

# NEPAL GOVERNANCE WEEKLY

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## Invalid Votes are Projected to be Higher in the Local Elections

The Election Commission has come up with exciting campaigns - from circulating videos on social media to introducing special caller tunes to increase the voter turnout in the local level elections on 13 May 2022. However, the commission seems to have paid no attention to the issue of invalid votes. In the previous local elections, the commission had mobilized 20 thousand volunteers for voter education. Despite the awareness, the ratio of the invalid votes in many places such as Biratnagar (24%), Lalitpur (19%), and Janakpur (14%) among others were very high. For this election, the commission hasn't mobilized any volunteers and the invalid votes are projected to be even higher due to party alliances, and the confusion in voting ballots.

With the alliances, many political parties haven't nominated candidates for all 7 positions mentioned in the voting ballots and some independent candidates have filed candidacy for only one or a few positions. This could confuse voters to vote for positions that don't even have any candidate, leading to invalid votes. The commission has stated that the political parties share equal responsibilities for educating voters. But, couldn't the number of invalid votes easily be reduced by just removing a symbol for positions with no candidates from the voting ballots? Doesn't the voting rights of the citizens get curtailed when they fail to make informed voting choices due to such carelessness and lack of voters' education?

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Ministry of Health and Population is making preparations to provide COVID-19 vaccines to the voters who are yet to receive the complete vaccine doses by establishing vaccination centers near voting booths on the day of local elections.  
Read more: [Republica](#)
2. The Election Commission has provided approvals to 68 organizations to mobilize 20 thousand observers for the local level elections. The National Observation Committee has selected 40 long-term observers for 40 districts and will select 400 short-term observers for all 77 districts.  
Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)
3. The Election Commission has instructed all the election offices across the country to install CCTV cameras in the vote-counting centers. The commission's central office will monitor any dispute or issue observed during counting from Kathmandu as most offices are connected to the internet.  
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
4. There are 6,743 seats allocated for Dalit women members at the ward level as per the Local Level Election Act 2017. However, 149 seats for the Dalit women members have remained vacant as no candidacy was filed for the seats.  
Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)
5. The Election Commission has directed all the candidates to make their financial transactions relating to the elections through bank accounts. The candidates or political parties are encouraged to nominate a person to handle transactions and inform the details of the person to the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Election Office.  
Read more: [Election Commission](#)
6. The Election Commission has requested the government to close the international flights and borders checkpoints for 3 days from 10th May to ensure free, fair, and transparent local elections. It has also requested to tighten the sale and consumption of liquors during those days.  
Read more: [Ekagaj](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs on local elections based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by



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