

**Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**  
**Amended Law on Municipalities 2015**  
*Law N<sup>o</sup>. 41 of 2015<sup>1 2</sup>*

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**Article 1** – This Law shall be called the “Law on Municipalities of 2015” and shall enter into effect as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.<sup>3</sup>

**Article 2** – The following words and expressions, wherever they appear in this Law, shall have the meanings ascribed to them hereunder, unless the context indicates otherwise:

*Ministry:* The Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

*Minister:* The Minister of Municipal Affairs, and the Prime Minister with regard to Greater Amman Municipality (GAM).

*Council:* Municipal Council or Municipality Committee formed in accordance with the provisions of this Law, or the interim committees at the level of the area of the Municipality, Greater Amman Municipality or Jerusalem Mayoralty Council.

*Local Council:* Local Council elected or the electoral district in Greater Amman Municipality in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

*Mayor:* Head of the Municipality or Head of the Municipality Committee, Mayor of Amman or Mayor of Jerusalem.

*Manager:* Executive Manager of the Municipality, who is appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

*Executive Council:* The Executive Council of the governorate established in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation.

*Administrator:* The Governor (*Muhafedh*), County Executive (*Motasarif*) or District Administrator (*Mudir Al-Qada*), appointed in accordance with the provisions of the By-law on Administrative Formations.

*Commission:* The Independent Election Commission (IEC).

*Board of Commissioners:* The Board of Commissioners of the Commission.

*Department:* The Civil Status and Passports Department, its directorates in the governorates and its offices (CSPD).

*Card:* The personal identification card issued by the Department.

*Indebted:* Any person who has financial obligations owing to the Municipality in accordance with the provisions of this Law or any other legislation.

*Resident:* A person who usually resides within the boundaries of the Local Council even if he/she has a house somewhere else where he/she occasionally resides, under the condition that the person’s right to vote shall not be exercised in more than one Municipality area or Local Council.

*Voter:* A person who has the right to vote in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article 3**

A. The Municipality is a civic institution that has legal personality and financial and administrative independence. Its boundaries, functions and powers are specified, cancelled and designated in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

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<sup>1</sup> This is an unofficial translation prepared by the Support to the Electoral Cycle in Jordan Project, which is funded by the European Union and UNDP. The original Arabic version is at <https://iec.jo/sites/default/files/MunicipalLaw.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> The Law on Municipalities N<sup>o</sup>. 41 of 2015 was published in the Official Gazette N<sup>o</sup>. 5363 page 8244 on 18 October 2015 and was amended by the Amended Law on Municipalities N<sup>o</sup>. 14 of 2017 which was published in the Official Gazette N<sup>o</sup>. 5460 on 16 May 2017.

- B. (i) With the exception of Greater Amman Municipality, the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) and the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), the Municipality shall be managed by a Municipal Council consisting of the Mayor, chairs of the Local Councils and a number of members of these Local Councils who have won the highest number of votes. The number of members in the Municipal Council shall be specified in a decision issued by the Minister and published in the Official Gazette, on the condition that the number of Council members is no less than seven including the Mayor.
- (ii) The municipality area may be divided into Local Councils in a decision issued by the Minister and published in the Official Gazette. The decision shall also specify the boundaries of the Local Council and the number of members elected to it, on the condition that they are not less than five. The member who received the highest number of votes shall be the chair of the Local Council.
- (iii) If the municipality area is not divided into Local Councils, the Municipality will be managed by a Municipal Council consisting of a Mayor and a number of members to be specified by the Minister in a decision that is published in the Official Gazette.
- C. (i) The Council of Ministers shall divide Greater Amman Municipality into electoral districts and shall specify them and the number of elected members in each district by a decision.
- (ii) Greater Amman Municipality shall be managed by a council. The Council of Ministers shall specify its members on condition that 75 per cent of members are directly elected. The remaining number shall be appointed by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon recommendation of the Minister.
- (iii) The Council of Ministers shall appoint the Mayor of Amman from amongst the members of the Greater Amman Municipality Council upon the recommendation of the Minister.

#### Article 4

- A. (i) The Municipal Council shall convene at the Municipality building for an ordinary session at least once a week at the invitation of the Mayor or his/her deputy in case he/she is absent, with the exception of the Council of Greater Amman Municipality, which shall convene at least once a month.
- (ii) The Mayor may invite the Municipal Council to convene for an extraordinary session on the condition that the invitation lists the only topics to be discussed.
- (iii) At least one third of the Municipal Council's members may ask the Mayor to hold an extraordinary session on the condition that the request includes the only topics to be discussed. The Mayor shall send the invitation and hold this session within one week as of the date the request was submitted.
- (iv) The members of the Municipal Council shall be informed about the date of each session and its agenda at least one day before it is held. The date and the agenda shall be announced in a visible place at the Municipality building. No topic outside the agenda may be discussed.
- (v) If the Mayor or his/her deputy is absent, the oldest member in attendance shall chair the session.
- (vi) The Municipal Council sessions shall be public and every citizen with a direct interest in any topic listed on the agenda may participate in the discussions on that topic on the condition that the decisions are made in a confidential meeting. Confidential sessions may also be held for the topics deemed necessary by the Municipal Council.
- (vii) The decisions of the Municipal Council and the proceedings of the sessions shall be recorded in minutes of the meeting that shall be signed by the Mayor and the members.
- (viii) The quorum for a meeting of the Municipal Council shall be the majority of its members. If this quorum is not met in two consecutive sessions, the third session shall be considered legal on the condition that no less than one third of the Council's members are present.

- (ix) The decisions of the Municipal Council are made by consensus or the majority of the votes of the members in attendance. In case of a tie, the side for which the chair of the session voted shall prevail. Any member in opposition must outline the reasons for his/her opposition in writing.
  - (x) The Municipal Council may form committees from amongst its members to address any of the issues brought to its attention. The committees' recommendations shall come into force as soon as they are approved by the Municipal Council.
- B. The Local Council shall convene at least once a week and it shall be subject to the provisions stipulated in paragraph A of this Article.
- C. If the municipality area is not divided into Local Councils, the Municipal Council and its Mayor shall undertake all duties with which the Local Council and its chair are mandated.

#### Article 5

- A. Taking into account the provisions of the applicable legislation, the Municipal Council shall be mandated with the following functions, authorities and powers within the boundaries of the municipality area:
- (i) Approve the balance sheet and the annual budget of the Municipality and have it endorsed by the Minister.
  - (ii) Prepare strategic and development plans and the needs assessment document for the municipality area and its priorities among them, and submit them to the Executive Council.
  - (iii) Develop programmes and follow up on their implementation to achieve sustainable development with the participation of local communities; manage all local services, facilities and projects it is mandated with through its staff and contractors, or jointly with other Municipalities or any other competent entity or through establishing companies owned by the Municipalities, either alone or in cooperation with the private sector, along with local community organisations on condition of the Minister's prior approval of this.
  - (iv) Create and endorse development projects that benefit the population of the municipality area, and submit them to the Executive Council.
  - (v) Carry out municipal planning, which includes constructing, cancelling and modifying streets, identifying their length and width, paving and asphaltting them, constructing pavements, maintaining, cleaning and lighting streets, giving them names or numbers, numbering their buildings, embellishing and landscaping them and preventing any encroachments onto them.
  - (vi) Monitor open lands and request their owners to build fences around them, taking all necessary measures to protect the streets and roads.
  - (vii) Coordinate with the concerned authorities to identify locations of schools and places of worship and maintain them.
  - (viii) Coordinate with the concerned authorities to manage and organise water supply to inhabitants and prevent the pollution of springs, canals, basins and wells.
  - (ix) Coordinate with the concerned authorities on the management of power and gas supply to the inhabitants and participating in identifying sites of transfer plants.
  - (x) Coordinate with the concerned authorities to establish, manage and monitor sanitation systems and lavatories.
  - (xi) Establish and organise public markets and identify the types of goods sold in each of them or prohibit their sale outside of them.
  - (xii) Organise crafts and industries and identify locations for each of them as well as monitor shops and businesses that cause disturbance or are harmful to public health, in coordination with the Administrator.
  - (xiii) Contribute to the upgrading of public transport networks within the boundaries of the Municipality; establish, identify and organise stops for public transport vehicles and identify

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their routes; participate in specifying their tariffs when necessary within the boundaries of the Municipality, taking into account the provisions of the other laws.

