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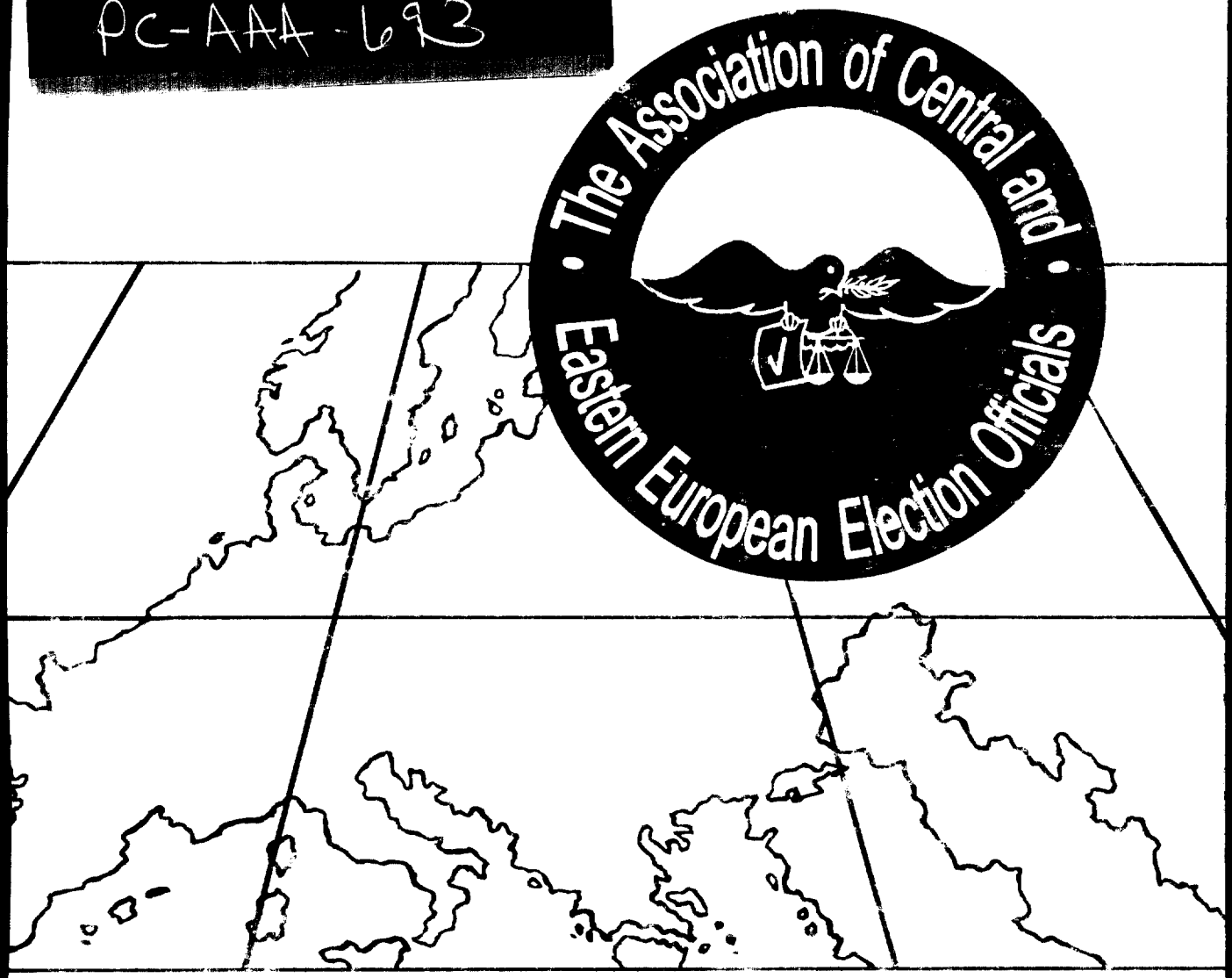

ELECTION LAW COMPENDIUM OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

IFES

KYIV 1995

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ELECTION LAW COMPENDIUM OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Published by

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

on behalf of

The Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO)

KYIV IFES 1995

FOREWORD

This *Election Law Compendium of Central and Eastern Europe* is the first publication produced by the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) through the cooperative efforts of all its member-states. A component of the ACEEEO's outreach program, this publication is intended to serve as a primary resource of information for election administrators, legislators, legal experts, and academicians in order to promote greater interest in, and understanding of, the current laws of democratic electoral systems in Central and Eastern Europe. The *Compendium* is available in English, Russian and Ukrainian languages.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) for the assistance provided to the ACEEEO in the translation, editing, and printing of this publication. I would also like to thank the member-states of the ACEEEO who assisted in the compilation of the election laws and supported their publication.

Sincerely,

Dr. Zoltán Tóth
Secretary

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) is an non-profit, non-partisan organization which conducts projects world-wide to assist in the development of democratic electoral systems. While many of IFES' projects involve international experts working in cooperation with firmly established democracies, we feel it is important to create the opportunity for dialogue and mutual cooperation among electoral administrators, legislators, academicians, and legal experts within and among developing democracies in all regions of the world. The mutual support, open exchange of information and experience which arise from such contacts not only assists in the common goal of establishing democratic processes, but assures participants and representatives from all countries that this goal knows no borders, and allows them to acknowledge the mutual commitment of their foreign and domestic colleagues to the attainment of this goal. This is why IFES has firmly supported the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) since its inception in 1991, and will continue to offer assistance to this and similar organizations in the future.

This book has been carefully edited and translated by IFES staff. However, due to the detailed process of translation of the laws into three different languages, some errors may exist. Consequently, we ask that the reader submit any questions, suggestions, or comments to our Washington office in order to assist IFES in the publication of subsequent editions of this *Compendium*.

I want to take the opportunity to thank ACEEEO Secretary, Dr. Zoltán Tóth, for his dedication to the concept of the Association and to his labors, the efforts of ACEEEO staff and all member-states in the realization of this concept. I also want to make my appreciation know to all IFES employees and consultants who made this publication possible, most notably to our office in Kyiv, Ukraine. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Soudriette
Director

ELECTION LAW COMPENDIUM
OF
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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HISTORY OF THE ACEEEO

The Symposium of Central and Eastern European Electoral Systems

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, countries in Central and Eastern Europe began the long process of institutionalizing multi-party elections. Realizing the common lack of experience in the administration of multi-party elections, election officials from Central and Eastern Europe agreed to gather in Budapest at the Symposium of Central and Eastern European Electoral Systems from 30 July to 2 August 1991. Organized by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Hungarian National Election Office, the Symposium sought to provide a forum for discussions between high-ranking election officials from Central and Eastern Europe and various Western experts concerning the difficulties faced by the region's emerging electoral systems.

Formation of the ACEEEO

At the close of the Budapest symposium, official representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia, drafted a protocol for the creation of the Association of Central and Eastern European Electoral Officials (ACEEEO). The Protocol was later signed by Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine.

The ACEEEO's charter defined the objectives of the Association as follows: to further international cooperation, to support democracy by ensuring the inviolability of voting rights, to strengthen the development of efficient and transparent electoral systems, to hold joint consultations on the problems that may emerge in the institutionalization of electoral systems, to exchange invitations among member countries to observe each other's elections in order to develop a common professional experience, and to share information on how to further develop the democratic electoral process.

The participating countries also agreed to hold an annual conference on theoretical and practical issues of elections and determined that membership in the Association should remain open to all countries of the region. The Secretariat of the ACEEEO as well as a documentation center (to act as a clearinghouse of information for regional electoral experts and the location of all Association records) were established in Budapest.

The ACEEEO 1993 Conference

Pursuant to the Association's charter, an annual conference took place in Budapest April 22 and 23, 1993 and was attended by the official representatives of ten Central and Eastern European countries (Albania, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine). By now familiar with the main features of the electoral systems of their respective countries, the officials turned to those

issues and problems which had arisen in the recent past. In turn, international experts discussed the essential aspects of a model electoral process and representation of ethnic minorities, voter education, as well as the duties of election observers. In addition to addressing past accomplishments, future plans and needs of the Association, the Secretary of the ACEEEO, Dr. Zoltan Toth announced the formation of a Hungarian non-governmental organization, the Foundation for Elections, to serve as Hungary's single point of contact with the Association's Secretariat and Documentation Center, with the objective of augmenting and facilitating international exchanges of election information, statistics, and expertise for Hungary.

The British AEA Joins the ACEEEO

In August of 1993, the British Association of Election Administrators (AEA) announced its intention to join the ACEEEO as an associate member. The AEA then sent invitations requesting 18 electoral administrators from Central and Eastern Europe to take part as observers in the European Parliamentary Elections in England in June 1994.

The 1994 ACEEEO Conference

The ACEEEO held its 1994 gathering on December 15-17 in the city of Kyiv, Ukraine. The conference was organized by the Central Election Commission of Ukraine, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and an organizational committee designated by the Presidium of the Parliament of Ukraine to provide support for the conference. The leading practicioners of elections in Ukraine and from 18 other nations discussed common problems and solutions in the electoral process.

During the three-day conference, administrators considered such issues as election law reform, adjudication of election disputes, problems associated with election administration, and prospects for democracy in the region. Special emphasis was given to case studies of elections that took place within the past two years. Topics outlined during the panel discussions were discussed in extensive question and answer sessions. The mechanics of modern election administration was also emphasized as participants familiarized themselves with election commodities and equipment displayed at the conference.

