under Republic Act No. 7160, the position shall be deemed vacant;
 - 2. In case the certificate of candidacy of the candidate who obtained the highest number of votes has been cancelled or denied due course under Section 1(a) of COMELEC Resolution No. 11046, for being void ab initio, by a final and executory Decision or Resolution, the votes cast for such candidate shall be considered stray, hence, the BOC shall proceed to proclaim the candidate who obtained the second (2nd) highest number of votes;
 - 3. In a single slot office, the following rules shall apply:
 - a. In case a candidate has been declared a nuisance candidate by final and executory Decision or Resolution, the votes cast for the nuisance candidate shall be added to the legitimate candidate who shares the same surname as the nuisance candidate and thereafter, the legitimate candidate who garnered the highest number of votes shall be proclaimed.
 - b. In case two (2) or more candidates having the same surnames, and thereafter all candidates, except one (1), have been declared by final and executory Decision or Resolution as nuisance candidates, the votes cast for them shall not be considered as stray votes and shall be credited to the lone remaining legitimate candidate of the same surname.
 - 4. In a multi-slot office, where the nuisance candidate and legitimate candidate share the same surname, the ballots must be inspected and the following rules shall apply:
 - a. In case a candidate has been declared a nuisance candidate by final and executory Decision or Ruling, the votes cast in favor of the nuisance candidate shall be added to the legitimate candidate who shares the same surname as the nuisance candidate, unless this results to double voting in favor of the legitimate candidate.
 - b. If it will result to double voting in favor of the legitimate candidate or if both the legitimate candidate and nuisance candidates are voted, the vote cast in favor of the nuisance candidate shall be considered stray.

- 5. In either single slot office or multi-slot office, in case there are two (2) or more candidates having the same surnames as the nuisance candidate, the votes cast for the nuisance candidate shall be considered as stray votes and shall not be credited to any legitimate candidate with the same surname;
- In case the nuisance candidate does not have the same surname as any legitimate candidate for the same position, the votes cast for the nuisance candidate shall be considered as stray votes;
- 7. In case the name of a candidate, with a pending case to declare him/her as a nuisance candidate, has already been printed in the official ballot, and such candidate files a sworn statement of withdrawal of his/her Certificate of Candidacy, the withdrawal shall not render the petition moot and academic. In such case, the Commission shall proceed to resolve the petition.

Provided that, in all instances where a Decision or Resolution of the Commission (either sitting in Division or En Banc) disqualifying a candidate or cancelling or denying due course a Certificate of Candidacy is presented before the Board of Canvassers, a Certificate of Finality issued by the Clerk of the Commission must be attached to said Decision/Resolution. Upon receipt thereof, the Chairperson of the Board of Canvassers shall verify if the presented Decision/Resolution and the Certificate of Finality are dulyissued by the Commission before the Clerk of the Commission by the fastest means available such as, but not limited to phone call, sending of electronic mail, etc.

Upon the verification that Decision/Resolution and Certificate of Finality presented are duly issued by the Commission, the BOC shall proceed to proclaim the duly-elected and qualified winning candidate.

A Decision or Resolution is deemed final and executory if:

- 1. in case of a Division ruling, no motion for reconsideration is filed within five (5) calendar days from the promulgation of the Decision or Resolution; and
- 2. in case of an En Banc ruling and no restraining order was issued by the Supreme Court, within five (5) calendar days from receipt of the Decision or Resolution.

Where a Petition to Deny Due Course or Cancel a Certificate of Candidacy, Declare a Nuisance Candidate, or for Disqualification remains pending with the Commission on the day of canvassing and no order of suspension of proclamation is issued by the Comelec En Banc or Division where said Petition is pending, the BOC shall proceed to proclaim the winner notwithstanding if there is/are pending case/s filed against him/her.

Three (3) days before the convening of the BOC, the Clerk of the Commission shall furnish the BOC concerned a list of final and executory case/s with restraining order.

In cases where the generated/printed COCP does not reflect the true winner for a particular position by reason of the circumstances stated in subparagraphs (K) (1) (2) and (3) of this section, the BOC is authorized to effect the necessary correction on the entry for said position to reflect the true winner as determined in accordance with the foregoing rules, provided all the Members of the BOC countersign such entry. Such fact shall be entered in the Minutes.

