

Statement on Elections in Libya

July 7, 2012

On behalf of the American people, I extend my congratulations to the people of Libya for another milestone on their extraordinary transition to democracy. After more than 40 years in which Libya was in the grip of a dictator, today's historic election underscores that the future of Libya is in the hands of the Libyan people. Across Libya today, voters turned out to exercise their hard-earned freedoms, most participating in an election for the first time in their lives. They cast ballots for representatives of a national congress that will lead the next stage of Libya's transition.

The United States is proud of the role that we played in supporting the Libyan revolution and protecting the Libyan people, and we look forward to working closely with the new Libya, including the elected Congress and Libya's new leaders. We will engage as partners as the Libyan people work to build open and transparent institutions, establish security and the rule of law, advance opportunity, and promote unity and national reconciliation. There are still difficult challenges ahead, and voting needs to be completed in some areas. As they begin this new chapter, the Libyan people can count on the continued friendship and support of the United States.

Categories: Statements by the President : Libya, elections.

Subjects: Libya : Democracy efforts; Libya : Elections; Libya : No-fly zone :: U.S. military forces; Libya : Reconciliation efforts; Libya : Relations with U.S.

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