CURRENT STATUS OF LAWS IN THE COMPENDIUM

Due to the rapid pace of legislative reform in the election laws of Central and Eastern Europe, some of the laws included in this volume may have since been superseded by recent parliamentary action. At the time of publication of the Compendium, the status of election legislation in this volume was as follows:

ALBANIA Parliamentary Election Law, enacted February 4, 1992.

BELARUS Parliamentary Election Law, enacted October 27, 1989. Amendments of December 1994 are included in this edition.

BULGARIA Parliamentary Election Law, enacted August 20, 1991.

CZECH REPUBLIC The Czech Republic currently uses the Election Law enacted August 18, 1990 by Czech National Council[1].

CROATIA Current Laws on Parliamentary, Presidential, and Local Elections are included in this edition.

ESTONIA Parliamentary Election Law, enacted June 7, 1994

HUNGARY Parliamentary Election Law enacted 1989, Amendments of 1994 are included in this edition.

KAZAKHSTAN A combined Parliamentary and Presidential Election Law, enacted December 9, 1993.

LATVIA Parliamentary Election Law, enacted October 20, 1992.

LITHUANIA Parliamentary Election Law, enacted July 9, 1992.
Presidential Election Law, enacted December 22, 1992.
Law on the Office of the President, enacted January 26, 1993.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic reported on June 26, 1995, that a new law on the Czech Parliamentary Elections had been prepared. This law was not available to the publisher at the time of publication of this Compendium.

MACEDONIA	Parliamentary Election Law.
MOLDOVA	Parliamentary Election Law, enacted October 14, 1993.
POLAND	Parliamentary Election Law, enacted July 3, 1991.
ROMANIA	Parliamentary Election Law, enacted January 15, 1992. Presidential Election Law, enacted January 16, 1992.
RUSSIA	Parliamentary Election Law, enacted June 9, 1995. Presidential Election Law, enacted March 24, 1995.
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Parliamentary election law, enacted on March 16, 1990. Amendments of 1991, 1992, and 1994 are included in this edition.
SLOVENIA	Parliamentary Election Law, enacted March 10, 1992.
UKRAINE	Parliamentary Election Law, enacted November 18, 1993. Amendments of December 22, 1994 are included in this edition. Presidential Election Law, enacted February 24, 1994. Local Election Law, enacted February 24, 1994.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The object of this work is to provide a comprehensive collection of the election laws of emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. The editor is all too conscious of the difficulty in keeping abreast of the rapid and vast changes in democracy taking place in this area of the world, as reflected in ever-changing bodies of law governing the conduct of elections.

In order to maintain the most current sets of election laws, both IFES and ACEEEO would greatly appreciate any information on the enactment of new election laws and amendments to current laws. Toward this end, we request that new information on the status of election laws be communicated to the following for inclusion in future editions of this publication:

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Albania

LAW
ON ELECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

On the basis of Articles 16 and 17 of Law No. 7491 dated 29 April 1991, "On the Main Constitutional Provisions" the People's Assembly of the Republic of Albania resolves:

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.
Elections for People's Assembly deputies will take place in the territory of the Republic of Albania on the basis of general, direct, free, and secret vote.

ARTICLE 2.
All Albanian citizens who have reached the age of 18 as of the date of the elections have the right to vote.

All who have reached the age of 21 as of the date of the elections, are Albanian citizens, and live permanently in the Republic of Albania or declare in writing that after the elections they will live permanently in the Republic of Albania have the right to be elected as deputies in the People's Assembly.

ARTICLE 3.
Citizens whose right to vote has been taken away from them by court decision because they have committed a crime, as well as persons who are judged to be mentally incompetent by a court, will not be allowed to vote.

ARTICLE 4.
Each voter has the right to cast only one vote. A voter's vote is equal to that of every other voter.

ARTICLE 5.
A deputy in the People's Assembly cannot simultaneously serve as an elected or appointed member of the organs of the local government, the state administration as well as in the justice organs.

CHAPTER II. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

ARTICLE 6.
The People's Assembly consists of no less than 140 deputies, 100 of which are elected directly from the single district zone, while supplemental seats are nominated by electoral subjects' lists and installed proportionally on the basis of nation-wide results in the first round.

ARTICLE 7.
A candidate is declared an elected deputy in the People's Assembly in a single district zone if he wins more than half of the valid votes in that zone.

ARTICLE 8.
If in the first balloting none of the candidates nominated gets more than 50 percent of the valid votes, then a week later the second round of elections is held in the respective zone.

The two candidates who receive the greatest number of votes in the first round, will run in the second round.

If an electoral subject withdraws its candidate in the second round of balloting, he is substituted by the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes from the remaining candidates in the first round.

Candidates in the second round of balloting are announced by the electoral commission of the zone.

ARTICLE 9.
In the second round of balloting, the candidate that obtains the largest number of votes is elected deputy in the People's Assembly. If the candidates receive an equal number of votes, then the deputy is selected by lot.

ARTICLE 10.
At least eight days before the elections, electoral subjects that have nominated joint candidates in an electoral zone must send a report to the zone election commission on the distribution of their joint votes after they are counted nation-wide.

ARTICLE 11.
Supplemental seats are allocated as follows:

a) the percentage of the general vote that each subject has obtained in the first round of elections in the single-member zones is determined based on the votes obtained by its candidates nation-wide.
b) each subject obtains a number of seats from the multi-member list in such a way that the total number of seats in the People's Assembly is equal to the number of seats it is entitled to on the basis of the percentage of votes it has obtained

and that the number of deputies be the lowest possible. This is determined according to the formula in Appendix 1.

The winners from the multi-member list are determined according to their order on the list.

Only those subjects that receive no less than 4 percent of the nation-wide vote are eligible for supplemental seats.

CHAPTER III. ELECTORAL SUBJECTS

ARTICLE 12.

Any Albanian citizen that has the right to be elected on the basis of this law, can run for a People's Assembly deputy as a representative of any party, group of parties, or as an independent candidate.

Any candidate cannot run in more than one single-member district.

Any Candidate in a single-member district can simultaneously run as a candidate on the list of his respective subject. A candidate who wins in a electoral zone is a deputy of that zone and his name is deleted from the nation-wide list of his electoral subject.

ARTICLE 13.

A candidate for deputy in the People's Assembly is registered by the election commission of the zone no later than 20 days before election day. To effect the registration, the following documents are submitted:

a) a written application from the respective electoral subject, in which the registration of the candidate nominated for deputy is requested. The application must contain the name, father's name, last name, birthday and residence of the candidate (2 copies).
b) the statement of the candidate accepting the placing of his name as a candidate in the specific election zone (2 copies).
c) a list signed by no less than 400 voters in the respective zone, which support the candidate in that zone.

ARTICLE 14.

The specified list with the voters' signatures must contain the title, symbol or seal of the electoral subject nominating the candidate or indicate if the candidate is independent.

The list must contain the name, father's name, last name, address, the number of the identification card and the signature of the voter, who must live in the zone where the candidate is nominated and be certified by the zone election commission.

A voter does not have the right to sign more than one list.

The lists are deposited with the Central Electoral Commission and can be inspected with appropriate authorization.

When the election commission of the zone determines irregularities in the application and documents submitted for the registration of candidates, it requests that electoral subjects make the necessary corrections within two days. In the event this is not done, the election commission makes the appropriate decision.

ARTICLE 15.

Electoral subjects that have fielded candidates in no less than 33 electoral zones in 9 districts of the country have the right to submit lists with 100 candidates for supplemental seats.

The list with the signature and stamp of the respective electoral subject is submitted to the Central Elections Commission no later than 20 days before election day.

ARTICLE 16.

The election commissions of the zones, when the conditions of this law are fulfilled, are obliged to register all the candidates for deputy in the People's Assembly and to make their names public no later than 15 days before election day, giving the name of the subject which nominated the candidate.

ARTICLE 17.

For each candidate for deputy, the election commission of the zone keeps an official registration record according to an established form. A copy of this official record is sent to the Central Elections Commission along with the statement of the candidate accepting the placing of his name as a candidate in the respective zone.

ARTICLE 18.

When the name of a candidate for deputy in the People's Assembly is withdrawn by the subject that proposed him, when a candidate withdraws on his own or dies after he has been registered by the zone election commission, the respective subject can register another candidate, but no later than 7 days before election day. If this occurs during the 7-day period before the elections, then the electoral subject presents another candidate from the party list of candidates.

ARTICLE 19.

In case:

a) members of the Council of Ministers,
b) directors of executive committees in districts, regions and cities (the chairman, deputy-chairman and the secretary) in the zones where they perform their duties, declare their candidacy, they are released from their duties 20 days before election day.

The following cannot be nominated as candidates for deputies:

a) directors of the organs of public order and the national information service in districts, regions and cities.
b) soldiers on active and required duty in zones where their units or military detachments are stationed.

CHAPTER IV. LISTS OF VOTERS

ARTICLE 20.

The elections for People's Assembly deputies take place on the basis of lists of voters.

All citizens who have the right to vote are registered on the lists of voters. When the organ empowered (according to this law) to draw up the list of voters, registers voters as temporary residents in its territory, it is required to inform the respective organ of the district of voters' permanent residence with the aim that they do not register in two places of residence.

Each citizen is registered on only one voter list.

ARTICLE 21.

The lists of voters are drawn up for each voting center.

In the lists of voters are included: name, father's name, and last name of the voter and the registration number.

In the cities, city sectors [lagie], and villages, the lists of voters are compiled by the temporary pluralism executive committees.

The lists of voters are signed by the chairman and secretary of the temporary pluralism executive committee.

The lists of voters are announced by the organ which has compiled them no later than 25 days before the election day.

ARTICLE 22.