ARTICLE IV DISTRIBUTION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF CANVASS AND PROCLAMATION and STATEMENT OF VOTES

SEC. 35. Distribution of Certificate of Canvass (COC). - Upon completion of the canvass, the BOC shall distribute the COCs to the MBOC/CBOC/DBOC/PBOC and RBOC as follows:

Distribution	MBOC/CBOC/DBOC	CBOC with one (1) or more legislative districts/ PBOC/RBOC
1. For the PBOC for use in the canvass of election results for Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, Partylist groups, elective parliamentary officials in the BARMM.	One (1) Copy	N/A
2. For the Commission.	One (1) Copy	N/A
3. For the Chairperson of the BOC	One (1) Copy	One (1) Copy
4. For the Commission for use in the canvass of election results for Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, Partylist groups, elective parliamentary officials in the BARMM.	N/A	One (1) Copy
5. For the duly accredited citizen's arm designated by the Commission, to conduct an unofficial count. It shall be the duty of the citizen's arm designated by the Commission to furnish independent candidates copies of the COC at the expense of the requesting party.	One (1) Copy	One (1) Copy
6. For the Congress, directed to the President of Senate	One (1) Copy	One (1) Copy
7. For posting on a wall within the premises of the canvassing center	One (1) Copy	One (1) Copy
8. For the dominant majority and minority parties	One (1) Copy each	One (1) Copy each
9. For the accredited major national parties, excluding the dominant majority and minority parties, in accordance with a voluntary agreement among them. If no such agreement is reached, the	One (1) Copy each for Ten (10) accredited major parties	One (1) Copy each for Two (2) accredited major parties

to Section 52 (k) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881. Such citizens' arms, groups and organization may use the three (3) certified copies of the election returns for the conduct of citizens' quick counts at the local or national level Total Copies	One (1) copy each for the major citizens' arms, the accredited citizens' arm, and other non-partisan groups or organizations	One (1) copy each for the major citizens' arms, the accredited citizens' arm, and other non-partisan groups or organizations
including the accredited citizens' arm, and other non - partisan groups or organizations enlisted by the		
11. For the broadcast or print media entities as may be equitably determined by the Commission in view of propagating the copies to the widest extent possible 12. For the major citizens' arms,	One (1) copy each for Five (5) national broadcast or print media entities One (1) copy each for Two (2) local broadcast or print media entities	One (1) copy each for Two (2) chosen broadcast or print media entities
which parties shall receive the copies on the basis of the criteria provided in Section 27 of RA No. 7166 10. For the accredited major local parties in accordance with a voluntary agreement among them. If no such agreement is reached, the Commission shall decide which parties shall receive the copies on the basis of criteria analogous to that provided in Section 27 of Republic Act No. 7166.	One (1) copy each for Two (2) accredited major local parties	N/A

The M/C/DBOC shall print three (3) copies of the SOV by precinct to be attached to the COC intended for (1), (2), and (3).

The P/RBOC shall print three (3) copies of the Statement of Votes by City/Municipality to be attached to the COC intended for (2), (3) and (4).

The three (3) USB devices used to store and back-up the municipal/city consolidated results shall also be placed individually inside an envelope, duly sealed, and submitted to the Congress, Commission, and one copy to be retained by the Chairperson of the BOC.

The COC and Statement of Votes shall be signed and thumb-marked by the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, and the watchers, if available. Thereafter, all copies, with their respective supporting documents, shall each be sealed with a serially numbered

paper seal (CEF No. A12) and placed inside their corresponding envelopes. Each envelope shall likewise be sealed with a serially numbered paper seal.

SEC. 36. Distribution of Certificate of Canvass and Proclamation (COCP) and Statement of Votes (SOV). - The BOC shall generate and print sufficient copies of the COCP and two (2) copies of SOV to be distributed as follows:

A. For MBOC/CBOC -

- 1. Election Records and Statistics Department (ERSD);
- 2. For posting on the bulletin board of the municipal/city hall;

3. Chairperson, MBOC/CBOC;

4. Secretary, Sangguniang Bayan/Panlungsod;

5. Municipal/City Treasurer;

- 6. Winning Candidate for Mayor, Winning Candidate for Vice-Mayor; and
- 7. Winning Candidates for members of the Sangguniang Bayan/Panlungsod;

The copies of the COCP for (1) and (3) shall be supported by an SOV by precinct containing the total number of votes obtained by each candidate in each precinct and the grand total they obtained in the entire municipality/ city/ district. Said documents shall be signed and thumb-marked by the Chairperson and Members of the MBOC/CBOC.