- (xiv) Communicate with the Executive Council on reports submitted to it by the Local Councils on the performance of the public facilities within its area.
- (xv) Establish squares, gardens, parks, hammams, and areas for swimming.
- (xvi) Take precautions to prevent fires, in coordination with the Administrator.
- (xvii) Take precautions to prevent damage caused by flooding, flash floods and snow; contribute to relief for victims of fires, floods, earthquakes and other disasters and collect and distribute donations to them; contribute to the establishment of public shelters, designate their locations and take the necessary measures to protect the lives of citizens, in coordination with the competent authorities.
- (xviii) Take all precautions and measures necessary to maintain public health and prevent epidemics, in coordination with the competent authorities; contribute to the development of public hospitals and health clinic projects as well as other health facilities.
- (xix) Establish museums, public libraries and cultural, sporting, social and art clubs.
- (xx) Establish slaughterhouses and markets for the sale of animals, livestock and birds; examine those to be slaughtered and take precautions to prevent their affliction with diseases.
- (xxi) Recycle, treat and dump waste and designate the financial costs for this.
- (xxii) Determine locations and specifications for cemeteries, establish them and preserve their sanctity, transport and bury deceased persons and suspend burials there, in coordination with the competent authorities.
- (xxiii) License signboards and advertisements and designate their financial costs.
- (xxiv) Take the necessary decisions to demolish dilapidated buildings that might fall down; take the necessary decisions regarding buildings that are a danger to public health or those which produce bad and harmful odours, after notifying their owners, occupants or those responsible for these buildings.
- (xxv) Monitor scales and weights in public markets, outside of shops and warehouses.
- (xxvi) Manage the Municipality's property and funds, and spend from those funds to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Municipality; construct needed buildings on land owned by the Municipality and rent, mortgage, sell and donate them, and purchase other buildings in compliance with the provisions of this Law; accept endowments, bequests and donations, on the condition that they are approved by the Council of Ministers in case that they come from a non-Jordanian source.
- (xxvii) Invest the movable and immovable properties of the Municipality and designate the fees for their investment; provide an investment-friendly environment by removing any impediments to investment; encourage competition in the practice of economic activities by simplifying procedures to ensure the best use of resources.
- (xxviii) Contribute to servicing and decide on the management, utilization and investment of tourist and heritage facilities within the municipality area.
- (xxix) Organise and specify the opening and closing times of restaurants, cafes, clubs, playgrounds, theatres, cinemas, and public amusement parks.
- (xxx) Enter into contracts with other Municipalities and entities; undertake all other actions that must be taken pursuant to this Law or any other legislation.

B. The Municipal Council may conduct the tasks and functions mentioned above directly through its employees or in partnership with other Municipalities or other competent authorities, or may delegate some or all of them to other contractors.

C. The employees named by the Minister upon the recommendation of the Mayor shall be considered members of the judicial police pursuant to the provisions of the applicable Criminal Procedural Law.

- D. The Municipal Council may, with the approval of the Minister, delegate any of its powers or functions to any Local Council pursuant to the requirements of the public interest, on the condition that the authorisation is specific and time bound.
- E. If a government department or any other entity undertakes any of the functions listed in paragraph A of this Article as part of its work, this shall be done in coordination with the Municipality.
- F. The Municipal Council may impose fees on the vegetables and fruits sold in the markets, as well as for the works and items listed in this Article. The amount of the fees or percentages, as well as the means of collecting them, shall be specified in accordance with the regulations issued for this purpose.
- G. (i) The Council of Ministers may issue the necessary by-laws in accordance with which the Municipal Council may charge fees for opening roads or paving them for the first time, to be paid by the owners of properties on both sides of the road, to cover part of the costs of opening and paving the road. The amount to be paid shall be determined by the Municipal Council based on the length of the property aligning the road. The fees charged shall not exceed 50% of the total cost.  
(ii) Fees, paid or unpaid, imposed in accordance with item (i) of this paragraph prior to the adoption of this Law shall be considered as imposed in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article 6** – Taking into account the provisions of any other legislation, the Local Council shall be mandated with the following functions, powers and authorities within the boundaries of its area:

- A. Propose the establishment of development projects that have a public benefit and submit them to the Council.
- B. Contribute to the preparation of strategic and development plans and develop the needs assessment document within its boundaries in cooperation with civil society organisations, and submit them to the Municipal Council.
- C. Identify the streets that are planned to be opened or modified, and recommending these to the Municipal Council; monitor and maintain the roads; clean, provide lighting, embellish and landscape streets of the municipality and prevent any encroachment onto them; monitor the open lands around the streets and assign their owners to build fences around them.
- D. Participate in identifying locations for public and vocational schools and places of worship and to what extent these facilities are needed in the area.
- E. Participate in identifying the course of water, power and gas distribution networks.
- F. Identify the areas that require sanitation and communicate with the Municipal Council in this regard, and participate in identifying the course of the sanitation networks.
- G. Monitor public markets and the types of goods sold in them, and monitor weights and scales in public markets outside of shops and warehouses.
- H. Monitor the shops and businesses that cause unrest or are harmful to public health, in coordination with the Administrator.
- I. Monitor the stops for means of transport.
- J. Identify the area's needs for parks and gardens, provide this to the Municipal Council and monitor and organise such facilities.
- K. Monitor the sale of fuel and inflammable items and their storage; ensure that they are maintained and that there are extinguishers.
- L. Participate in identifying the locations of public hospitals, health care centres and any other health care facilities and the area's need to establish them, and prepare and submit progress reports on their establishment to the Municipal Council.
- M. Monitor food items, taking measures to prevent fraud and destroying spoiled items.
- N. Monitor museums, public libraries, and cultural, sporting, social and art clubs according to the applicable legislation.

- O. Designate the locations of the slaughterhouses and markets for selling animals and livestock; monitor the slaughtering of livestock and the disposal of their remains, as well as prohibit their sale outside of these markets; monitor the animals used in transport and traction.
- P. Collect and transport garbage and waste from houses and public facilities in an organised manner, monitor houses and shops to make sure that their waste is disposed of in an organised manner and take the necessary measures to exterminate insects and rodents in the area.
- Q. Participate in determining cemetery sites, monitor them, and protect their sanctity.
- R. Monitor commitment to the conditions of signboards and advertisements and verify that they are duly licensed.
- S. Identify dilapidated buildings and report that to the Municipal Council for it to take the appropriate decision; implement Municipal Council decisions to demolish dilapidated buildings that may fall down or decisions on other buildings that are a danger to public health or produce bad and harmful odours, after making sure that their owners, occupants or those responsible for them are notified in coordination with the Administrator.
- T. Prepare a subsidiary budget for the Local Council and submit it to the Municipal Council for approval.
- U. Propose plans and programmes to achieve sustainable development in cooperation with local communities, prepare biannual progress reports on the implementation of these plans and submit them to the Municipal Council.
- V. Contribute to servicing tourism and heritage facilities located within the Local Council's area.
- W. Monitor restaurants, cafes, clubs, courts, theatres, cinemas, and other public amusement parks.
- X. Issue licences for the construction and the monitoring of the construction of buildings, their demolition and their modification in accordance with the applicable legislation.
- Y. Monitor and organise street vendors, street photographers, porters and stalls.
- Z. Issue licences for the ownership of animals, monitor stray animals and prevent any risks they may cause.
- AA. Monitor the performance of public facilities and prepare reports on their progress to be submitted to the Municipal Council.

#### **Article 7**

- A. The Mayor is the senior official of the Municipality and is the reference for the Executive Manager and its departments. He/she shall undertake the following duties and authorities:
  - (i) Invite the Municipal Council to convene at the dates established and announced by him/her, prepare agendas and advise the members of them, chair and manage the Council's sessions, and supervise the work of the committees of the Municipal Council or any other committees that have relevance to the work of the Municipality.
  - (ii) Sign the contracts and agreements approved by the Municipal Council.
  - (iii) Represent the Municipality in meetings and conferences. The Minister's approval is required if the participation is outside the Kingdom.
  - (iv) Protect the rights of the Municipality and defend its interests by legal means.
  - (v) Sign agreements, memoranda of understanding, protocols and twinning agreements with concerned bodies inside the Kingdom that are approved by the Municipal Council. If they are outside the Kingdom, the approval of the Minister is required.
  - (vi) Submit to the Municipal Council the Municipality's draft budget, its strategic plan and the draft local needs assessment document for the Municipal Council's approval.
  - (vii) Submit to the Municipal Council correspondence received from the Executive Manager which is required to be put forward to the Council to take the necessary decisions on it.
  - (viii) Any other tasks assigned to him/her in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the by-laws issued thereunder.

- B. The Deputy Mayor shall perform the duties and authorities of the Mayor when the Mayor is absent or when the post of Mayor becomes vacant for any reason.
- C. The Mayor may delegate any of his/her authorities stipulated in this Law and the by-laws issued thereunder to his/her deputy or any member of the Municipal Council or the Executive Manager, on the condition that this delegation is in writing, specific, and associated with a decision by the Municipal Council and that the Minister is informed of this.

#### **Article 8**

- A. The chair of the Local Council shall comply with and implement the decisions of the Municipal Council and the Local Council. He/she shall undertake the following duties and authorities:
  - (i) Invite the Local Council to convene at the dates established and announced by him/her, prepare its agendas and advise the members of them, and chair and manage the Local Council's sessions.
  - (ii) Represent the Local Council before the Municipal Council and official bodies and in meetings and conferences.
  - (iii) Send correspondence relevant to the work of the Local Council.
  - (iv) Issue the necessary licences to proceed with road excavation so as to install water, power, sanitation networks and others, on the condition that there is a guarantee that ensures reinstating the situation to its previous condition at the expense of the licence applicant.
- B. The deputy chair of the Local Council shall perform the duties and authorities of the chair of the Local Council when he/she is absent or his/her position becomes vacant for any reason.

