



GALMUDUG STATE ELECTION 2026: ELECTION SNAPSHOT

One-Person, One-Vote Local Council & Regional Elections — Mudug & Galgadud
Prepared by Horn-Unique Consulting Group Inc. (HCG) | Dhuusamareb, Galmudug | July 2026



Figure X. H.E. President Ahmed Abdi Kariye officially launches the Galmudug one-person, one-vote voter registration campaign as residents register and receive their voter cards. Dhuusamareeb, 03 July 2025.

Photo: © Galmudug State House.

Overview

Following consultations with political organizations, Somalia's National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) has officially rescheduled the Galmudug State elections. Originally slated for 20 July, polling for direct local council and regional seats will now take place on 25 July 2026. This adjustment reflects an ongoing effort to accommodate stakeholder preparations for the one-person, one-vote (OPOV) model. This updated snapshot summarizes the revised timeline and the evolving political climate in Galmudug as of early July 2026.

Key Facts

Indicator	Figure	Notes
Revised election date	25 July 2026	Local council & regional elections
Total registered voters	215,860	Across Mudug & Galgadud regions
Mudug region voters	116,590	54.0% of total
Galgadud region voters	99,270	46.0% of total
Male registered voters	117,305 (54.4%)	Commission-reported figures
Female registered voters	98,555 (45.6%)	Commission-reported figures
Polling / registration centres	1,633	Across both regions
Political organizations cleared	35	Approved by NIEBC to contest seats

Electoral Process & Timeline

NIEBC has moved the polling date to 25 July 2026 to allow extended time for technical and administrative preparations. The commission continues to manage the phased rollout of the electoral schedule:



Voter registration and polling-station preparation: completed in preceding months.



Ongoing across designated districts.



Candidate/party registration: 35 political organizations confirmed to contest



Revised polling day: 25 July 2026



Dispute resolution mechanism integrated to address political grievances.

Political Landscape & Emergent Tensions

The shift to the OPOV model has brought underlying political tensions to the surface. While 35 political organizations are prepared to compete, the move away from the traditional 4.5 clan-delegate system has created anxiety over representation. Many stakeholders are concerned that specific sub-clan constituencies may lose historically guaranteed voting seats, adding friction to the process. The neutrality of NIEBC has also been the subject of debate, with some political actors calling for broader consensus to strengthen the legitimacy and inclusiveness of the results. The commission has urged all participants to adhere to electoral law to help maintain peace during this transition.

Context for Interpretation

The Galmudug process remains embedded in a wider, volatile national debate over the implementation of direct elections in Somalia. Tensions persist between federal authorities and various regional stakeholders regarding the pace and methodology of this shift, and the risk of friction between competing sub-clan constituencies remains a significant factor in the regional environment. Consistent with our mandate, HCG presents these observations as objective context and remains strictly non-partisan regarding the merits of the OPOV framework or the actions of any political entity.

Key Takeaways / What to Watch

- Polling extended to 25 July 2026 after stakeholder consultations.
- 35 political organizations approved, with ongoing representation concerns.
- Key risks: sub-clan tensions and NIEBC neutrality concerns.
- HCG to release a post-vote situation report within 48 hours.

About This Report & HCG

This updated snapshot incorporates the latest scheduling adjustments announced by NIEBC as of early July 2026; figures remain subject to further revision by the Commission. HCG will issue a comprehensive follow-up situation report after the 25 July polling day, documenting turnout, the resolution of disputes, and key electoral outcomes. HCG is a Somalia-based research, advisory, and strategic consulting firm supporting governments, development partners, and private institutions across the Horn of Africa with objective, field-grounded research. For enquiries or election monitoring services, contact info@hcgafrika.com.

