

Thailand

Thailand does not appear to have laws directly concerned with the prohibition of broadcasting partial election results. However, there are laws concerning radio and television broadcasting and election laws which may be related to this subject.

Article 10 of the Radio and Television Broadcasting Act of 1955 prohibits broadcasting and televising "matters not in the interest of the nation and the public."

The procedures of ballot counting and announcement of election results are dealt with in the Election Act of 1932, amended in 1936, 1947 and 1951.

Article 38 designates 17.00 o'clock as the time for closing the election poll for the entire kingdom; and since Thailand is on one time zone throughout, the polls in all election districts are closed simultaneously.

Article 46 allows vote counting to begin only after the closing of the poll. After the ballot in one election site (poll) is counted, the result is announced and posted. The record of the result is then forwarded to the district commissioner's office. From there it is communicated to the provincial governor's office, and eventually to the Ministry of Interior. The election result is posted at the town hall after the ballot has been counted and forwarded to the provincial governor's office. According to Article 46, before the announcement of the election result in an

election site, ballot counting officers and secretaries may not disclose to any individual the number of votes which have been cast for any particular candidate, nor may they disclose which individual has cast a vote or which has not.

In view of the fact that all the polls close at the same time throughout the country, the broadcasting of partial election returns will not influence the voting of the public. Thus, there is no law prohibiting such broadcasting.

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