#### **Article 9**

- A. As of the date when the provisions of this Law come into effect, an Executive Manager shall be appointed in each municipality. He/she shall fulfil the following conditions:
  - (i) He/she is a Jordanian national;
  - (ii) He/she has the minimum of a first university degree in engineering, management or city planning;
  - (iii) He/she has at least seven years' experience and knowledge in municipal work relevant to the requirements of the job for first and second category Municipalities, and at least three years' for third category Municipalities;
  - (iv) He/she has not been convicted of a felony, a dishonourable offence or public morality offence.
- B. The Manager shall be appointed by a decision of the Minister and upon the recommendation of the Municipal Council. His/her services shall be terminated in the same way. The decision shall specify the salary of the Manager, his/her bonuses, terms of reference, and all other financial entitlements. These shall be covered from the Municipality's fund in accordance with the applicable by-laws.
- C. The Manager is the head of the administrative body of the Municipality and is responsible for monitoring and ensuring flow of work of that body. He/she shall undertake the following duties and authorities:
  - (i) Implement the decisions of the Municipal Council, under the supervision of the Mayor, and follow up on the implementation of contracts entered into between the Municipality and other parties.
  - (ii) Prepare the draft agenda for Municipal Council meetings, attend its meetings and participate in its discussions, without having the right to vote.
  - (iii) Supervise the maintenance of the Municipality's properties and assets and preserve them.
  - (iv) Follow up on the implementation of the Municipality's annual work plan.
  - (v) Prepare and submit the draft annual budget and the annual and biannual reports, as well as the final financial statements, to the Mayor in a timely manner.

- (vi) Monitor and follow up on the collection of the Municipality's revenues, order the payment of expenses and issue money transfers according to decisions issued under the provisions of this Law.
  - (vii) Qualify and train the staff of the Municipality so as to improve their technical and administrative capacities and competences, so that they may offer the best service to members of the local community.
- D. The Manager shall be responsible before the Mayor for the work that he/she is mandated with.
  - E. The Manager shall be committed to the items of the approved annual budget.

#### Article 10

- A. Municipalities shall be classified into the following three categories:
  - First Category: Municipalities of the centres of governorates and any other municipality with a population of more than one hundred thousand people.
  - Second Category: Municipalities of the centres of counties (*Liwa's*) and municipalities with a population of more than fifteen thousand and not more than one hundred thousand people.
  - Third Category: Other Municipalities not listed within the first and second categories.
- B. For the purposes of classifying the Municipalities stipulated in Paragraph A of this Article, the Minister shall issue a decision to classify any Municipality based on the actual or estimated official statistics released by the General Statistics Department.
- C. To fulfil the purposes of the classification of the Municipalities, the Municipality's rights and obligations resulting thereunder shall be specified in by-laws issued for this purpose.
- D. The Municipal Councils and Local Councils shall continue their work until the end of their terms unless they are dissolved in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

#### Article 11

Taking into account what is stipulated in this Law or in any other legislation:

- A. The Council of Ministers may, upon the recommendation of the Minister and the Administrator, issue a decision to expand, narrow or modify the boundaries of any town, merge any municipalities or communities or parts of them that are adjacent to each other, thus forming a Municipality in the meaning indicated by this Law, or separate any of them or parts of them in any formation that is decided. The Minister may determine the area of the created Municipality upon the recommendation of the Director of the Central Cities and Villages Directorate. The decision shall be communicated to the Minister of Finance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.
- B. Any Municipality created according to the provisions of paragraph A of this Article shall be named by the Minister and the provisions of this law shall apply to it.
- C. The Minister shall determine the category of the Municipality created in accordance with the provisions of paragraph A of this Article based on the classification stipulated in paragraph A of Article 10 of this Law. He/she shall form a committee which shall serve as the Municipal Council and perform its functions, and appoint a chair for the committee from amongst its members. The committee shall hold its meetings in accordance with this Law and shall continue its work until the Municipal Council is elected in the first elections that are conducted in accordance with this Law.
- D. When the decision to perform its duties and authorities is issued, the Municipality that has been created in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of this Article shall become the *de facto* and *de jure* successor of the Municipalities, communities and areas annexed to it. Those Municipalities shall be deemed dissolved and all of their movable and immovable assets, all of their rights as well as all of their obligations shall be transferred to the created Municipality. Moreover, the employees and workers who had been working for those Municipalities on that date shall become employees and workers for the



created Municipality and shall be transferred to it with all of their entitlements and obligations. Their services at the created Municipality shall be considered a continuation of their previous services.

**Article 12**

- A. Greater Amman Municipality shall be considered a Municipality and the provisions of the legislation applicable to Municipalities and Local Councils shall apply to it, with the exception of provisions that stipulate otherwise in relation to Greater Amman Municipality in this Law or in any other legislation.
- B. In spite of what is stated in Article 11 of this Law, the Municipalities annexed to the Greater Amman Municipality prior to 1990 shall maintain their status when the provisions of this Law come into force.

**Article 13**

- A. Greater Amman Municipality's area shall be subject to legislation issued for this purpose. To achieve the aims of this paragraph, the phrases herein shall have the following meanings specified for them wherever they may appear in this Law or any other legislation, unless the context indicates otherwise:
  - Capital Municipality: Greater Amman Municipality (GAM)
  - Capital Mayor: Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality (Mayor of GAM)
  - Capital Council: Greater Amman Municipality Council (GAM Council)
- B. Greater Amman Municipality Council may form a committee or more from among its members and delegate those committees to undertake any of its duties and authorities in accordance with this Law or any other legislation, with terms and restrictions during the period established by it, with exception of the authorities stipulated in Articles 15, 17, 25, 26 and 27 of this Law, which the Council may not delegate to any party in any case. Greater Amman Municipality Council may cancel or modify this delegation of authority. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to any committee formed to serve in place of Greater Amman Municipality Council and perform its functions and authorities.

**Article 14:** Notwithstanding the provisions stated in any other Law:

- A. The Council shall perform in the first category Municipalities the authorities of the *Liwa*' Cities, Villages and Buildings Organisation Committee stipulated in the Law of Organisation of Cities, Villages and Buildings. The Council may delegate these authorities to a committee formed from its members on the condition that the competent Manager of municipal affairs is a member in both committees.
- B. (i) Each Local Council shall be, within its mandate, deemed a local committee for organisation and buildings. The Council shall appoint one of the engineers of the Municipality as its secretary.
- (ii) Greater Amman Municipality Council may form one or more local committees for organisation and buildings from amongst its members and Greater Amman Municipality employees.
- (iii) Committees formed in accordance with items (i) and (ii) of this paragraph are deemed, within their jurisdiction, local committees for organisation of cities as stated in the Law on Cities, Villages and Buildings Organisation. They shall send copies of their decisions, orders, notifications, instructions or licences, immediately after their issuance, to the mayor, who may object them to the relevant committee within 15 days of notification if they are decisions not to be endorsed by the county "liwa" organisation committee. If the committee insists on its decision, the disagreement is referred to the Greater Amman Municipality Council in its capacity as county "liwa" organisation committee or the committee it delegates to decide upon it.

**Article 15**

- A. (i) The immovable properties of the Municipality shall be registered in the name of the Municipality. These properties shall not be sold, allocated, endowed, mortgaged or rented without a decision of the Municipal Council taken upon a recommendation of the investment

committee formed in accordance with item (ii) of this paragraph, on the condition that the decision is approved by the Minister if the period exceeds five years.

- (ii) An investment committee shall be formed at the Municipality chaired by the Mayor with the membership of the Manager, the manager of investment at the Municipality, if any, the manager of the development unit at the Municipality, if any, and the manager of the legal department at the Municipality. This committee shall submit its recommendations to the Municipal Council to take the necessary decisions on them.
- B. The funds of the Municipality shall be considered public funds for the purposes of their collection in the same way state funds are collected or in the same manner municipal funds are collected as stipulated in this Law.
- C. The Municipality's immovable or movable properties allocated for offering its services may not be seized, with the exception of cash funds of the Municipality, which may be seized.
- D. The Municipality shall enjoy the exemptions and facilitations offered to ministries and government departments.

#### **Article 16**

- A. The financial resources of the Municipality shall consist of the following:
  - (i) Taxes, fees and any other funds levied in accordance with this Law and any by-law issued thereunder, or any other law or by-law that stipulates the collection of taxes or fees for the Municipalities;
  - (ii) The returns of investment projects;
  - (iii) Self-generated revenues;
  - (iv) Aid and grants, on the condition that they are approved by the Council of Ministers if they are from a non-Jordanian source.
- B. The taxes and fees payable in accordance with the laws and by-laws that were applicable before this Law comes into force shall be subject to collection as if they were payable under this Law.
- C. Taxes, fees and any other funds levied for the benefit of the Municipality shall be collected by the Municipal Council, Local Council, government department, or contractors which are contracted for this purpose, according to provisions of this Law.