The lists of voters who serve and live in military units and detachments are compiled and announced, no later than 25 days before election day, by the nearest temporary pluralism executive committee in cooperation with the commands of military units and detachments.

All other soldiers are registered on the lists of voters in their place of residence compiled by the temporary pluralism executive committees.

ARTICLE 23.

Albanian citizens who live permanently outside the country, but will be in the territory of the Republic of Albania until election day, are registered on the lists of voters in their former residence. For the above mentioned citizens, the exercise of their right to vote is marked in their international passport.

ARTICLE 24.

In hospitals, sanatoriums and other health and rehabilitation institutions, reeducation camps and detention centers, the lists of voters are compiled by the directors of the institutions, reeducation camps, or detention centers based on the voters' identification documents. Their directors are required to inform the competent organ of the local government in the residence of these voters so that corrections can be made in the lists of voters on which they were originally registered.

ARTICLE 25.

When a voter is selected as a member of an election commission or an observer in a zone or voting center and changes his residence after the list of voters is published and before election day, the competent organ, at the written request of the electoral subject, issues him a certificate to vote in the new zone of residence and writes the word "moved" on the list of voters. The voter is registered on the supplemental list of voters in the new residence by presenting the voting certificate together with his identification card or any other document which replaces it.

ARTICLE 26.

The organ which announced the lists of voters, by decision, can make changes in these lists, but no later than 24 hours before election day, when a citizen has died, is registered twice, is not registered, does not have a right to vote or is outside the territory of the Republic of Albania.

ARTICLE 27.

Each citizen has the right to request the correction of errors and omissions in the voters' lists such as lack of registration, removal from the list, changes in the last name or first name, registration of persons who have lost the right to vote, etc. The request is made to the organ which announced the lists, which is obliged to review it within two days and issue the appropriate decision.

The decision can be appealed in the district court which, within three days, in the presence of the person making the complaint and a representative of the organ which announced the lists, reviews the complaint in open judicial session and issues the appropriate decision. The court decision is announced immediately and is final.

Any change made in the list of voters is announced immediately.

ARTICLE 28.

The organs that have announced the lists of voters will make them available to electoral subjects upon request and payment of a fee.

CHAPTER V. ELECTION ZONES AND VOTING CENTERS

ARTICLE 29.

Some 100 election zones, with an almost equal number of residents, will be created for the People's Assembly elections. The zones must be compact and have geographic continuity, and the administrative and territorial divisions should be respected in setting up the zones.

The number of zones according to districts is determined by this law based on the attached list (Appendix 2), while the borders and the line-up of election zones are determined by the President of the Republic of Albania with the proposal of the Council of Ministers no later than 35 days before election day.

ARTICLE 30.

Voting and the counting of votes take place in voting centers, which are set up in every city, city sector, and village.

ARTICLE 31.

In the villages, a voting center is set up for every 100 to 800 voters.

In cities and city sectors, a voting center is set up for every 800 voters.

A separate voting center is set up for cities and city sectors that have less than 800 voters. A separate voting center is set up if the remaining number of voters is larger than 400, while if the remaining number of voters is less, they will be joined with the nearest voting center.

When a work center is more than 3 km from the nearest voting center, a separate voting center is set up in the work center if there are at least 50 voters.

ARTICLE 32.

The election zones will be announced no later than 35 days before election day.

In cities, city sectors, and villages, voting centers are set up by the temporary pluralism executive committees.

ARTICLE 33.

In hospitals, sanatoriums, maternity wards, and other similar institutions, in reeducation camps and detention centers, voting centers are set up if there are more than 13 voters.

In health institutions that have many clinics, voting centers are set up in each clinic if there are more than 15 voters in each one.

ARTICLE 34.

The following commissions are established for directing the People's Assembly elections:

a) the Central Election Commission;
b) the election commissions in the zones;
c) the commissions of the voting centers;

Representatives of electoral subjects as well as non-party persons serve as members of election commissions.

Election commissions are independent bodies and answer for their activity only before the law.

The deputy-chairman or the secretary of the Central Election Commission as well as the deputy chairmen or secretaries of election commissions in the zones must be attorneys.

Decisions in these commissions are made by majority votes.

ARTICLE 35.

The Central Election Commissions is composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and 14 members.

The composition of the Commission is decided by the President of the Republic based on the proposal of political parties no later than 35 days before the elections.

Political parties which have no representatives in the Central Election Commission have the right to send observers.

ARTICLE 36.

In particular, the Central Election Commission carries out the following duties:

a) it sees to the strict and equal implementation of this law during the election period in the entire territory of the Republic of Albania;
b) it determines the methodology and inspects the activity of election commissions in the zones;
c) it reviews complaints against irregular and illegal activities of election commissions of zones;
d) it registers and announces the participation in the elections of parties, groups of them and independent candidates and registers their symbols or seals. After registration, no party or group of parties has the right to use the symbols of another party or group of parties.
e) it exercises control over the registration of lists of candidates in zones for deputies in the People's Assembly;
f) it sets the rules for the participation in the elections of foreign and domestic observers and provides them with

identification documents;

g) when necessary after the elections, it examines the lists of voters and when it discovers that a citizen has voted more than once it refers the case to the appropriate organ;
h) it announces the results of the elections and registers the People's Assembly deputies;
i) on the basis of the nation-wide party list, it issues the certificate of election to the elected deputy.

ARTICLE 37.

In each election zone, an election commission for the zone is set up, composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and a representative of electoral subjects that have nominated candidates in that zone as well as a non-party person nominated by the temporary executive pluralism committee in the district, when the number of commission members is even.

The election commission for the zone is determined by the Central Election Commission, with the proposal of the temporary pluralism executive committees and after consultations with political parties no later than 25 days before election day.

ARTICLE 38.

The election commission of the zone has the following duties:

a) it sees to the strict and equal implementation of this law during the election period in the entire territory of the zone;
b) it exercises control over the activity of the commissions of the voting centers during the election period;
c) it oversees the establishment of voting centers in accordance with the law;
d) it oversees the preparatory activity of drafting and announcing the lists of voters as well as issues voter certificates;
e) it supplies voting center commissions with ballot boxes, envelopes, ballots, official records, and other materials necessary for the conduct of elections. It is in charge of safekeeping, distributing and transporting these materials.
f) it registers and announces candidates nominated for deputies in accordance with this law;
g) it registers the representatives of the candidates for deputies from different parties, groups of parties, or independent candidates and supplies them with appropriate certificates;
h) it counts votes on the basis of the reports from the voting centers and announces the results of the elections in the zone;
i) it reviews complaints against irregular and illegal acts and activities of voting center commissions;
j) it issues certifications of election to deputies who are elected;
k) it sends the election documents to the Central Election Commission.

ARTICLE 39.

In each voting center a voting center commission is set up, composed of a chairman, a secretary and a representative of electoral subjects fielding candidates in that zone.

ARTICLE 40.

The voting center commission carries out the following duties:

a) it ensures the free and peaceful conduct of elections in voting centers in accordance with this law;
b) it ensures order during the elections; -
c) it counts the votes cast for each candidate for deputy;
d) it prepares and sends the official record of the voting to the election commission of the zone;
e) it records in the official record all the complaints and requests of the voters or candidates, examines them and issues the appropriate decision;
f) it sends the election documents to the election commission of the zone.

ARTICLE 41.

During the elections, the decisions of the chairman of the voting center commission are binding for all citizens in the voting center. These decisions can be annulled only by a decision of the voting center commission.

ARTICLE 42.

The members of the election commission can be relieved of their duties on these commissions, by the organ which approved the composition of the commission, at the request of the members or upon recommendation of electoral subjects they represent.

ARTICLE 43.

Members of the election commissions, members of the temporary pluralism executive committees, soldiers, workers in the organs of public order and the national information service as well as candidates for People's Assembly deputies cannot serve as members of election commissions.

ARTICLE 44.

Election commission meetings are valid when more than half of the members are present. Decisions at these meetings are made by majority vote.

Election commission meetings are public. Observers may participate in these meetings and have the right to make comments. Upon their request, comments can be included in the official report of the commission meeting.

ARTICLE 45.

Electoral subjects and independent candidates have the right to submit a list of names to substitute their representatives who are members of election commissions of zones and voting centers. When the latter are unfit to perform their duties, they are substituted in the following way:

a) in the case of voting center commissions, by decision of the election commission of the zone;
b) in the case of zone election commissions, by decision of the Central Election Commissions

ARTICLE 46.

Members of the Central Election Commission or zone election commissions are released from their jobs, with pay, effective the day of their appointment, while those of voting center commissions have the right to be released from their jobs, with pay, 3 days before the voting and 2 days after the voting.

The above mentioned persons are compensated from the state budget, in the amount determined by the Central Election Committee.

The amount of compensation for members of the Central Election Commission is determined by the President of the Republic

ARTICLE 47.

With respect to the Penal Code, all members of the election commissions are considered as "carrying out state duties" while they perform their duties.

ARTICLE 48.

While performing their assigned duties, members of the election commissions and observers are prohibited from displaying any distinguishing signs or symbols of a party or group of parties to which they belong or make or take part in election propaganda activities.

CHAPTER VII. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE-DECISIONS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 49.

The decisions of the election commissions of the zones may be appealed to the Central Election Commission within 3 days of their announcement.

The Central Election Commission examines the complaints, and within 3 days, issues the appropriate decision.

ARTICLE 50.

The decisions of the Central Election Commission can be appealed to the Supreme Court within 3 days of their announcement.

The Supreme Court examines the complaint and, within three days, issues a final decision, which it announces immediately.

