

**Egyptian Constitutional Amendments Passed on March 19, 2007:
Translated Excerpts**

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Article 1

The Arab Republic of Egypt is a state with a democratic system that is based on citizenship.

Article 5 (a third additional clause):

Citizens have the right to form political parties in accordance with law. It is not permitted to pursue any political activity or establish any political parties within any religious frame of reference (*marja'iyya*) or on any religious basis or on the basis of gender or origin.

Article 62

...The law may organize the right of political participation for the People's Assembly and Shura Council according to any electoral system that it specifies.

It is permitted for the law to adopt a system that combines the individual district and party list systems in any ratio that it specifies. The law may also specify a quota for the participation of women in both chambers.

Article 76 (replacing last two paragraphs)

Each political party for which at least five consecutive years have passed since its establishment before the opening of candidacy, and which has been active the entire period, and whose members obtained in the last elections at least 3 percent of the seats in the People's Assembly and Shura Council, or an equivalent number of seats in one chamber, has the right to nominate for the presidency a candidate who has been a member of the party's senior leadership for at least one uninterrupted year.

An exception to the foregoing is that each of the indicated parties, if it holds at least a single elected seat in either of the chambers, may nominate a candidate who has been a member of the party's senior leadership for at least one uninterrupted year in presidential elections that take place in the ten years following May 1, 2007.

Article 82

Should the President be unable to perform his duties due to any outstanding circumstances, his duties will be performed by the vice president, or (if there is none) the prime minister. The person

performing these duties may not request constitutional amendments, dissolve parliament, or dismiss the cabinet.

Article 85

The President must cease work immediately after a charge [treason or criminal offense] is issued against him, at which point the vice president or (if there is none) the prime minister assumes the presidency temporarily, in accordance with the restrictions stipulated in the second clause of article 82 until a decision is reached on the charge.

Article 88

...Voting will take place on a single day and will be supervised by a supreme electoral commission that enjoys independence and neutrality, in a way to be specified by law. The law shall specify the committee's mandate, the manner of its formation, and the guarantees for its members, provided that current and former members of judicial bodies are among its members. The electoral commission will form the general committees that will monitor elections on the level of electoral districts and the committees that will oversee voting and counting procedures. General committees must be comprised of members of judicial bodies. Counting will take place under the supervision of the general committees, according to rules and procedures specified by law.

Article 115

The draft general budget must be submitted to the People's Assembly at least three months before the beginning of the fiscal year and is not considered to be in effect without the assembly's approval. Voting on the draft budget will be article by article. The People's Assembly may amend the expenses listed in the budget except those used to repay a specific obligation on the part of the state.

Article 127

The People's Assembly shall decide, based on the request of one tenth of its members, the responsibility of the prime minister. Its decision shall be by a majority of the Assembly members. This decision may not be made until after an interpellation has been directed at the government and at least three days have passed since the initial request.

Article 136

The president may not issue a decree dissolving the parliament except in case of necessity.

If parliament is dissolved over a certain matter, the new assembly may not be dissolved over the same matter.

The decree must include a call for new elections to be held not more than sixty days from the date of dissolution.

Article 173

Every judicial body shall regulate its own affairs. A council comprised of the heads of judicial bodies and headed by the president shall be formed to address matters of common concern. The law shall specify the council's composition, mandate, and the rules governing its operation.

Article 179

The state shall be responsible for protecting security and public order from the dangers of terrorism. The law will set stipulations concerning procedures for investigation and identification of suspects which the state deems necessary in confronting these dangers, provided that the procedure stipulated in the first clause of article 41 and 44 and the second clause of article 45 of the constitution do not obstruct such an effort. All will be carried out under the oversight of the judiciary.

The president has the right to refer any crime of terrorism to any judicial authority under the Constitution or the law.

Click [here](#) for the full text of the 1971 Egyptian Constitution.

<http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Politics/Constitution/Text/040703000000000001.htm>

Click [here](#) for the full text of all the amendments in Arabic.

www.carnegieendowment.org/programs/arabic/appendixArabic.pdf

Click [here](#) to read "Egypt's Controversial Constitutional Amendments" by Nathan Brown, Michele Dunne, and Amr Hamzawy (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Web Commentary, March 23, 2007).

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/egypt_constitution_webcommentary01.pdf