#### **Article 17**

- A. The Council may borrow funds from any entity on the condition that the Minister approves the lender, the purpose of the loan, the amount of interest, method of repayment, and any special conditions that may be necessary to obtain this loan.
- B. If the loan transaction stipulated in paragraph A of this Article requires the guarantee of the Government, the approval of the Council of Ministers shall be obtained.

#### **Article 18**

- A. Buildings located within the walls of the old city of Jerusalem shall be subject to building and land tax despite their exemption from government taxes. Jerusalem Municipality shall estimate the value of the net annual rent according to the principles of the Buildings and Land Tax Law.
- B. The tax stipulated in paragraph A of this Article shall be subject to the provisions of the Buildings and Land Tax Law inside the Municipalities' areas in terms of valuation, review, collection, exemptions and fines.
- C. The type of tax referred to in paragraphs A and B of this Article shall be as follows:
  - (i) 7% of the net annual rent of buildings including the land on which they are built or and which surrounds them.
  - (ii) 5% of the net annual rent of lands which are not classified as building areas.

**Article 19**

- A. The Local Council shall charge the purchaser of movable properties that are sold in public auction within the boundaries of the Local Council's area a 5% fee of the cost of the last bid.
- B. All sales in public auctions shall be conducted through auctioneers with the knowledge of the Mayor. The Municipality may award auctioning fees at the beginning of every fiscal year by public auction.

**Article 20**

- A. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, 50% of the fees and taxes levied on oil derivatives imported by or produced in the Kingdom shall be deducted and allocated to the Municipalities.
- B. The percentage stipulated in paragraph A of this Article shall be distributed for the benefit of the Municipalities and the joint service councils according to paragraph B of Article 23 of this Law or any legislation which replaces it.

**Article 21** – 40% of the fees for vehicle ownership licences collected under the Traffic Law shall be deducted and allocated to the Municipalities.

**Article 22** – The fines collected for violations of the Traffic Law and health and municipal violations shall be deducted and allocated to the Municipalities.

**Article 23**

- A. The revenues collected by the Government for the benefit of the Municipalities according to Articles 20, 21 and 22 of this Law shall be held in a trust for the Municipalities at the Ministry of Finance, and shall be transferred at the end of each month to the Cities and Villages Development Bank.
- B. The total revenues shall be distributed to the Municipalities according to the proportions decided by the Council of Ministers, upon the recommendation of the Minister, on the condition that the following considerations are taken into account when specifying the allocation for each Municipality:
  - (i) The category of the Municipality;
  - (ii) Its area and population;
  - (iii) The proportion of its contribution to generating revenue;
  - (iv) Its location and geographic nature;
  - (v) Its needs in terms of development projects;
  - (vi) Its limited resources;
  - (vii) Its non-local responsibilities;
  - (viii) Outstanding performance of its duties and responsibilities.
- C. The Council of Ministers, upon the recommendation of the Minister, may allocate a portion of these revenues for the following matters:
  - (i) Payment of financial assistance to joint service councils and to villages which do not have Councils to enable them to develop important projects which require assistance.
  - (ii) Payment of expenses relating to auditing the Municipality accounts.
  - (iii) Payment of expenses and expenditures borne by the Ministry in return for offering services of a technical nature to the Municipalities.

**Article 24**

- A. If an amount of money is due to the Municipality in accordance with the provisions of this Law and it is not paid within one month of its due date, the indebted shall be notified in writing about the type of the amount, how much it is, and the duration for which it is due, and that it shall be paid within two weeks of the date of the notification.

- B. The notification shall be handed to the indebted in person. If he/she is not found or refuses the notification, he/she shall be deemed notified if the notification has been sent to his/her last known place of residence or is sent by registered mail to his/her last known address.
- C. If the amount is not paid within the period set out in paragraph A of this Article, the Mayor may collect the funds due to the Municipality through the Enforcement Department in the same way ordinary debts ordered by a final court ruling are collected.
- D. An indebted, who objects the validity of the debts, may file a lawsuit at the competent court within the period set out in paragraph A of this Article on the condition that he/she pays the sum demanded or presents a deposit for his/her objection approved by the court until the case is disposed, unless the fees of the lawsuit were postponed due to his/her poverty.
- E. The provisions of this Article do not apply to the taxes and fees stipulated in this Law or any by-law issued thereunder or in any other law or by-law, which are collected by government for the benefit of the Municipalities.

**Article 25** – Based on a decision of the Municipal Council and the recommendation of the Minister, the Council of Ministers may decide to cancel any amount due to the Municipality if, after five years of their due date, it is proven that they could not be collected. In the same manner, the Council of Ministers may also decide to cancel any part of an amount due to the Municipality, if it is proven that this best ensures justice and equity or it is confident that this is for the benefit of the Municipality.

**Article 26**

- A. The Municipal Council shall prepare the annual budget of the Municipality that includes the budgets of the Local Councils. It shall only come into effect after it is approved by the Municipal Council and endorsed by the Minister, on the condition that the salaries and allowances of the staff do not exceed 50% of the budget in the Municipalities where the salaries and allowances exceed this. This percentage shall become 40% of the budget five years after this Law enters into force. The Council of Ministers shall decide the value of this percentage after the end of this period.
- B. The Municipal Council shall develop the staffing table.
- C. The Municipal Council shall spend within the boundaries of the Local Council no less than 50% of the revenues of that Local Council. It may disseminate the remaining amount to other Local Councils whose revenues are limited or do not enable them to carry out development projects. It may also spend them on the development of central or major projects that serve the Municipality.
- D. The Municipal Council may develop an annex to the budget on the condition that it follows the provisions stipulated in paragraph A of this Article.

**Article 27**

- A. The Mayor shall develop the final annual accounts within four months following the year end.
- B. The Municipal Council shall approve the final accounts and send it to the Minister for endorsement.

**Article 28** – The accounts of the Municipality and the Local Council shall be audited by the Ministry, and they shall be subject to the monitoring of the Audit Bureau.

**Article 29** – The Mayor shall develop a biannual report on the work conducted in the municipality area. A copy of it shall be sent to the Minister together with the comments of the Municipal Council on it.

**Article 30** – The Municipality shall have a stamp with which to stamp documents. The stamp shall be supported by the signature of the Mayor, his/her deputy, or any other employee delegated by the Municipal Council for that purpose.

### Article 31

- A. The Minister, upon the recommendation of the Governor, may establish a joint service council for a group of adjacent Municipal Councils, villages or communities. The joint service council shall have a legal personality and shall undertake the authorities of the Municipal Council outlined in the applicable laws with regard to joint services and projects it develops. The Minister, upon the recommendation of the Governor, may dissolve the joint service council or annex any Municipality, village or community to it.
- B. The Council of Ministers may issue the by-laws necessary to implement the provisions of paragraph A of this Article with regard to the following:
- (i) Identifying the functions and authorities of the joint service council in the management and operation of the joint projects.
  - (ii) Appointing the chair and members of the joint service council on the condition that the number of members named by the Municipal Councils in the joint service council is not less than two thirds of its members.
  - (iii) Collecting taxes, fees, returns and wages for the joint projects developed by the joint service council and specifying the means of their collection.
  - (iv) Affairs of the employees and contractors and supplies.
  - (v) Contributing to financing the joint service council and preparing and approving its budget.
  - (vi) Liquidating the work, entitlements and obligations of the joint service council when it is dissolved.

### Article 32

- A. The term of the Municipal Council and the Local Council shall be four years as of the date the Municipal or Local Council assumes its duties in accordance with paragraph A of Article 62 of this Law. The Municipal Council or Local Council may be dissolved before the end of its term and a committee formed to replace it until the end of its term and the election of a new Municipal Council or Local Council. This may be done by decision of the Council of Ministers upon the Minister's recommendation, with explanation of the reason for the dissolution.
- B. (i) Mayors and members of Municipal Councils and members of Local Councils shall be elected every four years at the time established in accordance with the provisions of this Law. If a Municipal Council or Local Council is dissolved in compliance with this Law before it completes its term, the Minister shall appoint an interim committee for the Municipality or the area of the Local Council and the elections shall be held within six months from the date of dissolution. If the new Council is not elected within this period, the dissolved Municipal or Local Council shall resume its duties until the end of its term.
- (ii) Notwithstanding item (i) of this paragraph, the Minister may postpone the elections for one or more or all of the Municipal Councils or Local Councils for no more than six months, if deemed necessary for the public interest or the integrity of the elections. The period of postponement shall be considered part of the legal term of the Municipal or Local Council, while the Municipality in this case is administered by an interim committee appointed by the Minister. If the period of postponement is completed and it is not possible to conduct elections, the Council of Ministers shall take the appropriate decision in that regard.
- C. If the number of members of the Municipal Council or the Local Council falls short of the quorum, the Minister, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, may fill the remaining seats from amongst the candidates who received the next highest number of votes; if there are no candidates available, then he/she may fill the seats from the voters who have the right to stand as candidates and to vote. The Minister may also, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, consider the Municipal Council

dissolved, and in that case an interim committee shall be formed to replace the Municipal Council in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article 33**

