

**Around Bahrain**



In pictures are scenes from polling stations around the Kingdom



Voters waiting in queue for their turn in Muharraq



People waiting to vote in Riffa



A polling and counting centre close gates at 8pm yesterday



An elderly voter on his way to a polling booth



Officials secure the ballot boxes after voting yesterday



Vote for Bahrain

# High turnout

● No cyberattacks yesterday, says Justice minister

● Elderly people turned out in large numbers

● Long queues sighted before voting began

● Turnout in the first round on November 12 was 73%

**Zahra Ayaz**  
TDT | Manama

Thousands of Bahrainis exercised their political rights yesterday, expressing high hopes and confidence in the incoming Parliament and municipal councils as the government machinery came out in full swing, ensuring a hassle-free polling experience.

“Vote.bh or any other government websites didn’t face any challenges yesterday and functioned smoothly,” said the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Nawaf bin Muhammad Al-Maawda.

“Security was tight, and we had no challenges yesterday, unlike in the first round of voting when cybercriminals targeted election pages,” said Al Maawda.

The minister also announced witnessing long queues at the booths well before polling began, with elderly voters dominating the initial hours.

People were seen patiently waiting for their turn in long queues while maintaining social distancing, with them also expressing their satisfaction at the



Speaker Fawzia Zainal

Ibrahim Humaidan, EWA Minister



Minister of Justice, Nawaf bin Muhammad Al-Maawda



Electoral campaign team of Ibrahim Al-Nafi'i, a candidate in Muharraq Governorate, presented flowers to voters



Polling station at the Bahrain International Airport

hassle-free election process after casting votes.

When asked if a candidate or a person working for a candidate is in custody, the ministry said that the Supreme Elections Committee is concerned with crimes inside the polling centres.

“Those creating violations inside the polling centres will face Public Prosecution,” the minister stressed.

Tribune also talked to voters at various polling stations to learn about their experiences and expectations.

Nasser Al Rayedh, told Tribune: “We have a number of candidates who have made significant contributions in a variety of sectors, and I am confident that the incoming Parliament will be the most effective and accountable to the people

in history. I feel very proud to be a part of the democratic system.”

Another voter, who does not want to identify himself, said, “I am hopeful that almost all citizens would cast their democratic rights, for it is their important duty to elect their representatives.”

“I feel happy to come here and knowing maybe my one vote can change the dynamic, it is great to participate and let all perform this duty effectively and wisely so that we have the best policy-makers who can serve good to the citizens.”

**Started @ 8am**

In an interim statement, the National Civil Team for Monitoring the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections confirmed

the starting of the voting process in all governorates at 8 am.

**Transparent ballot boxes**

The officials also confirmed clearing all ballot boxes before voting began. “Since the ballot boxes are transparent, voters could easily see what is inside them.”

The Daily Tribune also witnessed organisers at the voting stations assisting the elderly cast their votes. The sub-polling station in the fifth constituency in Muharraq allocated wheelchairs.

After voting at Al Taiwan Secondary School for Boys, former independent

## Ballot without barriers

TDT | Manama

Voting empowers the common man and boosts the health and economic vitality of communities.

The sight yesterday of people - thousands of them - queuing up under the scorching sun, even in their wheelchairs, to exercise their democratic rights, stays as direct proof of this notion.

If asked, “What were the most remarkable images of the 2022 parliamentary and municipal elections in Bahrain?” The answer definitely is those people confidently casting their votes, despite being confined to their wheelchairs.

Not one, but there were many such scenes happening in polling stations across the Kingdom yesterday.

One of the voters told Tribune, sitting in a wheelchair. “The arrangements were very good. I voted for change.”

Another said, “I have voted every time and also appeals to others to vote as well.” Assisting them at the booths were police and community police officers.

They promptly helped those people as they rolled into the polling stations.

Officials also ensured their parking in the vicinity before taking them inside.

Officials also arranged wheelchairs for people whenever needed. Finally, as they rolled into the booths, judges or their assistants walked up to them and helped them in every possible way.

Bahrain yesterday made efforts to draw maximum participation from people with



From polling stations



disability to exercise their voting rights.

Voting for them, a person, who was not to be identified, said, usually is a painful process in many places around the world.

“In Bahrain, this definitely wasn’t the case.”

“The scenes here were encouraging and confident-inspiring. These are sights to cherish forever.”

Similar scenes were in the first round of voting too. A person even came to vote with an oxygen tank in one hand and a passport in another.