Copies (1), (3), (4), and (5) shall be individually folded from top to bottom, sealed with serially-numbered paper seals (CEF No.12), and placed inside their corresponding envelopes, which shall likewise be sealed with serially-numbered paper seals.

The USB device used to back up the election return/ precinct consolidated results will be placed inside an envelope, duly sealed, and submitted to the PBOC.

- B. For DBOC / CBOC in Cities Comprising One or More Legislative Districts/Highly Urbanized Cities/ RBOC-
 - 1. For winning candidates for Member of House of Representatives:
 - i. To ERSD;
 - ii. For posting on the bulletin board of the city hall;
 - iii. To the Chairperson of the Board;
 - iv. To the Regional Election Director;
 - v. To the Secretary General of the House of Representatives; and
 - vi. To the winning candidates.

The R/D/CBOC comprising one (1) or more legislative districts, a copy of the SOV shall be attached to the copies of the COCPs for (i) and (iii). Copies (i), (iii), (iv), and (v) shall be individually folded from top to bottom, sealed with serially-numbered paper seals (CEF No. A12), and placed inside their corresponding envelopes, which shall likewise be sealed with serially-numbered paper seals.

The COCP shall be signed and thumb-marked by the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, and the watchers, if available.

- 2. For Winning Candidates for City Offices:
 - i. ERSD;
 - ii. for posting on the bulletin board of the city hall;
 - iii. Chairperson, CBOC;

- iv. Secretary of Sangguniang Panlungsod;
- v. City Treasurer; and
- vi. Each of the winning candidates.

The copies for (i) and (iii) shall be supported by an SOV by precinct. Copies (i), (iii), (iv), and (v) shall be individually folded from top to bottom, sealed with serially-numbered paper seals (CEF No. A12), and placed inside their corresponding envelopes, which shall likewise be sealed with serially-numbered paper seals.

The COCP shall be signed and thumb-marked by the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, and the watchers, if available.

C. For PBOC-

- 1. For winning candidate for Members of House of Representatives:
 - i. To ERSD;
 - ii. For posting on the bulletin board of the provincial hall;
 - iii. To the Chairperson of the Board;
 - iv. To the Regional Election Director;
 - v. To the Secretary General of the House of Representatives; and
 - vi. To the winning candidates.

SOV shall be attached to the copies of the COCPs for (i) and (iii). Copies (i), (iii), (iv), and (v) shall be individually folded from top to bottom, sealed with serially-numbered paper seals (CEF No. A12) and placed inside their corresponding envelopes, which shall likewise be sealed with serially-numbered paper seals.

The COCP shall be signed and thumb-marked by the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, and the watchers, if available.

- 2. For winning candidates of the provincial offices.
 - i. To the ERSD;
 - ii. To the Chairperson of the PBOC;
 - iii. To the Secretary of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan;
 - iv. To the RED; and
 - v. To each of the winning candidates.

The copies for (i) and (iii) shall be supported by an SOV by precinct. Copies (i), (iii), (iv), and (v) shall be individually folded from top to bottom, sealed with serially-numbered paper seals (CEF No. A12), and placed inside their corresponding envelopes, which shall likewise be sealed with serially-numbered paper seals.

The COCP shall be signed and thumb-marked by the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, and the watchers, if available.

D. For RBOC-

For winning candidates of the BARMM Parliament.

- i. To the ERSD;
- ii. To the Chairperson of the RBOC;
- iii. To the Secretary-General of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority;
- iv. To the Deputy Executive Director for Operations; and
- v. To each of the winning candidates.

The copies for (i) and (iii) shall be supported by an SOV by precinct. Copies (i), (iii), (iv), and (v) shall be individually folded from top to bottom, sealed with serially-numbered paper seals (CEF No. A12), and placed inside their corresponding envelopes, which shall likewise be sealed with serially-numbered paper seals.

The COCP shall be signed and thumb-marked by the Chairperson and Members of the BOC, and the watchers, if available.