- A. Women shall be allocated one seat in the Local Council from amongst the seats established in Article 3 of this Law. This seat shall be awarded to the candidate who received the highest number of votes in proportion to the number of actual voters, but did not win a seat in the open contest with the other candidates. If there is no woman candidate standing for election for the Local Council, one of the woman voters registered in the voter lists for that Local Council shall be appointed by decision of the Minister.
- B.
  - (i) Women as members of the Municipal Council shall be allocated no less than 25% of the seats in the Municipal Council. These shall be filled by the women members of the Local Councils within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Council who received the highest number of votes in proportion to the number of actual voters in their Local Councils. If there is a tie between two or more candidates, then the head of the election committee shall draw lots amongst them. If there is an insufficient number of women candidates to meet the percentage of reserved seats, the seats will be filled by appointment by a decision of the Minister, from amongst the woman voters registered in the voter lists in the municipality area. The provisions of this Article shall apply for the Greater Amman Municipality Council, with the exception that the calculation of 25% shall apply to the number of elected members of the Council.
  - (ii) If the municipality area is not divided into Local Councils, women shall be allocated no less than 25% of the seats in the Municipal Council. These shall be filled by the women who received the highest number of votes but did not win a seat in the open contest with other candidates. If there is an insufficient number of women candidates and the number of members of the Municipal Council does not meet the percentage of reserved seats, the seats will be filled by appointment by a decision of the Minister, within the limits of this percentage and from amongst the woman voters registered in the voter lists in the municipality area.

**Article 34**

- A.
  - (i) The Council of Ministers shall issue a decision to conduct elections for the Mayors and members of the Municipal Councils and for the members of the Local Councils. The Commission shall designate the date for the elections and the decision shall be published in the Official Gazette.
  - (ii) The Commission shall proceed with the necessary arrangements for the elections stipulated in item (i) of this paragraph four months prior to the date designated for the elections.
- B. Notwithstanding item (i) of paragraph A of this Article, the Commission may designate a day for polling for some Municipal Councils or Local Councils other than the date designated in accordance with the provisions of that paragraph, if this is deemed necessary for the integrity of the elections or for the public interest.
- C. If it is not possible to conduct the elections, the Council of Ministers may, upon the recommendation of the Minister, extend the term of the existing Municipal Council until the elections are held.

**Article 35** – The Commission shall manage all stages of the electoral process in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Independent Election Commission. To that end, the Board of Commissioners shall undertake the following:

- A. Prepare a budget for the electoral process and submit it to the Council of Ministers for approval.
- B. Appoint the heads and members of the election committees.
- C. Form the necessary committees to conduct the electoral process.
- D. Approve timelines for the processes of developing the voter lists and candidate nomination.

- E. Identify the institutions, locations, and means through which and where voter lists and candidate names are displayed.
- F. Approve the specifications of the ballot boxes, ballot papers, official stamps of the polling and counting committee and forms for the electoral process.
- G. Identify the polling and counting centres in the municipality area and the number of ballot boxes<sup>4</sup> (polling stations) in the area of each Local Council, and form the polling and counting committees and any other support committees.
- H. Approve the final voter lists.
- I. Coordinate with the competent authorities to prepare a security plan to guarantee the safety of the electoral process.
- J. Develop principles for accrediting candidate representatives to be present at polling and counting centres and the mechanism for how they may object to the procedures and decisions of the polling and counting committees; issue the necessary authorisations for this in accordance with the executive instructions that the Commission issues for this purpose.
- K. Develop principles for accrediting representatives of relevant civil society organisations, media representatives, and any local and international observers to see and observe the electoral process; issue the necessary authorisations for this in accordance with the executive instructions that the Commission issues for this purpose.
- L. Consider any issue presented to it regarding the electoral process and take appropriate decisions and actions on them.
- M. Approve, announce and publish the final election results in the Official Gazette.
- N. Consider and decide on candidate applications referred to it by the election committees.

### Article 36

- A. An election committee shall be formed for each municipality by decision of the Commission. The head and members of the committee shall be appointed in the decision relating to its formation.
- B. Prior to commencing their duties, the heads and members of the election committees shall take the following oath before the chairman or one of the commissioners designated by the chairman for this purpose:

"I swear by Almighty Allah to perform the duties assigned to me with honesty, integrity and impartiality."
- C. The election committee shall undertake the following duties and authorities:
  - (i) Receive the voter lists from the Commission and display them.
  - (ii) Open and equip an operation room to manage the electoral process in the municipality.
  - (iii) Receive candidate applications and refer them to the Commission.
  - (iv) Provide polling and counting committees with materials required for the electoral process.
  - (v) Extend the polling period, with the approval of the Commission, for no more than two hours.
  - (vi) Announce the preliminary results of the municipality area and submit three copies of the final tabulation form to the Commission.
  - (vii) Provide the Commission with all documentation, materials, records and forms related to the electoral process.
  - (viii) Perform any other duties assigned by the Commission.

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<sup>4</sup> The Arabic term 'Sandouk' refers to a ballot box both as an item of equipment and as a voting location. In the latter case, when used in this Law with this meaning, it is translated as 'ballot box (polling station)'.

**Article 37**

- A. (i) Election of Mayors, members of the Municipal Councils and members of the Local Councils shall be secret and direct. These elections shall take place at the same time in one polling process using two separate ballot papers.
- (ii) The voter shall have a number of votes equal to the number of members in his/her Local Council. If the Municipality is not divided into Local Councils, the voter shall have a number of votes equal to the number of members of the Municipal Council.
- B. Voters are prohibited from exercising their right to vote more than once.

**Article 38**

- A. (i) The Department, in coordination with the Commission, shall prepare the preliminary voter lists, using computers and based on the national number. The lists are arranged by gender (male and female) for all persons who have the right to vote and are in possession of the Card, based on the voter's place of residence as documented in the Department's records.
- (ii) A voter shall not be registered in more than one voter list for one polling station.
- (iii) The voter list shall be organised for males and females in a way that ensures the listing of voters' names in every polling station.
- (iv) Executive instructions shall specify the data that must be included in the preliminary voter list.
- B. The Commission shall display the preliminary voter lists provided to it by the Department on the Commission's website and by any other means the Commission deems appropriate, to allow voters to look at them. Each head of election committee shall be provided with the preliminary voter lists for the municipality area. The head of the election committee shall display them for seven days in the places specified in the executive instructions for voters to have a look at them, and shall announce the locations of display in two daily newspapers.
- C. (i) Any person whose name does not appear in the voter list, or who finds an error in his/her personal data in the list, may submit a written request to the head of the election committee in the municipality area to include his/her name in the list, or correct the error in his/her data, or to change his/her polling centre.
- (ii) Any voter whose name is in the preliminary voter lists may submit a written objection to the Commission concerning the registration of other persons in the preliminary voter lists within the boundaries of his/her Local Council or Municipal Council, according to the procedures stipulated in the executive instructions.
- (iii) The request or objection stipulated in items (i) and (ii) of this paragraph shall be submitted within ten days as of the day following the date of display of the preliminary voter lists by the heads of the election committees.
- D. The Commission shall decide on the requests and objections submitted to it in accordance with the provisions of paragraph C of this Article within ten days as of the day following the end of the display of the preliminary voter lists.
- E. The Commission, through the heads of the election committees, shall display the lists of outcomes of the objections and requests submitted to it, for all voters to have a look at them, for three days in the places specified in the executive instructions.
- F. The decisions of the Commission taken in accordance with paragraph D of this Article may be appealed by the person or voter relevant to the request or the objection to the Court of First Instance under whose jurisdiction the municipality area or her/his electoral district is located, within three days as of the day following the date of the end of their display in the designated locations.
- G. The Courts of First Instance shall decide on the appeals submitted to them in accordance with paragraph F of this Article within seven days as of the day following their receipt by the court registry. Their decisions shall be final.



- H. The Court shall provide the Commission with copies of its decisions within three days as of the day following their date of issuance. The Commission shall send copies of such decisions to the Department so that the Department may take the necessary measures to correct the preliminary voter lists within seven days as of the day following the date on which such decisions were received, in accordance with the executive instructions issued for this purpose.
- I. Following the completion of the procedures and deadlines stipulated in this Article and the corrections which are made on the basis of decisions issued, the Department shall send the voter lists to the Commission.
- J. Once the Board of Commissioners adopts the voter lists sent to it by the Department in accordance with paragraph I of this Article, such lists shall be deemed the final voter lists and the elections shall be conducted on the basis of those lists.
- K. The Commission shall publish the final voter lists on its website and through any other means specified in the executive instructions, and shall provide every head of election committee with the final voter lists for his/her municipality area.
- L. The Commission shall, in coordination with the Department, update the voter lists in accordance with instructions issued by the Board of Commissioners for this purpose.
- M. The Commission may issue voter cards, and may use them in municipal elections. The procedures for issuing and disseminating them to voters shall be specified in the instructions issued by the Board of Commissioners for this purpose.