The decisions of the Supreme Court on complaints regarding election results are announced to the Commission for the new People's Assembly Mandates

CHAPTER VIII. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 51.

The election campaign begins with the announcement of the election date and ends 24 hours in advance of this date.

ARTICLE 52.

During the election campaign, any electoral subject as well as citizens have the right to freely make propaganda through rallies, meetings, radio, television, press and other media.

Any kind of propaganda made in violation of laws, judicial order or that attack the candidates' personal dignity is prohibited.

The publication of election public opinion surveys is prohibited during the 8 days preceding election day.

ARTICLE 53.

The Radio and Television broadcast special programs on the election campaign. The time devoted in these broadcasts to different electoral subjects is determined in proportion to the number of candidates fielded nation-wide.

One day before the end of the election campaign, all electoral subjects are allowed to broadcast to the electorate a brief summary of their programs.

The Central Elections Commissions sponsors Albanian Radio and Television programs explaining the electoral process to the population, avoiding any partisan stance

ARTICLE 54.

Candidates as well as electoral subjects have the right to use such propagandistic materials as slogans, announcements, brochures, etc., in which the name of the electoral subject that has prepared such materials appears. The damage of such materials is prohibited until the end of the campaign.

Organs of local government must provide equal propaganda opportunity to each electoral subject.

ARTICLE 55.

Election campaigning is prohibited in military units and detachments as well as in de-politicized institutions. The commands of military units and detachments must permit members to use the media during their free time as well as to participate in the election campaign within the territory of the election zone, but outside military units and detachments.

ARTICLE 56.

Election campaigning is prohibited by persons who are not Albanian citizens.

ARTICLE 57.

Temporary pluralism executive committees as well as other state bodies do not have the right to distribute propagandistic electoral materials or to make propaganda.

ARTICLE 58.

The state contributes to the election campaign of electoral subjects as follows:

a) 50 percent of the set amount is divided among electoral subjects in proportion to the number of candidates registered for deputies.
b) 50 percent of the set amount is divided among the parties in proportion to the number of nation-wide votes obtained in the previous election.

If an electoral subject fails to win more than 3 percent of the votes in all the voting zones where it has competed, it is required to return to the state the amount it had received.

The Ministry of Finances is instructed to issue the regulations on financing, and the use and control of funds appropriated.

ARTICLE 59.

Slandering and insulting a candidate and an electoral subject is prohibited.

A newspaper or any other type of media that has published a material violating the rights of a candidate for a deputy in the People's Assembly or has in any way attacked his dignity, is obliged to publish free of charge a reply in the next issue, devoting it as much space as the original material which caused the reply.

ARTICLE 60.

The disruption and interruption of legal electoral meetings and rallies is prohibited.

ARTICLE 61.

Candidates for deputy in the People's Assembly keep their jobs and receive their full pay during the election campaign.

Persons described in Article 20, letters a) and b) of this law, do not keep their jobs.

ARTICLE 62.

Candidates for deputy in the People's Assembly cannot be detained for questioning, arrested, or held in detention, except when they commit an obviously serious crime.

CHAPTER IX. VOTING

ARTICLE 63.

The voting for People's Assembly deputies takes place in centers designated by the temporary pluralism executive councils in districts, regions, cities, city sectors, and villages. No propagandistic material is permitted in voting places.

Buildings owned by political parties and de-politicized state institutions cannot be used as voting centers.

ARTICLE 64.

Elections for People's Assembly deputies take place on a day which is not a workday throughout the country.

The voting begins at 0700 and ends at 1800. If after 1900 hours there are still voters waiting to vote, the polling stations will remain open until all those present have voted.

On election day, at 0700, the chairman of the voting center commission, in the presence of more than half of Commission members, announces the commencement of voting.

The voting begins with the inspection of the ballot boxes in the presence of the commission and observers. Then the ballot boxes are sealed and stamped with the stamp of the voting center, which is safeguarded.

The chairman of the voting center commission, in the presence of the commission, stamps at the top left all ballots and their number is recorded in the official record, which is signed by all commission members present.

After the ballots are stamped, the chairman and two representatives of different parties, in the presence of Commission members, sign the ballots on the right side.

ARTICLE 65.

Voters cast their vote in the order of their appearance at the polling station.

Every voter is required to prove his identification by showing an identification card, a military card with a picture, or an

international passport if he is from abroad.

Soldiers are not permitted to appear at the voting center in units or armed. Only active soldiers are permitted to appear in uniform.

After the information from the identification document is checked against the list of voters, the voter signs the electoral list. After the number of the identification document is marked down, the voter takes the ballot and votes. After the voting, the last page of the identification document is stamped.

When it is determined that the ballot is not in order, it is separated and signed as invalid and replaced with another by the chairman.

ARTICLE 66.

The voting room can be divided into several separate booths to speed the voting process. There should be no ballots in the separate booths of the voting room.

The commission desk is placed in such a way as to permit members of the commission and observers who represent the electoral subjects to move around it. The ballot boxes are put in a place that is visible to all those present.

No one, including members of the commissions of the voting centers, can enter the booth, except in cases when the voter is unable to follow the necessary voting procedure and requests assistance from a person he himself selects. The selected person has the right to accompany only one voter to the booth. In these cases, permission is requested from the chairman of the commission of the voting center and this is indicated in the list of voters.

Voting in the open or outside the booth is prohibited. In such a case, the vote is considered invalid, is torn up by the commission and is not placed in the ballot box, giving the voter another chance to cast his vote.

When there are voters in booths, other persons are Prohibited to get closer than 3 meters to the booth.

If it is necessary to restore order in the voting center, the chairman of the commission of the voting center may request the assistance of the police organs.

Armed persons are prohibited from entering voting centers.

Electoral subjects have the right to send their own observers in each voting center, who is provided with the authorization of the election commission of the zone.

ARTICLE 67.

Voters use prescribed types of ballots, a sample of which is attached to this law. Ballots are the same in format, size, color and paper content.

The ballot is divided into two parts. The left part contains the names of candidates in alphabetical order, while the right contains the titles of the respective electoral subjects, preceded by their symbols or seals. For independent candidates, the ballot is marked "independent candidate."

ARTICLE 68.

The vote is valid for the candidate as well as for the subject when the voter leaves only the name of the candidate and the subject for which he is voting, by marking off with a line the names of all other candidates and subjects.

The vote is valid for the candidate and the subject even when the voter leaves only the name of the candidate for whom he votes and marks off with a line the names of all other candidates, regardless of whether he marks off or leaves the names of the subjects.

ARTICLE 69.

All ballots filled out incorrectly, torn up, damaged, or used are kept for the final inspection.

ARTICLE 70.

When there are serious violations of the voting process, the commission of the voting center can suspend voting until the violations are corrected. The Central Election Committee is immediately notified of this decision.

ARTICLE 71.

The names of the candidates in the zone and the lists of nation-wide candidates and their electoral subjects are posted outside the voting room or in any other public place where they can be read.

CHAPTER X. THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 72.

Immediately after the polls close, the chairman of the voting center in the presence of the commission and authorized observers:

a) declares that the voting is concluded;

b) counts voters that have cast their vote according to the lists, which must be signed by the chairman and secretary of the commission and by any representative of the electoral subjects that may desire to do so.

The lists are placed in an envelope that is stamped with the same stamp of the voting center. The envelope itself is signed by the chairman and secretary of the commission and by the representatives of the electoral subjects that may desire to do so.

The envelope is submitted to the election commission of the zone, which issues the respective certificate.

c) counts the unused ballots, which are handled in the same manner as indicated above in the second paragraph of section (b).

These actions must be completed according to the above mentioned order, and by indicating this in the final official record.

ARTICLE 73.
Following the completion of the above mentioned activities:

a) the ballot box is opened and a member of the commission selected through the lot removes a ballot and gives it to the chairman, who with a loud voice declares whether the ballot is valid and to which candidate and subject it belongs. The ballot is shown to all members of the commission and observers present. Only after the results have been recorded and the ballot placed at the designated place, can the next ballot be removed from the box.
b) the ballots used, and valid and invalid votes are counted;
c) the number of votes is compared with the valid ballots, and when necessary they are recounted.

These actions are completed in the order described above and are marked in the official records.

ARTICLE 74.
Ballots are invalid when it is not entirely clear for which candidate the voter has voted:

a) when they are not the prescribed type and content, and stamped, and lack the signatures of the respective electoral zone;
b) when the names of more than one candidate have not been crossed out or all the names of the candidates have been crossed out;
c) when other names are added on the ballot;
d) when the ballot has been damaged to such an extent that it is not clear what choice was made and who received the vote;
e) when the ballot contains writings and signs that make it possible to identify the voter;

The vote is evaluated by the commission of the voting center. Questionable votes are examined initially and then marked in the official record and these ballots are kept separately.

ARTICLE 75.
After the votes are counted and examined, the official record is filled out.
The official record includes:

a) the numbers of the voting center and election zone;
b) the times when the voting started and finished;
c) the number of voters in the list of voters;
d) the number of voters in the supplemental list;
e) the number of voters according to the information on the list of voters;
f) the number of valid ballots;
g) the number of votes for each candidate and subject;
h) the number of invalid ballots;
i) the number of ballots invalidated before the voting;
j) the number of unused ballots;
k) comments by commission members and special observers;
l) the number of copies of the official record.

The information in sections (c) to (j) is given in numerically and in writing.
The official record is signed on each page. Any subsequent change is signed, adding the word "correction."
Any electoral subject has the right to obtain a copy of the official record.

