

Malou Innocent, a foreign policy analyst from the CATO Institute in Washington, says the election is falling short of standards of democracy and underscores deeper problems within the country.

*“Given the amount of insecurity and instability and the fact that there’s a flood of voter registries, there has been voter intimidation, voter bribery and there’s a great deal of uncertainty as to what’s going to happen,”* Innocent said. *“And despite the fact that there are 2,400 candidates – over 40 of them women – you have to really understand that the complexity of all this means that there really won’t be what we would define as a liberal democratic electoral process.”*

And if Afghanistan does fail to become a stable nation, it will have serious consequences for other countries in the region, believes Matthew Hoh, head of the Afghan Study Group.

*“I think for nations like the Central Asian states, for Russia, for China, that have issues with their own ethnic minorities or Muslim minorities – it’s important for what is happening in Afghanistan not to spread across boundaries,”* he told RT.