#### **Article 39**

- A. Every Jordanian who has completed eighteen calendar years of age on the date set by the Board of Commissioners shall have the right to elect Mayors, members of the Municipal Councils and members of the Local Councils, if registered in one of the final voter lists.
- B. The right to vote shall be denied for any person who:
  - (i) Has been declared bankrupt and has not been legally rehabilitated;
  - (ii) Is deemed insane, retarded, or is placed under guardianship by court order for any reason and has not been cleared.
- C. At the beginning of January and July of every year or at any other date set by the Commission, once this Law comes into force, the courts shall provide the Department with all definitive judgements issued by them regarding guardianship by court decision and bankruptcy, including the full names and national numbers of persons against whom such rulings have been issued.
- D. The Department shall take the necessary procedures to remove the names of deceased persons from its records, to ensure that their names are not included in the voter lists.

#### **Article 40**

- A. Any person whose name is in the voter list may stand for election for Mayor, member of the Municipal Council or member of the Local Council if he/she fulfils the following criteria:
  - (i) Has completed twenty-five calendar years of age on the first day of the period established for submitting candidate nomination applications;
  - (ii) Has submitted his/her resignation one month prior to the date of candidate nomination if he/she is an employee or contractor of any ministry, government department, public institution or Municipality. The lawyer of a Municipality wishing to stand as a candidate shall terminate his/her contract with the Municipality within the same deadline;
  - (iii) Does not belong to any non-Jordanian political party;
  - (iv) Has not been convicted of a felony, a dishonourable offence or a public morality offence;
  - (v) Has not been sentenced for bankruptcy, where his/her legal status has not been rehabilitated;
  - (vi) Is not a Member of Parliament.

- B. Any person wishing to nominate him/herself as candidate for the election of Mayor, member of the Municipal Council or member of the Local Council shall:
- (i) Have financial clearance from the municipality for submission with the application for candidacy.
  - (ii) Have paid to the municipality's accountant the amount of two hundred Jordanian dinars for the first and second category municipality, and one hundred dinars for the third category. This amount shall be recorded as revenue to the Municipality's fund, and is non-refundable, with the exception of the persons whose candidacy application is rejected, in which case he/she shall be refunded the amounts paid.

#### **Article 41**

- A. Candidate nomination for Mayor and member of the Municipal Council or member of the Local Council shall open on the date set by the Commission, on the condition that such date precedes the day established for polling by at least thirty days, and shall last for three days during official working hours, including official holidays. Applications for candidacy submitted after the end of this period shall not be accepted.
- B. No voter may stand for election for both Mayor and member at the same time.

#### **Article 42**

- A. An application for candidacy shall be submitted by the applicant or his/her proxy to the head of the election committee using the form approved by the Board of Commissioners and attaching the supporting documents and all data required, in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the executive instructions issued thereunder. The applicant shall be given a receipt.
- B. The head of the election committee shall refer the candidate applications and attached supporting documents and data to the Board of Commissioners on a daily basis by the means specified in the executive instructions. The Board of Commissioners shall issue its decision to accept or reject each application within seven days as of the day following the deadline for submitting candidate applications.
- C. (i) Should the Board of Commissioners decide to reject an application for candidacy, it shall give its reasons for the rejection. The head of the election committee shall notify the applicant of the decision of rejection by the means specified in the executive instructions.
- (ii) The applicant whose application for candidacy has been rejected may appeal the decision of rejection to the Court of First Instance under whose jurisdiction the municipality area or her/his electoral district is located within three days as of the day following the date the applicant is notified of the rejection. The applicant shall attach the documents supporting his/her appeal.
- D. (i) The competent Court shall decide on the appeal within three days as of the day following the date the court registry receives the appeal. Its decision on the appeal shall be final.
- (ii) The Court shall provide the Commission with copies of its decisions within three days as of the day following their issuance.

#### **Article 43**

- A. The Commission shall keep a separate record for each municipality of candidate applications that are accepted by the Board of Commissioners or accepted by a ruling of the Court of First Instance, according to the date and time at which such applications were submitted. The Commission shall develop a list of the names of candidates on the basis of that record in accordance with the executive instructions that the Commission issues for this purpose.
- B. The Commission shall publish the names of the candidates whose applications were accepted on its website and in the places specified in the executive instructions. The Board of Commissioners shall publish those names in two local daily newspapers.

- C. (i) Every voter has the right to challenge the decision of the Board of Commissioners to accept the application for candidacy of any of the candidates within the boundaries of his/her Local Council or Municipal Council before the Court of First Instance under whose jurisdiction the municipality area or her/his electoral district is located.
- (ii) The challenge stipulated in item (i) of this paragraph shall be submitted within three days as of the day following the date on which the candidates' names were put on display as stipulated in paragraph B of this Article. The challenge should include documents that support the challenge.
- (iii) The Court shall decide on the challenge within three days as of the day following the date of its receipt by the court registry. Its decision shall be final.
- D. The Court shall provide the Commission with copies of its decisions within two days as of the day following their issuance. The Board of Commissioners shall take the necessary measures to display any amendments to the names of candidates introduced by decisions of the Court of First Instance in the same manner as the names of the candidates were displayed in accordance with paragraph B of this Article. These shall be the final names of the candidates and they shall be published on the Commission's website and by any other means deemed appropriate by the Board of Commissioners to inform the voters.

#### **Article 44**

- A. Electoral campaigning shall be free in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the by-laws issued thereunder. Campaigning shall be permitted as of the date on which candidate nomination opens in accordance with the provisions of this Law, and shall cease 24 hours prior to the day designated for polling.
- B. The provisions, principles and rules on electoral campaigning, including rules on campaign expenditure, shall be specified in executive instructions issued by the Commission for this purpose.

#### **Article 45**

- A. Any candidate in any municipality may withdraw his/her candidate nomination by submitting a written request to the head of the election committee fourteen days prior to the date designated for polling.
- B. The Commission shall announce the withdrawal of any candidate in the municipality in two local daily newspapers or by any other means it deems appropriate.

#### **Article 46**

- A. (i) If the candidate nomination period comes to an end and it is found that the number of candidates for membership of the Municipal Council or for the Local Council is equal to the number of seats allocated to it, the Board of Commissioners shall announce those candidates as winners by acclamation at part of the announcement of the final results.
- (ii) The provisions of item (i) of this paragraph also apply for candidates for Mayor.
- B. If an insufficient number of candidates apply for candidacy in any municipality area or Local Council, the Council of Ministers may, upon the recommendation of the Minister based on the recommendation of the Administrator, appoint the required number of members from amongst those who are registered in the voter list for that Municipal Council or Local Council and who fulfil the conditions for candidacy.

#### **Article 47**

- A. The Board of Commissioners shall issue a decision identifying the polling and counting centres in the municipality area and the number of ballot boxes (polling stations) in each Local Council. The decision shall be published in two local daily newspapers and in any place or by any means the Board of Commissioners deems appropriate.

- B. The procedures for appointing chairs and members of polling and counting committees, polling processes, the voting of illiterate and disabled persons, the counting of boxes, procedures for identifying valid and cancelled ballots, completing polling and counting forms, the tallying and tabulation of results, the announcement of results, packing and transfer of ballots papers and forms, and other provisions and procedures related to these processes shall be specified in the executive instructions that the Commission issues for this purpose.
- C. The ballot paper shall be considered invalid in any of the following cases:
  - (i) If it is not signed by the chair of the polling and counting committee, or is not stamped with the stamp of the electoral district;
  - (ii) If it contains words or additions that indicate the name of the voter;
  - (iii) If the names written on it cannot be read because they are not clear;
  - (iv) If it contains more candidate names than the number of members to be elected;
  - (v) If the ballot paper for the election of Mayor contains more than one name.
- D. If the name of a single candidate is repeated on the ballot paper, it shall be counted only once.
- E. The decision of the chair of the polling and counting committee on any ballot paper shall be deemed applicable.
- F. If it appears, after counting the votes, that the number of ballot papers stamped and signed by the chair of the polling and counting committee is more or less than the number of actual voters in that ballot box (polling station) by 2%, the polling and counting committee shall notify the head of the election committee, who shall in turn advise the chairman of the Commission, for the Board of Commissioners to take the appropriate decision on this.
- G. Entry to the polling and counting centres is prohibited for unauthorized persons in accordance with the provisions of this Law. The chair of the polling and counting committee may ask the public security officials to remove any violator from the centre immediately.

**Article 48** – Polling shall commence at seven o'clock in the morning of the day designated for municipal elections and end at seven o'clock in the evening of the same day. The Board of Commissioners or its delegate may issue a decision to extend the time of polling for the Municipal Council or any Local Council for a period of no more than two hours, if there are still a number of voters who have not had the opportunity to cast their votes, or if the electoral process has been suspended for any reason.

**Article 49** – The Board of Commissioners may decide to use electronic connectivity and indelible ink in the municipal elections.

**Article 50** – Pre-printed ballot papers, as approved by the Board of Commissioners, shall be used for voting, on the condition that each ballot paper is signed by the chair of the polling and counting committee and stamped with the stamp of the election of the Municipal Council or Local Council.