ARTICLE 76.
The voting center commission must:

1) send two copies of the official record to the election commission of the zone; one of the copies is for the Central Elections Commission;
2) send a copy of the official record together with the ballots and envelopes mentioned above to the district temporary pluralism executive committee.

All these documents are delivered personally by the chairman and secretary of the voting center commission accompanied by any representative of the electoral subjects.

ARTICLE 77.

The election commission of the zone decides the results of the voting on the basis of the official reports sent by the voting center commissions and announces the results in the form of an official report, which must obtain:

1) the number of voting centers;
2) the voting center that have submitted their official reports;
3) the number of voters according to the list of voters;
4) the number of voters according to the information on the lists;
5) the number of voters according to the ballots placed in the ballot box;
6) the number of valid votes respectively for each candidate and subject;
7) the number of invalid votes;
8) the first name, father's name, and the last name of the winner;
9) complaints, comment and decisions made.

The information in sections 1 through 7 is given numerically and in writing.

ARTICLE 78.

The election commission of the zone must send to the Central Election Commissions a copy of its official report as well as official reports it has received from the voting center commissions.

The election commission of the zone sends to the district temporary pluralism executive committees the envelopes, ballots and any other material it has received from the voting center commissions.

The above mentioned materials are delivered by the chairman and the secretary of the election commission, accompanied by any representative of electoral subjects that may desire to do so.

ARTICLE 79.

The Central Election Commission announces and publishes the results in the Official Gazette and in a special bulletin as soon as they are announced.

After the elections are concluded and possible disputes resolved, all the materials are send to the Archives of the People's Assembly.

CHAPTER XI. THE TERMINATION OF THE MANDATE OF A PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DEPUTY

ARTICLE 80.

The mandate of a People's Assembly deputy is terminated before schedule in the following cases:

a) when the deputy resigns;
b) when the deputy is declared guilty by final court decision for having committed a crime;
c) when the deputy refuses to take the oath of office prescribed by the People's Assembly;
d) when the deputy dies.

ARTICLE 81.

When a deputy's mandate is terminated prematurely, the Commission of Mandates of the People's Assembly selects the next candidate on the nation-wide list. When the deputy, whose mandate is terminated, does not represent a subject included on the nation-wide list, new elections must be held in that zone within 3 months. 4

When a deputy takes other duties which are inconsistent with his mandate, he is replaced by the next candidate on the respective nation-wide list.

If a deputy is chosen as a minister, he can be replaced only for the duration of his service as a minister by the next candidate in the respective nation-wide list.

CHAPTER XII. PENAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 82.

Any one who for a personal interest or for the interests of others offers money, jobs, or other favors in any form in order to obtain signatures to support a candidate, to vote, or to abstain from voting, is sentenced with deprivation of freedom from 6 months to 3 years.

These sentences also apply to the voter, who in return for the above mentioned services accepts money, a job or other favors.

Similar sentences are also handed down against those who threaten or force voters to perform above mentioned services.

ARTICLE 83.

Any one who attempts to influence elections for a personal interest or for the interests of others by distributing in any form during the election campaign and on election day money, consumer goods or other gifts, is sentenced with deprivation of freedom from 1 to 3 years.

ARTICLE 84.
Violators of other provisions of this law must pay a fine of 100 to 500 leks, except in cases when the violation is a penal offense.

ARTICLE 85.
In cases of the violation of the provisions regarding the safekeeping and proper administration of ballots, lists of voters, ballot boxes and official records of voting, the fee is increased by 500 to 1,000 leks, except in cases when the violations are penal offenses.

ARTICLE 86.
Persons performing duties on the basis of this law which do not implement provisions included in articles 84 and 85, must pay a fine of 1,000 to 1,500 leks, except in cases when the violations are penal offenses.

ARTICLE 87.
Decisions regarding the payment of fines for administrative violations are handed down by the election commissions of zones or by the Central Elections Commission.
Final decisions regarding the payment of fines must be carried out and cannot be appealed.

CHAPTER XIII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL DISPOSITIONS

ARTICLE 88.
The Central Election Commission issues special instructions for the implementation of this law.

ARTICLE 89.
For the purposes of this law, the following are recognized as observers:

1) representatives of the parliaments of the CSCE members, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European parliament and of other organizations that deal with the issue of human rights;
2) representatives of foreign political parties and movements and individuals invited by parties or groups of parties;
3) authorized representatives of other domestic and foreign organizations that specialize in the field of elections.

ARTICLE 90.
Election observers, and journalists and representatives of the media accredited to our country will be given special authorization from the Central Elections Commission.
Election observers have the right move freely in the territory of the Republic of Albania and to follow and observe all the activities, during the election campaign as well as during election day. They have the right to ask questions, gather information and publicly express their views while remaining neutral.

ARTICLE 91.
Albanian citizens that live permanently outside the country or have lived abroad for more than a year and when they are in Albania and request that they participate in the elections, use their international passport as proof of their identification. They have to issue a statement, declaring that they do not posses a valid identification card within the Republic of Albania.

ARTICLE 92.
The Council of Ministers is requested to ensure the financial and material basis and take administrative measures for the implementation of this law.

ARTICLE 93.
Law number 7423, of 13 November 1990, "On People's Assembly Elections," as well as any other provision inconsistent with this law are abrogated.

ARTICLE 94.
This law goes into effect immediately.

Belarus

LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
ON ELECTIONS TO DEPUTIES TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Any direct or indirect restrictions of suffrage of citizens of the Republic of Belarus, based upon birth, social and property status, race and nationality, sex, education, language, religious preference, duration of residence in a given locality, type and character of occupation are prohibited.

Citizens found incompetent by the courts, as well as persons being imprisoned by court verdict, may not participate in elections. Persons convicted and sentenced under criminal law may not take part in voting.

ARTICLE 2-1. Free Elections

Elections of deputy of the Supreme Council to the Republic of Belarus are free: a voter personally decides whether he (she) will participate in elections and for whom to vote.

ARTICLE 3. Equal Suffrage

All voters participate in elections on an equal basis.

Elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from constituencies are equal: any voter from any constituency possesses one vote.

ARTICLE 4. Direct Suffrage

Elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from constituencies are direct: the deputies are elected by citizens directly.

ARTICLE 5. Secret Ballot

Voting in elections of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is carried out by secret ballot: control of a voter's will is not permissible.

ARTICLE 6. Conduct of Elections by Electoral Commissions

Conduct of elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is carried out by electoral commissions, which are formed by representatives of working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, political parties, public associations, meetings of voters at their place of residence and servicemen (citizens of the Republic of Belarus) in military units, as well as of voters representatives, nominated to the commission staff by providing an application.

ARTICLE 7. Publicity during Preparation and Conduct of Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

Preparation and conduct of elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is carried out by electoral commissions, political parties, election blocs, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, and public associations openly and publicly.

Electoral commissions inform citizens about their activity, formation of constituencies, commission staff, location and schedules of electoral commissions operation, voters lists, acquaint voters with political parties and election bloc lists, assist with informing voters of the electoral programs of political parties and election blocs. Electoral commissions present to citizens information about candidates for deputy and about results of voting and elections.

At all sessions of electoral commissions (and on election day - at polling stations, starting from the moment of ballot box sealing and up to the determination of the results of elections) the following have the right to be present: deputies, representatives of political parties, public associations, election blocs, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, voters, mass media, entrusted persons of candidates for deputy; as well as observers from other countries and international organizations. Powers of said persons are to be certified with appropriate credentials. The electoral commission is informed about their presence no later than two days before.

Mass media shall publicize the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus; representatives of mass media are guaranteed access to all sessions and meetings, related to elections. Electoral commissions, state and public bodies, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions shall provide them with information, related to preparation and conduct of elections.

ARTICLE 8 is excluded.

ARTICLE 9. Right to Nominate Candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

The right to nominate candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus in constituencies belongs to political parties (election blocs of political parties), duly registered in the Republic of Belarus, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus and republican societies of invalids, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, meetings of voters at their residence and servicemen (citizens of the Republic of Belarus) in military units, as well as to voters by way of collecting signatures.

ARTICLE 10 is excluded.

ARTICLE 11. Incompatibility of Status of Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus with His (Her) Office Duty

The President of the Republic of Belarus, members of the Cabinet of the Republic of Belarus, judges, as well as other persons appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus or by agreement with the President, may not be deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

ARTICLE 12. Expenditures Associated with Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. Material Security of Elections

Expenditures, associated with the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, are to be covered only by funds from the state budget in the amount confirmed by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

The order of distribution and use of financial resources is stipulated by the Central Commission on election of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

The Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus submits to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus a financial report on expenditures allocated from the budget resources no later than six moths after the elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

Funds used for pre-election campaigning, are distributed among all candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus equally; they are spent according to requirements of candidates in the order, established by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

The Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is required to inform about the amount of funds, allocated to a candidate for pre-election campaigning by means of the mass media no later than three days after the deadline for registration of candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

Enterprises, institutions and organizations, as well as state and public bodies are to assist electoral commissions with necessary premises, equipment and transport for the preparation and conduct of elections.

State mass media shall on its own account publish materials represented by electoral commissions, as well as pre-election programs of candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

Any direct or indirect participation of political parties, public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens of the Republic of Belarus, as well as foreign institutions and foreign citizens in financing or other material support of the pre-election campaign of candidates for deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is prohibited.

