

Iraqi Constitutional Referendum

Secretary Condoleezza Rice

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I congratulate the Iraqi people on the passage of their constitutional referendum. This is another important step in Iraq's march towards democracy. Iraqis have met every challenge before them, from the transfer of sovereignty and the elections last January to the writing of the constitution and the holding of the referendum. Theirs is a remarkable story.

The people of Iraq now can look forward to the election of the Council of Representatives on December 15, 2005. I hope that all Iraqis will again turn out to exercise their democratic rights to elect the people who will be the first permanent government of a free Iraq. As Iraq enters this new phase in its history the United States vows its continued support.

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