**Article 51**

- A. The chair of the polling and counting committee shall decide on any objections submitted by the candidates or their representatives relating to the implementation of provisions on polling and counting, in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the executive instructions issued thereunder. The decision of the chair of the polling and counting committee shall be applicable with immediate effect.
- B. The chair of the polling and counting committee shall record the objections submitted to him/her relating to the implementation of provisions on polling and counting on a form developed for this purpose.

**Article 52** – The Board of Commissioners may form one or more special committees to verify the preliminary results of the municipal elections. The formation of the committee(s) and their duties and authorities shall be specified in executive instructions issued for this purpose.

**Article 53** – Heads and members of the election committees, chairs of polling and counting committees, and heads of any other committees formed by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of this Law shall be deemed members of the judicial police in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Law of Criminal Procedures. In this capacity, they hold the power to seize any crime<sup>5</sup> committed in violation of the provisions of this Law.

**Article 54** – The winner of the seat for Mayor, member of the Municipal Council or member of the Local Council shall be the candidate who has received the highest number of votes of the actual voters. If there is a tie between two or more candidates, then the election committee shall draw lots amongst them, in the presence of the candidates or their proxies in the way agreed upon with the Commission.

**Article 55** – If the Commission finds any problem in the polling and counting process in any of the polling and counting centres that may affect the preliminary results of the elections, it may cancel the election results and re-conduct the polling and/or counting processes, at the time and in the manner it deems appropriate. In this case, the Minister shall appoint an interim committee to manage the Municipal Council or Local Council during this period.

**Article 56**

- A. Any person who commits any of the following acts shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than six months and not more than two years or to a fine of not less than one thousand dinars and not more than five thousand dinars, or to both these penalties:
- (i) Refraining from leaving the polling centre if requested to leave by chair of the polling and counting committee;
  - (ii) Falsely alleging to be illiterate or unable to write;
  - (iii) Violating the provisions, principles and rules on electoral campaigning as stipulated in the executive instructions issued for this purpose;
  - (iv) Retaining, seizing, hiding or destroying the personal Card of another person, without the right to do so;
  - (v) Impersonating another person or using another person's name with the intention of voting;
  - (vi) Exercising one's right to vote more than once;
  - (vii) Publishing or broadcasting before or during the election false information on the actions or ethics of a candidate with the aim of influencing the election results.
- B. Any person who commits any of the following acts shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than six months and not more than two years or to a fine of not less than one thousand dinars and not more than five thousand dinars, or to both these penalties:
- (i) Carrying a firearm, even if it is licensed, or any instrument that constitutes a danger to public safety and security at any polling centre on the day of the election;
  - (ii) Negatively affecting the freedom of the election or hindering the electoral process in any way;

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<sup>5</sup> There is no precise English translation for the Arabic phrase '*Dabt Ay Men Al-Jaraem*'. The literal translation is 'seize a crime'. This applies to anything relevant to the crime, and could be translated as, for example, taking charge of the proceeds, instruments, evidence or perpetrator of the crime, as relevant.

- (iii) Tampering with, stealing or destroying any ballot box, voter list or ballot paper, or preventing a ballot paper from being inserted in a ballot box, or committing any act with the intention of affecting the integrity, procedures or secrecy of the election;
  - (iv) Negatively affecting, delaying or obstructing the electoral process, or abusing any election officials.
  - (v) Using force or coercion, threatening to inflict physical or moral harm, kidnapping, detention, or committing fraud, either directly or through others, in order to coerce a voter to participate in voting or refrain from participating in it;
  - (vi) Using any method of coercion or temptation to make someone commit a crime carrying a penalty under this Law.
- C. Any person who seizes a ballot box from a polling and counting centre shall be sentenced to hard labour for not more than seven years, and any abettor and inciter shall be sentenced to the same for a period of between one sixth and one third of that sentence.

**Article 57** – Any person or persons tasked with developing, organising and revising the voter lists, conducting polling or counting processes, or tallying the votes, or any person or persons tasked with supervising any of these processes in accordance with the provisions of this Law, who commits any of the following acts, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one year and not more than three years, or to a fine of not less than five hundred dinars and not more than one thousand dinars, or to both these penalties:

- A. Deliberately inserting into any voter list the name of any person who does not have the right to vote in accordance with the provisions of this Law, or deliberately deleting or refraining from inserting into those lists the name of any person who has the right to be registered as a voter in such lists in accordance with the provisions of this Law;
- B. Knowingly including false information in the application for candidacy, or any of the data included in it, in the date of its submission, or in any form produced in accordance with the provisions of this Law, or in an objection submitted relating to the voter lists or in any other document produced in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
- C. Seizing without any right to do so, hiding, forging, destroying, ripping or defacing any document pertaining to the election.
- D. Delaying without any legal grounds the start of the polling process, stopping such process without justification before the time established for its end in accordance with the provisions of this Law, or slowing down any procedure with the purpose of hindering or delaying the process.
- E. Not opening the ballot box in the presence of the candidates or their representatives in attendance before the beginning of the polling process in order to make sure that the ballot box is empty;
- F. Reading a ballot paper in a way that contradicts or falsely reflects its contents;
- G. Refraining from implementing any provision of this Law that pertains to the processes and procedures of polling or counting of votes, or violating any provision of this Law with the intention of influencing the election results.

**Article 58** – The crimes stipulated in this Law shall be prosecuted by the Commission or by public prosecution, or upon a complaint by a voter or candidate.

**Article 59** – Any person who is convicted of one of the crimes stipulated in Article 56 of this Law shall not be included in the voter lists for a period to be set by the Court in the verdict, on the condition that it is not less than four years and not more than eight years. If he/she is a Mayor, a member of the Municipal Council or a member of the Local Council, the mayorship or membership shall be revoked, as applicable, as of the date the court sentence becomes definitive.

**Article 60** – The statute of limitations for the election crimes specified in this Law shall expire five years after the date on which the election results are announced.

**Article 61**

- A. Every voter may file a petition to the Court of First Instance under whose jurisdiction the municipality area or her/his electoral district is located, within fifteen days as of the date the election results are published in the Official Gazette, on the following:
- (i) Challenging the validity of the election of the Mayor, or a member of the Municipal Council or the Local Council and replacing him/her with another Mayor or member as applicable. In such case, the Court may form a committee to recount the votes in order to verify the validity of the election.
  - (ii) Cancellation of all or some of the election results, due to a violation of this Law which may affect the results.
- B. The winning Mayor and member whose election is challenged shall be party to the petition filed in accordance with paragraph A of this Article.
- C. After notifying the parties concerned, the Court shall examine the petition and shall hear the evidence presented to it or that it requests. The Court may take any measure it deems necessary in order to be persuaded of the circumstances of the case. The Court shall decide to dismiss the petition or to accept the petition and revoke the election of the person against whom the petition is filed and replace him/her by another who is elected into the post of Mayor or member of the Municipal or Local Council, as applicable. The Court may cancel all or part of the election in any electoral area of the Municipal Council or Local Council. The Court's decision, issued in accordance with this paragraph, shall be final and it shall be communicated to the Commission and published in the Official Gazette.
- D. If the Court issues a decision in accordance with paragraph C of this Article to cancel all or part of the election, the Commission shall immediately set a new date to conduct the election in accordance with this Law. In the second election, the voter lists used for the first polling process shall be used. In such case, the Minister shall form an interim committee to manage the Municipal Council or Local Council during this period.
- E. The Court of First Instance shall decide on the case within three months as of the date of its filing.

**Article 62**

- A. The Mayor and members of the Municipal Council and the Local Council shall assume their posts and start their work following the announcement of the election results by the Board of Commissioners.
- B. A new member who is replacing a member who has vacated his/her post for any reason shall assume his/her membership as of the date the Mayor receives notification of this from the Minister.

**Article 63** – If the election of the Mayor or members of the Municipal Council or the Local Council is annulled for any reason, the procedures taken by the Municipal Council prior to this annulment shall be deemed proper and applicable.

**Article 64**

- A. (i) If the members of the Local Council won by acclamation, the members shall elect a chair from amongst themselves within thirty days as of the date of the announcement of the final results. They shall elect their representatives to the Municipal Council in accordance with the number established in paragraph B of Article 3 of this Law.
- (ii) The members of the Local Council shall elect from amongst themselves through secret voting a vice-chair for two years, within thirty days as of the date of the announcement of the final results. The member who receives the highest number of votes from amongst the members in attendance

shall be considered the winner of this post. In case of a tie, the chair of the Local Council shall draw lots amongst those candidates in the manner they agree upon, and the result shall be published in the Official Gazette.

