

Egyptians vote on post-Morsi constitution

Egyptians go to the polls to decide whether to approve the country's rewritten constitution in a referendum seen as a test of popularity for army chief **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**, as he eyes the presidency

KEY CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

*Previous charter approved in 2012, during rule of ousted Islamist President **Mohamed Morsi***

ISLAMIC LAW

■ Principles of Sharia remain basis for legislation. But draft removes provision giving precise definition of "principles" that could have been used to enact stricter Islamic law

■ **Al-Azhar** – top Sunni authority – remains "primary reference" in Islamic matters. But decisions on whether legislation conforms to Sharia principles is restored from clerics to Supreme Constitutional Court

■ Freedom of belief is "absolute" – 2012 charter said it was "preserved"

RIGHTS

■ Citizens have right to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, but these can only be practised "according to law", leaving room for state to curb rights through legislation

■ New charter ensures equality between men and women, and obligates state to provide protection to women against "any form of violence"

General
Abdel
Fattah
al-Sisi



MILITARY

■ Armed forces given right to appoint defence minister for next eight years

■ Civilians may still be tried in military courts but only for direct attacks on military premises or personnel

■ Military budget to remain beyond civilian scrutiny

POLITICS

■ Draft prohibits establishment of political parties based on religion, dealing blow to Islamist movements like **Muslim Brotherhood** and its **Freedom and Justice Party**