

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1745079/6-think-outside-wooden-box/>

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ECP- Think outside the wooden ballot box.

With no upper limit on the number of seats, consider one extreme scenario where a candidate stands for all 272 NA general seats. If he wins all, he can essentially force the government of Pakistan to hold a second general election – which will legally be termed as a by-election. Making tax payers pay for the by-elections on any vacated seat is unethical, unreasonable and completely avoidable. How come the ECP is happy to live with this lacuna.

Six to eight million Pakistanis have been silently disenfranchised because their vote is listed at their permanent address, while they reside (some for past many years) in a different city. The ECP has been unable to devise a simple mechanism for change of polling address. Most individuals could not waste a day or two going to ECP offices and following their bureaucratic procedures. The ECP could learn from other countries where such a change can be made on a cell phone or internet.

ECP has failed to use the NADRA linked biometric voting machines which are already a norm in many countries for last 2 decades. The ECP's archaic processes are hugely vulnerable to errors such as multiple voting, voting on another person's card and even voting on behalf of those who are dead.

Voters have been deprived of the much needed NOTA (None of the Above) option just as the overseas Pakistanis have been deprived of their right to vote.

Finally you colluded with the politicians to miss out the column for declaring current market value of assets in the declaration form – thus making a joke and a hoax of the entire election process - where every contestant has declared their assets at some 100 times lesser value.

Is it not high time for the ECP to reform its processes and begin to think outside the wooden ballot box?

Sincerely,

Naeem Sadiq