- B. The members of the Municipal Council shall elect from amongst themselves through secret voting a Deputy Mayor for two years, within thirty days as of the date of the announcement of the final results. The member who receives the highest number of votes from amongst the members in attendance shall be considered the winner of this post. In case of a tie, the Mayor shall draw lots amongst those candidates in the manner they agree upon. The major shall communicate the result of the election to the Administrator and the Minister and it shall be published in the Official Gazette.
- C. In case the post of Mayor becomes vacant for any reason, or in case the Mayor is absent for a week or more due to illness, leave of absence or an official mission outside the Kingdom, the Deputy Mayor shall receive from the Municipality Fund a bonus equal to the salary of the Mayor and his allowances for the entire period he/she performs the duties of this post.
- D. A by-law shall be issued that specifies the rights and duties of the Mayor and the chair of the Local Council, including their salaries, premiums and bonuses, leave, what they are prohibited from doing and the procedures and penalties against them. It shall also include the bonuses for the members of the Municipal Council and the members of the Local Council, their duties, what they are prohibited from doing and the procedures and penalties against them.

#### Article 65

- A. (i) The resignation of the Mayor shall be submitted in writing to the Municipal Council. The resignation shall be effective as of the date of its recording in the municipality registry. The Minister shall be notified of this.
- (ii) The resignation of the Deputy Mayor from his/her post shall be submitted in writing to the Municipal Council. The resignation shall be effective as of the date of its recording in the municipality registry. The Minister shall be notified of this. A successor shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph B of Article 64 of this Law.
- B. The resignation of the chair or the vice-chair of the Local Council from either post shall be submitted in writing to the Local Council. The resignation shall be effective as of the date of its recording in the Local Council registry. The Minister shall be notified of this.
- C. The resignation of a member of the Municipal Council or the Local Council shall be submitted in writing to the Municipal Council or the Local Council as applicable. The resignation shall be effective as of the date of its recording in the registry of the Municipality or Local Council, as applicable.

#### Article 66

- A. The Mayor of the Municipal Council or chair of the Local Council or a member of either of these Councils, shall lose his/her membership in accordance with the law and the seat shall be deemed vacant in any of the following cases:
  - (i) If he/she is absent from three consecutive sessions without a justified reason that is accepted by the Municipal Council or the Local Council as applicable, or from one third of the total sessions convened by the Municipal Council or the Local Council during the year, as applicable.
  - (ii) If he/she works as a lawyer, expert or consultant in a case against the Municipal Council or if he/she gains benefit in any of the development, investment or service projects the Municipal Council is considering for approval.
  - (iii) If he/she enters into an agreement with the Municipal Council or the Local Council, or if he/she gains benefit in any agreement entered into with either of these two Councils or their representatives. This excludes contracts and benefits resulting from membership of a public



shareholding company on the condition that he/she is not the Manager, a member of the board, employee, agent or consultant in the company.

- (iv) If he/she fails to meet any of the conditions that must be met in accordance with this Law and the by-laws issued thereunder.
  - (v) If he/she refrains from signing the decisions of the Municipal Council three consecutive times without providing convincing and legal reasons.
- B. The Mayor, chair of the Local Council or member of either the Municipal Council or the Local Council shall lose his/her membership by a decision of the Minister if he/she commits a serious mistake or violation, or harms the interests of the Municipality or Local Council. The decision of the Minister shall be subject to appeal before the Administrative Court.
- C. The Municipal Council shall inform the Commission, the Minister and Administrator that the Mayor, chair or member has lost his/her seat in the Municipal Council or the Local Council within seven days as of the date of the loss of membership, and the decision on the loss of membership shall be published in the Official Gazette.

**Article 67** - If the Mayor, chair or a member of the Municipal Council or the Local Council dies, the Municipal Council shall inform the Commission, the Minister and the Administrator of this, and the notice of death shall be published in the Official Gazette.

**Article 68**

- A. (i) If the post of Mayor becomes vacant for any reason, he/she shall be succeeded by the candidate who received the next highest number of votes if this candidate still fulfils the criteria and conditions of candidacy for the post of Mayor, or, if not, by the candidate who follows him/her. If there is no available candidate, the Deputy Mayor shall perform the duties of the Mayor until the end of his/her term as Deputy Mayor. Upon the end of this term, the Municipal Council shall elect from amongst its members a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the remaining term of the Municipal Council.
- (ii) If the post of Mayor of Amman becomes vacant for any reason, the Council of Ministers shall appoint a successor upon the recommendation of the Minister.
- (iii) If the post of chair of the Local Council becomes vacant for any reason, he/she shall be succeeded by the member who received the next highest number of votes.
- B. If the seat of a member of the Local Council becomes vacant for any reason, he/she shall be succeeded, upon the decision of the Minister, by the candidate who received the next highest number of votes if he/she still fulfils the conditions for candidacy, or if not, the candidate who follows him/her. If there is no available candidate, in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph, the Minister shall appoint from amongst the voters a member who fulfils the conditions for candidacy to fill the vacant seat. Membership acquired in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph shall cease with the end of the term of the Local Council during which the appointment took place.
- C. (i) If a seat held by a woman in any Local Council becomes vacant, she shall be succeeded by the woman candidate who received the highest number of votes in proportion to the number of actual voters within the Local Council but did not win a seat, if she still fulfils the conditions for candidacy, or if not, the woman candidate who follows her. If there is no available woman candidate in accordance with this item, the procedures in paragraph B of this Article shall apply.
- (ii) If the seat of a woman member in the Municipal Council becomes vacant, she shall be succeeded by the woman member with the next highest proportion of votes in the respective Local Councils.

**Article 69** – The Minister may, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, appoint two additional members to each Municipal Council. These two members shall enjoy the same rights as the elected members.

**Article 70**

- A. Municipality employees are appointed and jobs are created and cancelled, and its allocations are increased or decreased in accordance with the staffing table annexed to the annual budget.
- B. The provisions on the appointment of Municipality employees and workers, and their rights and duties shall be specified in by-laws issued for this purpose.
- C. One Municipality or more may establish a housing fund for its employees, a social solidarity fund and a savings fund, each enjoying legal personality. All the provisions relating to any of them, including their financial resources, employee subscription fees, their management, organisation of their affairs, the investment of their funds and the areas of spending shall be specified in by-laws issued for this purpose.

**Article 71**

- A. The Minister may approve a request to establish a coalition between two or more Municipalities with the aim of increasing cooperation amongst them, coordinating efforts to exchange expertise, technical coordination, improving the level of services and developing joint projects. All provisions relating to this, including its financial resources, the contribution of each Municipality in the coalition, how it is managed, how its affairs are organised and its funds are invested and areas of expenditure shall be specified in a by-law issued for this purpose.
- B. A joint Municipal Court may be established for a number of neighboring Municipalities in accordance with the applicable Municipality Courts Establishment Law.

**Article 72**

- A. The Minister shall verify the compliance of the Municipalities and Local Councils with the applicable laws and by-laws that regulate their work, and shall observe the performance of the Municipalities, their implementation of their annual plans and their compliance with the items of the approved budget.
- B. The Minister or the employee he/she delegates may at any time inspect any Municipality or Local Council, conduct an unexpected examination of its funds, places of work, warehouses and offices, review its transactions and the decisions made by the Municipal Council and the Local Councils as well as the decisions of the local and county (*liwa*) committees, and ask any employee or worker about any matter. The Mayor, members, employees and workers shall facilitate his/her mission and respond to his/her questions.
- C. The person who refuses, impedes or opposes the implementation of the procedures stipulated in paragraph B of this Article shall be considered to be obstructing state employees in the conduct of their official duties and shall be punished in accordance with the Penal Code.
- D. The report prepared by the person conducting the inspection in accordance with paragraph B of this Article shall be valid unless challenged as a forgery.
- E. The Municipal Council, the Local Council, and their employees and workers as appropriate, shall correct the violations pointed out in the report that is stipulated in paragraph D of this Article in accordance with the applicable legislative provisions.

**Article 73** – Any person who violates the provisions of this Law or any by-law issued thereunder for which no penalty has been specified shall be sentenced to a fine of not less than twenty dinars and not more than five hundred dinars.

**Article 74**

- A. The general elections for all Mayors and members of the Municipal Councils and members of the Local Councils shall be conducted for the first time after this Law comes into force when the term of the existing Municipal Councils stipulated in this Law concludes or they are dissolved.
- B. If all the Municipal Councils and Local Councils are dissolved for any reason and the elections are not held within six months as of the date of their dissolution, the dissolved Municipal and Local Councils shall resume their duties until the new Municipal and Local Council is elected.

**Article 75** – The Council of Ministers shall issue the by-laws necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Law, including:

- A. Enabling the Municipal Councils and the Local Councils to perform their duties and authorities as stipulated in this Law.
- B. Regulating all matters relating to the accountability of the Mayors, members of the Municipal Councils and the Local Councils.
- C. The financial affairs, supplies and works related to the Municipality.

**Article 76**

- A. The Municipalities Law No 13 of 2011 shall be abrogated. However, the by-laws, directives and decisions issued in accordance with it shall remain in effect until they are abrogated, amended or replaced by others in accordance with the provisions of this Law within a period that does not exceed one year.
- B. As of the date this Law comes into effect, the Municipal Councils shall undertake the duties and the authorities of the Local Councils stipulated in this Law until Local Councils are elected in accordance with its provisions.

**Article 77** – The Prime Minister and the ministers are mandated with implementing the provisions of this Law.