ARTICLE 13. Responsibility for Violation of the Law on Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

Persons, who by force, fraud, threats or in any other way interfere with the free realization by citizens of the Republic of Belarus of the right to elect and to be elected as deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus; who hinder the operations of electoral commissions; who conduct pre-election campaigning on the election day; as well as members of electoral commissions, officials of state and public bodies and other persons, who have forged electoral documents, have done willful incorrect tabulation of votes, have infringed the secrecy of voting, have not submitted to electoral commissions necessary materials or have not fulfilled decisions of electoral commissions, or have committed other violations of this Law, shall be accountable before the laws. Persons who published false information, which discredit candidates for deputy, or who publicly appealed for boycotting of elections, are also accountable before the laws.

If a candidate for deputy or his (her) authorized person violates this Law, he (she) is notified by the respective constituency electoral commission; when the violation is repeated, the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, upon the submission of the constituency electoral commission, may cancel the decision of registration of the candidate for deputy.

Complaints regarding violation of the election law, submitted to electoral commissions, to state and public bodies during the period of elections preparation or after the elections, are to be considered within three days, and those which are submitted on election day - immediately.

CHAPTER II. THE PROCEDURE FOR CALLING OF ELECTIONS AND FORMATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

ARTICLE 14. Calling for Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

Elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are scheduled by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus no later than three months before the expiration of the term of powers of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

The date of elections shall be announced through the mass media no later than three days after the calling of the elections.

ARTICLE 15. Formation of Constituencies

For elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, 260 constituencies are formed.

Constituencies are formed by the Central Commission on elections of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus on submissions of regional and Mynsk City Councils of deputies, and regional and Mynsk City Executive Committees.

Constituencies for elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are formed within the territory of the Republic of Belarus; they have approximately equal population and take into account the administrative-territorial division of the Republic.

The list of constituencies with their borders, and locations of constituency electoral commissions is published by the Central Commission on election of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus no later than the fifth day after calling the elections.

A single deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is elected from each constituency.

ARTICLE 16 is excluded.

CHAPTER III. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

ARTICLE 17. Formation of Electoral Districts.

For the conduct of voting and vote tabulation, the elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from constituencies, the territories of districts (raions), cities, districts of cities, are divided into electoral districts. Electoral districts are also formed within military units; they are included in constituencies on military unit locations.

Electoral districts may be formed in sanatoriums and resort houses, hospitals and other stationary medicinal institutions.

ARTICLE 18. Procedure and Norms of Electoral District Formation

Electoral districts are formed by district, municipal (with exception of towns with district subordination and of towns with district division) and town districts Executive Committees on agreement with constituency electoral commissions. In military units electoral districts are formed by respective district or municipal executive Committees on submissions of commanders of military units or formations.

Electoral districts are formed no later than two months before elections.

Electoral districts are comprised of no less than 20 and no more than 3000 voters.

If electoral districts are formed outside borders of the Republic of Belarus, the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus includes them into such a constituency where the number of voters is below the average norm.

The Executive Committee that formed the electoral district is required no later than ten days after formation, to inform voters about the borders of each electoral district, location of district electoral commissions and polling station locations.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 19. System of Electoral Commissions

Elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are conducted by the following electoral commissions:

1) Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus;
2) constituency electoral commissions on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from constituencies;
3) district electoral commissions.

ARTICLE 20. Formation of the Central Commission on Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

The Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is approved by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus on submissions of regional (oblast) and Mynsk City Council of deputies or of their presidiums, taking into consideration the opinion of work collectives and republican bodies of public associations, no later than 90 days before the elections; The Central Commission is comprised of a Chairman, two deputy Chairmen, a Secretary and 15 members of commission.

The term of authority of the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is five years.

ARTICLE 21. Authority of the Central Commission on Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

The duties of the Central Commission on the election of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are performed by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, on the conduct of elections and state referenda.

The Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus:

1) carries out control within the entire territory of the Republic of Belarus over enforcement of this Law, gives explanations regarding its uniform application; it appeals, when necessary, to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus with questions on interpretation of this Law;
2) directs the activities of electoral commissions; hears their information;
3) forms constituencies;
4) resolves questions on the procedure of participation in elections of citizens of the Republic of Belarus which are outside the borders of the Republic of Belarus;
5) distributes financial resources for electoral commissions; controls provision of electoral commissions with buildings, transport, communication and considers other issues of material and technical provisions of elections;
6) determines the form of election ballots for elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, of voters sheets, of minutes of pre-election meetings and sessions of electoral commissions and other electoral documents, of sample ballot boxes and stamps of electoral commissions; determines the procedure of storage of electoral documents;

7) hears reports of Ministries, State Committees and government departments of the Republic of Belarus, of other state and public bodies on issues, related to the preparation and conduct of elections;
8) registers the elected deputies, summarizes election results in the Republic, publishes press announcements about the results of elections and lists of elected deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus;
9) transfers to the Mandate Commission of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus documentation, which is necessary for confirming the authority of deputies;
10) resolves questions, related to repeated elections, taking into account specific circumstances;
11) resolves questions, related to the organization of the recall of deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus;
12) calls elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus to replace retired ones and ensures their conduct;
13) considers applications and complaints on decisions and actions of electoral commissions and makes final judgment on these issues, if not otherwise foreseen by this Law;
14) registers election blocs;
15) determines the procedure of usage of the state mass media;
16) forms working groups for organizational, legal and technical support of the elections;
17) performs other authorities in accordance with this Law and other laws of the Republic of Belarus.

ARTICLE 22. Formation of Constituency Electoral Commissions

Constituency electoral commissions are formed within each constituency on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus no later than 75 days before elections; consisting of 9 - 13 members.

Constituency electoral commissions are formed by regional (oblast) and Mynsk City Executive Committees from representatives of political parties, of public associations, working collectives, of collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, of meetings of voters on their residence and servicemen on military units, as well as of representatives of voters which are nominated to the commission staff by way of submitting an application. Decisions on the formation of constituency electoral commissions and about their composition and location is published in the press within seven days.

The term of authority of the constituency Electoral Commission expires after acknowledgment by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus of the authority of the elected deputies.

ARTICLE 23. Authority of the Constituency Electoral Commissions

The Constituency Electoral Commissions on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus:

1) organize the conduct of elections and controls the implementation of this Law on the territory of the constituency;
2) direct activity of the divisional electoral commissions;
3) hear reports of local executive committees, heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations on questions, related to the preparation and conduct of elections;
4) monitor compilation of voters lists and their presentation to general public;
5) assist in organization of the nomination of candidates for deputies;
6) register nominated candidates for deputies, their authorized persons; and issue the respective credentials, provide for publication of posters with biographical data of candidates for deputies;
7) assist candidates for deputies in the organization of meetings with voters;
8) approve the text of election ballot within the constituency, ensure printing of ballots and provide them to divisional electoral commissions;
9) determine and publish in the press results of elections within the constituency, issue credentials to elected deputies;
10) organize the conduct of the second round of voting and repeat elections;
11) consider applications and complaints on decisions and actions of divisional electoral commissions and make judgments for these;
12) distribute financial resources among divisional electoral commissions, control the providing of divisional electoral commissions with premises, transport, communications; and consider other questions of material-technical and organizational provisions for the conduct of elections in the constituency;
13) administer other authorities in accordance with this Law.

ARTICLE 24. Formation of Divisional Electoral Commissions

Divisional electoral commissions on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are formed no later than 45 days before the elections, comprising 5 - 19 members. In necessary cases the staff of divisional electoral commissions may be enlarged or reduced.

Divisional electoral commissions are formed by district, municipal (with exception of towns with district subordination and of towns with district division) and town districts Executive Committees from representatives of political parties, public associations, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, meetings of voters on their residences and servicemen in military units; as well as from representatives of voters, nominated to the commission staff by submitting an application. Decisions on forming divisional electoral commissions, on their composition, and location with the address is published in the press within seven days. Outside the borders of the Republic of Belarus divisional electoral commission are formed by heads of diplomatic (consular) missions, acting on the territory of the respective country.

The term of authority of divisional electoral commissions expires after the completion of elections in the constituency.

ARTICLE 25. Authority of Divisional Electoral Commissions

Divisional electoral commissions:

1) compile lists of voters within the division;
2) familiarize voters with the voters list, accept and consider applications regarding errors in the list and resolve questions of making respective changes in the list;
3) notify the population of the date and time of elections, and polling station locations;
4) ensure the safety of ballots;
5) ensure preparation of premises for voting and of ballot boxes;
6) organize voting at polling stations on elections day;
7) tabulate votes at the polling station;
8) consider applications and complaints on questions of elections preparation and their conduct; make decisions on these questions;
9) administer other authorities in accordance with this Law.

ARTICLE 25-1. Procedure of Nomination of Representatives to Electoral Commissions Staff.

Political parties, public associations, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, meetings of voters on their residences and servicemen (citizens of the Republic of Belarus) in military units, as well as voters, by the way of submitting application may nominate to respective electoral commission only one representative.

The following subjects have the right to nominate their representatives as members of an electoral commission:

1) republican leading body of political party, of public association - to constituency electoral commissions; territorial leading bodies of political party, of public association - to respective constituency and divisional electoral commissions; meetings of primary organizations, acting on the territory of respective electoral division - to divisional electoral commissions. Said bodies nominate their representatives at their sessions (plenums, conferences, meetings);
2) meetings (conferences) of working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, meetings of voters on their residences and servicemen in military units, situated within territory of the constituency, - to constituency and divisional electoral commissions. Structural subdivisions of working collectives, of enterprises, institutions and organizations also have the right to nominate their representatives;
3) voters by submitting an application to the respective executive committee - to constituency electoral commission, if the application is signed no less than by 100 voters, residing within the territory of the constituency; and to divisional electoral commissions, if the application is signed by no less than by 20 voters, residing within the territory of the respective electoral division.

