



Electoral Reform Consortium: The third extension of municipal councils' term represents another setback for the democratic system in Lebanon

The Electoral Reform Consortium strongly condemns the Parliament's decision to extend the terms of municipal and mukhtar councils for the third consecutive time. This decision undermines the democratic process and the principles of good governance, once again indicating the Parliament's disregard for democratic processes and the Lebanese people's right to choose their representatives. This scenario, which we have repeatedly warned against, could have been avoided if there was genuine political intention to hold elections.

Therefore, the Electoral Reform Consortium considers today's approved extension as the culmination of a path that began years ago, clearly indicating that the parliamentary blocs and MPs who approved the extension view elections as marginal rather than fundamental democratic and constitutional milestones.

It has become imperative for anyone who believes in democracy in Lebanon to question those in power, as well as every Lebanese citizen: how can democracy flourish when one of its key pillars—empowerment of the people to grant or withhold confidence—has been neglected for years? These are the same years of crisis during which we need to rebuild trust in our institutions and renew their legitimacy. Instead, those entrusted with state institutions are deepening the pit and widening the impasse, as the concept of democracy is stripped of its essence, becoming a mere slogan with little impact beyond the speeches of some officials.

We, at the Electoral Reform Consortium, reject the term extension of municipal councils and consider it unconstitutional, as it usurps the people's will in choosing their representatives at all levels. We firmly believe that holding municipal elections throughout Lebanon is a duty that the Parliament should not have bypassed if it truly cared about citizens' interests rather than focusing solely on profit and loss calculations, especially considering the need for active municipalities in areas subjected to Israeli bombardment.

Therefore, the Consortium calls on MPs opposing the extension to appeal to the Constitutional Council, as this step constitutes a clear violation of the constitution, the law, and the principle of periodic elections.

The Electoral Reform Consortium:

- Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities - LUPD
- Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections - LADE
- Transparency International Lebanon - No Corruption
- Maharat Foundation

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