ARTICLE V POST CANVASSING PROCEDURES

- SEC. 37. Delivery of the Certificate of Canvass (COC). The Chairperson of the BOC shall personally deliver by fastest means the hard copies of COCs and SOVs including the back-up USB devices to the following:
 - A. In case of MBOC/CBOC: To the PBOC, a copy of the COC for Senators, Party-list groups, Members of the House of Representatives, Governor, Vice-Governor and Sangguniang Panlalawigan;
 - B. In case of PBOC, CBOC in cities comprising two (2) or more legislative districts, and DBOC: To the Commission sitting as the NBOC for Senators and Party-list groups;
- SEC. 38. Safekeeping of hard copies of ERs or COCs, backup USB devices and CCS. The BOC shall place the ERs/COCs in ballot boxes that shall be locked with three (3) padlocks and one (1) serially-numbered self-locking seal. The Members of the BOC shall each keep a key to the three (3) padlocks. The serial number of every seal used shall be entered in the Minutes.

The said ballot boxes shall be kept in a safe and secured room before, during, and after the canvass. The door to the room shall be locked with three (3) padlocks with the keys thereof kept by each Member of the BOC.

The watchers shall have the right to guard the room.

ARTICLE VI ELECTION OFFENSES; ELECTORAL SABOTAGE

- SEC. 39. Election Offenses; Electoral Sabotage. In addition to the prohibited acts and election offenses mentioned herein and those enumerated in Sections 261 and 262 of the OEC, as amended, the following shall be guilty of an election offense:
 - 1. Any person who removes the COC posted on the wall, whether within or after the prescribed forty-eight (48) hours of posting, or defaces the same in any manner;
 - 2. Any person who simulates an actual COC or SOV, or a printed or digital copy thereof;
 - 3. Any person who simulates the certification of a COC or SOV;
 - 4. The Chairperson or any Member of the BOC who, during the prescribed period of posting, removes the COC from the wall on which they have been posted other than for the purpose of immediately transferring them to a more suitable place;

5. The Chairperson or any Member of the BOC who signs or authenticates the COC or its supporting SOV outside of the canvassing venue;

6. The Chairperson or any Member of the BOC who signs or authenticates a print which bears an image different from the COC or SOV produced after canvassing and posted

on the wall and

7. Any person or Member of the BOC who tampers, increases or decreases the votes received by a candidate in any election or any Member of the BOC who refuses, after proper verification and hearing, to credit the correct votes or deduct such tampered votes: Provided, however, that when the tampering, increase or decrease of votes, or the refusal to credit the correct votes and/or to deduct tampered votes are perpetrated on a large scale or in substantial numbers, the same shall be considered not as an ordinary election offense under Section 261 and/or 262 of the OEC but a special election offense to be known as Electoral Sabotage.

The act or offense committed shall fall under the category of Electoral Sabotage in any of the following instances:

- 7.1. When the tampering, increase and/or decrease of votes perpetrated or the refusal to credit the correct votes or to deduct tampered votes, is/are committed in the election of a national elective office which is voted upon nationwide and the tampering, increase and/or decrease of votes, refusal to credit the correct votes or to deduct tampered votes, shall adversely affect the results of the election to the said national office to the extent that the losing candidate/s is/are made to appear the winner/s;
- 7.2. Regardless of the elective office involved, when the tampering, increase and/ or decrease of votes committed or the refusal to credit the correct votes or to deduct tampered votes perpetrated, is accomplished in a single election document or in the transposition of the figures/results from one (1) election document to another and involved in the said tampering increase and/or decrease or refusal to credit correct votes or deduct tampered votes exceed five thousand (5,000) votes, and that the same adversely affects the true results of the election; and
- 7.3. Any and all other forms of tampering, increase and/or decrease of votes perpetuated or in cases of refusal to credit the correct votes or deduct the tampered votes, where the total votes involved exceed ten thousand (10,000) votes.

Any and all other persons or individuals determined to be in conspiracy or in connivance with the Members of the BOC involved shall also be held liable for Electoral Sabotage.

ARTICLE VII EFFECTIVITY AND DISSEMINATION

- SEC. 40. Publication and Effectivity. This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day following its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.
- SEC. 41. Dissemination. The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the

Philippines and to furnish the Department of Justice, Department of Education, Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, the Department of Finance, all REDs, PESs and EOs, and the City / Municipal Treasurers with copies of the Resolution. This Resolution shall likewise be posted in the COMELEC website.

SO ORDERED.

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 22, 2025.

Director IV

Office of the Commission Secretary

This Resolution can be verified at this number (02)85272987; email address comsec@comelec.gov.ph