When nominating a representative to electoral commission staff, minutes of the meeting, session, plenum, conference or application, signed by voters, are submitted to the body, which forms the commission, no later than five days before the term of respective commission formation, stipulated with this Law.

In the minutes are shown: name of the body, which nominated the representative to the electoral commission staff; its address and telephone number; number of body (collective) members; number of participants of the meeting, session, plenum, conference of this body (collective); results of voting; date of decision adoption; surname, name and patronymic; date of birth; post (occupation); place of work and residence of the person, nominated as member of commission. Respective data are also shown in the minutes of the meeting of collective, meeting of voters at the place of their residence and servicemen in military units. The minutes are signed by the chairman and secretary of the meeting, session, plenum, conference. In the application of voters are shown: surname, name and patronymic, date of birth and addresses of voters who signed the application.

Region (oblast) and Mynsk City Executive Committees have the right to appoint one of their representatives to constituency electoral commission staff. Executive committees have the right to appoint one of their representatives to the staff of divisional commissions.

Candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus and their entrusted persons cannot be members of electoral commissions.

ARTICLE 25-2. Procedure of Changing Electoral Commissions Staff

Persons included on the staff of electoral commissions, are to be released from his (her) duties on the commission:

1) in cases, stipulated by Part 6 of Article 25-1 of this Law;
2) in accordance with personal application, when recalled or deprived of authorities.

Persons, who are included on electoral commission staff, are released from the execution of their duties on electoral commissions in accordance with their application; these persons are also deprived of their authority by the body which formed the electoral commission, when they violate this Law, or when they systematically fail to perform respective duties.

When a person retires from electoral commission staff due to above-mentioned and other reasons, a political party, public association, working collective, collective of secondary special or higher education institution, meeting of voters on their residences and servicemen in military units, as well as voters, can nominate new a representative to the electoral commission staff by submitting an application in the form stipulated by this Law.

ARTICLE 26 is excluded.

ARTICLE 27 is excluded.

ARTICLE 28. Organization of the Work of Electoral Commissions

The Chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of constituency and divisional electoral commissions are elected at the first session of the respective commission.

Sessions of electoral commissions are called and conducted by the Chairman, and during his (her) absence or on instructions of Chairman - by the deputy Chairman of the commission. Sessions are also conducted under the requirement of having no less than one-third of the commission members present.

Sessions of electoral commissions are considered lawful, if no less than two-thirds of the commission staff take part in the session. Decisions of commission are taken by open voting by majority of the commission staff. Members of commission, who are not in agreement with the decision, have the right to express their special opinion, which shall be attached in written form to the minutes.

Decisions of electoral commissions, if made according to their lawful jurisdiction, are binding upon all state and public bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations.

Decisions and actions of electoral commissions may be appealed to the higher authority electoral commission; in cases stipulated by this Law, they also may be appealed in court.

According to the decision of the electoral commission, during the period of preparation and conduct of the elections, certain of its members may be dismissed from employment duties, while retaining an average salary on account of financial resources, allotted for election conduct.

Payment for the work of members of electoral commissions and members of its personnel may be also performed in accordance with work performed.

Persons, who are members of election commission staff, have no right to participate in campaigning for or against candidates for deputy.

ARTICLE 29. Assistance to Electoral Commissions in Performing their Duties

State and public bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations and officials are required to assist electoral commissions in performing their duties and to present information and materials required for their operation.

Electoral commissions have the right to address questions related to the preparation and conduct of elections to state and public bodies, to heads of enterprises, institutions, organizations, to officials, which are required to consider the questions and to answer the electoral commission within three days.

CHAPTER V. LISTS OF VOTERS

ARTICLE 30. List of Voters and Procedure of Compiling it

The list of voters on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from constituencies is compiled for each electoral division and is signed by the Chairman and secretary of divisional electoral commissions.

Executive Committees of city, districts of city and of village ensure the accounting of voters and present to divisional electoral commissions lists of those citizens of the Republic of Belarus, who live within respective territory and have the right to participate in elections.

Lists of citizens of the Republic of Belarus - servicemen, presently serving in military units, members of their families, as well as other voters, who live within the area of military units - are compiled on the basis of data presented by commanders of military units. Servicemen who are living outside the area of military units are included in lists of voters according to their residence, on general conditions.

Lists of voters in electoral divisions which are formed in sanatoriums and resort houses, hospitals and other stationary medical institutions are compiled on the basis of data presented by heads of said institutions.

Lists of voters on electoral divisions which are formed outside the borders of the republic of Belarus are compiled on the basis of data presented by heads of diplomatic (consular) missions, acting on the territory of respective countries.

Surnames of voters are recorded in the list of voters in a sequence which is convenient for voting organization.

ARTICLE 31. Procedure for Including Citizens in Lists of Voters

All citizens of the Republic of Belarus who are 18 years of age on the date of elections, who reside temporarily or permanently at the moment of list compiling within the territory of a given electoral division, and who have the right to vote, shall be included in the list of voters.

A voter cannot be included in the list of voters in another electoral division.

ARTICLE 32. Familiarization of Citizens with List of Voters and the Right to Appeal Errors in the List of Voters

Lists of voters are presented to the general public fifteen days before the elections; and in electoral divisions formed in sanatoriums, resort houses, in hospitals and other stationary medicinal institutions are presented two days before elections.

Citizens have the guaranteed right to familiarize themselves with list of voters and to check their accuracy at the premises of the divisional electoral commission.

Every citizen has the right to appeal non-inclusion, or exclusion from the list, as well as mistakes with respect to voter's data. Appeals to mistakes in the list are considered by the divisional electoral commission, which is required within two days (and on the day before elections and on the day of elections - immediately) to consider the appeal, to introduce the necessary correction, or give the appellant a copy of the grounds to the decision to refuse his (her) appeal. This decision can be appealed (no later than five days before elections) to the raion (municipal) court; the latter is required to consider the complaint within three days. The decision of raion (municipal) court is final. Correction of the list of voter in accordance with court verdict is immediately carried out by the divisional electoral commission. The decision of the divisional electoral commission situated outside the borders of the Republic of Belarus, can be appealed within the same term to the respective court in the location of the respective constituency electoral commission.

SECTION 1. Election Blocs and Their Registration

ARTICLE 32-1. Election Blocs and Their registration

Political parties, registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus, have the right to associate into election blocs (the bloc can be named). Registration of election blocs by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus shall be completed 60 days before elections. The list of political parties, registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus and having the right to participate in elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, is presented by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus to the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus within five days after the announcement of elections.

For registration of a election bloc, an application is made to the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus; the application shall be signed by the leaders of all political parties, composing the bloc. Authorized representatives of the bloc and his (her) address are included in the application. To the application is attached the decisions of the higher bodies of political parties on creation of election blocs and on the determination of its heading and coordinating body. Within three days after registration the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus transfers to the mass media the announcement about registration of this election bloc.

In the case of a refusal to register the election bloc, political parties, who submitted an application to the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, have the right within three days after the refusal to appeal against the decision to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus renders a final decision within three days.

The political party which is included in an election bloc, cannot be simultaneously included in another election bloc or participate in elections independently.

ARTICLE 33 is excluded.

CHAPTER VI. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

ARTICLE 34. Procedure of Nomination of Candidates for Deputy to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus in Constituencies

The nomination of candidates for deputy begins 70 days before and ends 40 days before elections.

Nomination of candidates for deputy is carried out by the higher bodies of republican political parties, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, by authorized or coordinating bodies of election blocs, at meetings of working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, meeting of voters at their place of residence and servicemen in military units, as well as by collection of signatures of voters.

On congresses, conferences, plenums and other sessions of the higher bodies of political parties, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, conditions shall be created for unlimited nomination and discussion of candidacies.

On congresses, conferences, plenums and other sessions of the higher bodies of political parties, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, only members of respective political parties or members of these public associations can be nominated.

Political parties, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf have the right to nominate from each constituency only one candidate for deputy to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus and only on condition that within the territory of the constituency there is a primary organization of the political party or public association nominating the candidate for deputy; the primary organization being registered in accordance with procedure established by law.

Procedure of the nomination of candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from election blocs shall be determined by election blocs themselves.

Election blocs can nominate only members of political parties that are included in their election blocs. Election blocs may not nominate those candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, who are members of other political parties or other political blocs participating in elections.

Election blocs have the right to nominate from each constituency only one candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus and only on condition that within the territory of the respective constituency there is a primary organization of at least one political party that is included in this election bloc; the primary organization being registered in accordance with procedure established by law.

Meetings of voters at their place of residence for the nomination of candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are called by constituency electoral commissions in coordination with respective Executive Committees or on their own initiative, on the initiative of the bodies of public territorial self-government, or on the initiative of voters. Decisions of the body of public territorial self-government shall be adopted by the majority of its members. A proposal of voters on the conduct of meeting at their residences is lawful, if it has been signed no less than by 150 voters who live within constituency.

Proposals on conduct of meeting of voters shall be considered by the constituency electoral commission within three days. If the proposal is adopted, the date, time and location of the meeting are determined with the additional information of the voters within three days. A meeting of voters at their residences is lawful if no less than 300 voters, permanently living within territory of the constituency, has been present at the meeting. A proposal on the conduct of a meeting of voters at the place of their residence is refused if the body of public self-government is situated outside the territory of the given constituency; if the initiative of said body is not confirmed with the minutes of its session on this question; and also if voters, who submitted the proposal on the conduct of the meeting, do not live within the territory of the respective constituency. In the case of refusal, a copy of the decision is issued within three days to the body of public self-government or to the group of voters. This decision can be appealed in court within three days. The court's decision is final.

Meetings of voters at working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions are called by administration and local trade-union committees of enterprise, institution, organization on their own initiative or on the initiative of a group of voters, their number being no less than 150 persons who are working at the enterprise, institution, organization which numbers no less than 300 persons. Under the same procedure, candidate for deputy to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus may be nominated by several smaller collectives at their general meeting, their overall number of workers or students being no less than 300 persons. At this meeting no less than 50% of the members of each collective shall be present.

Meetings of voters in military units for the nomination of candidates for deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are called by their Command, if the military unit numbers no less than 300 persons. At this meeting no less than 50% of the military unit staff shall be present.

Working collectives and collectives of secondary special or higher education institution which are situated within the territory of the respective constituency, as well as meetings of voters at their place of residence and servicemen in military units, can nominate only one candidate for deputy to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. On nomination of candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, a protocol is compiled, which is submitted to the constituency election commission with other materials attached within three days (but no later than 40 days before elections).

The nomination of a candidate for deputy by virtue of signature collection is carried out by a group of voters (the initiative group) of no less than 10 persons in number, who live within the territory of the respective constituency. A person who is nominated as a candidate for deputy by the group of voters, is to be supported by no less than 500 voters who live within territory of the given constituency. The application of a group of voters who intend to collect signatures for a candidate nomination is submitted to the constituency electoral commission no later than 65 days before elections. The application shall indicate surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, profession, post (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership of person, nominated as candidate for deputy; as well as surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, place of residence of members of the group and its leader.

The Constituency electoral commission issues to members of the initiative group on voter signature collection the corresponding credentials within five days.

On voter signature collection sheets (signature sheets) for the support of the person nominated as candidate for deputy, the following should be enlisted: surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, profession, post (occupation), place of work and residence, party membership of person, nominated as candidate for deputy; as well as surname, name and patronymic of the member of the initiative group who collects signatures.

Voters, who support the person suggested for nomination as candidate for deputy, record on the signature sheet their surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, place of residence, series and number of the passport (or requisites of a document, which replaces passport), date of signature and their own signatures. The signatures are numbered.

The signature of the member of the initiative group who collected signatures is placed on each signature sheet in the presence of the chairman or deputy chairman of municipal, district in city, village Executive Committee, on the territory of which the collection of signatures was performed; the signature is immediately certified with the stamp of the respective Executive Committee. Signature sheets and other materials are submitted to constituency electoral commission no later than 40 days before the elections.

A voter has the right to sign for support of one candidate for deputies only once.

When necessary, constituency electoral commissions can check the authenticity of voter signatures on signature sheets. Responsibility for the authenticity of data contained in signature sheets is placed upon the member of the initiative group who performed signature collection. Should false signatures, signatures of the same voter for two and more candidates, signatures of persons aged under 18, signature collection by a person who is not member of the initiative group, signature sheets without the signature of the member of the initiative group or with signature of other members of the given initiative group who did not collect the signatures, signature sheets which are not certified with the stamp of the municipal, district in city, village Executive Committee, the territory of which signature collection was carried out, the signature sheets are considered invalid.

As candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from constituency, a citizen may be nominated who works or lives within territory of the given constituency. Nomination of a candidate for deputy from another constituency may be performed only in such case, when his (her) office or public activity covers the given constituency.

ARTICLE 35 is excluded.

ARTICLE 36. Registration of Candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

Candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are registered with the respective constituency electoral commission on the submissions of political parties, election blocs, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, meeting of voters at their place of residence and servicemen in military units, as well as of voters who nominated candidates by signature collection.

Registration of candidates for deputy begins 40 days before elections and ends 50 days before elections. In specific cases and on the resolution of the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, the deadline for registration of candidates for deputy may be prolonged, but no more than five days.

The decision on the registration of candidates for deputy is accepted when the following documents are available: minutes of meetings or decisions of respective bodies of political parties, election blocs, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf on nomination of candidates for deputies from given constituency or signature sheets; as well as applications of candidates for deputy who consent to stand for election from a given constituency.

Any number of candidates may be presented for registration.

The Constituency electoral commission registers candidates for deputy, nominated in accordance with requirements of this Law. Refusal of registration may be appealed within three days to the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. The decision of the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus may be appealed within three days to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus considers the complaint within three days; its decision is final.

A candidate for deputy may stand for election only within one constituency. When a candidate for deputy is nominated by several constituencies, the consent to stand for elections from a specific constituency is presented by the candidate for deputy to the constituency electoral commission no later than three days after completion of the term of nomination of candidates for deputies. Violation of this requirement is grounds for refusal of registration of the candidate for deputy.

The candidate for deputy who is registered in one constituency, cannot be presented for registration in another constituency, even after his withdrawal of candidacy in the constituency where he was registered initially.

A person who is nominated as a candidate for deputy, and who is a member of the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus (or constituency, or divisional electoral commission), is considered released from commission duties from the moment of his registration as a candidate for deputy.

Constituency electoral commissions, no later than the fourth day after registration of candidates for deputies, transfers to the mass media for publication the announcement of registration, indicating surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, profession, post (occupation), party membership, place of work and residence for each candidate for deputy.

ARTICLE 37. Cancellation of Decision on Nomination of Candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. Withdrawal by Candidate His (Her) Own Candidacy

The political party, election bloc, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, meeting of voters at their place of residence and servicemen in military units, who nominated a candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, have the right at any time before elections to cancel their decision on the nomination of a candidate for deputy. A candidate for deputy is notified about the time of the congress, plenum, conference, session, meeting on cancellation of the decision on nomination of a candidate for deputy. The decision on such a question is accepted by the same procedure, which is stipulated for nomination of candidates for deputy; the decision is presented to the respective constituency electoral commission. Voters who nominated a candidate for deputy by virtue of signature collection have the right, before the transfer of signature sheets to the constituency electoral commission, to annul their signatures on signature sheets.

In the case of the cancellation of the decision on nomination of a candidate for deputy without a valid excuse, a political party, election bloc, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, collective, initiative group for signature collection shall reimburse the constituency electoral commission for its expenditures for the candidate for deputy, including expenses for pre-election campaign.

A candidate for deputy may withdraw his (her) candidacy at any time before election by application to the respective constituency electoral commission. In the case of withdrawal by a candidate for deputy his (her) candidacy without a valid excuse, the candidate for deputy shall reimburse the constituency electoral commission for its expenditures for the candidate for deputy, including expenses for pre-election campaign.

ARTICLE 38. Procedure of Nomination of Candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus in Case of Withdrawal

In case of withdrawal of candidates for deputy to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus after completion of registration term being the case, and if there are no other candidates within the constituency, the constituency electoral commission shall address to political parties, election blocs, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, meeting of voters at their place of residence and servicemen in military units, as well as of voters, with the proposal to nominate new candidates for deputy. When a candidate for deputy retires less than 30 days before elections, the elections of deputy from the respective constituency are held within two months after general elections.

Nomination of candidates in place of those withdrawn is carried out with the procedure, stipulated by this Law.

ARTICLE 39. The Ballot

The ballot shall contain in alphabetical order all registered candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus with their surname, name, patronymic, profession, post (occupation), place of work and residence, and party membership for each candidate for deputy.

The ballots are printed in the state language.

CHAPTER VII. GUARANTEES OF ACTIVITY OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

ARTICLE 40. Right of a Candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus to Address Meetings, to Use the Mass Media, to Obtain Information

Candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from the time of their registration by electoral commissions have equal rights to address pre-election and other meetings, conferences, sessions, to speak in the press, TV, and radio. Violation of these rights may be appealed to the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

State and public bodies, heads of enterprises, institutions, organizations, bodies of public territorial self-government are required to ensure the organization of meetings of candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus with voters, as well as presentation necessary reference and information materials for them.

ARTICLE 41. Pre-election Program of a Candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

A candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from political party, election bloc, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf has the right to speak about the program of future activity of his (her) political party, election bloc, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf; and a candidate nominated by the collective or voters - about the program of his (her) future activity. The program of a political party, election bloc, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, candidate for deputy may not contain propaganda of war, appeals for the forcible overthrow or change of existing state and public order, for violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Belarus, for national, religious or racial enmity.

ARTICLE 42. Authorized Persons of a Candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

A candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus can have up to ten authorized persons, which assist him (her) in campaigning; they conduct campaigning for election of the candidate as deputy, represent his (her) interests in interactions with state and public bodies, voters, members of public associations, as well as with election commissions.

A candidate for deputy select authorized persons at his (her) discretion, and informs the constituency electoral commission about them with the purpose of registration. After registration of authorized persons, the electoral commission issues credentials to them.

An authorized person may not be on the staff of electoral commissions; and from the moment of his (her) registration as such by a constituency electoral commission, the authorized person is considered dismissed from his duties on the commission.

ARTICLE 43. Pre-election Campaigning

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus, political parties, election blocs, public associations, working collectives, collectives of secondary special and higher education institutions, and authorized persons are guaranteed the right of free and comprehensive discussion on election programs of candidates for deputy, political, business and personal features, of conducting campaigning for and against candidates for deputy at conferences, meetings, in the press, on TV and radio, as well as at meetings with voters.

Candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus who participate in elections, hold meetings with voters at conferences or in any other convenient forum for voters. Constituency electoral commissions, together with respective Executive Committees, are required to assist in conducting such meetings. Commanders of military units (institutions) are required to create conditions for meetings of enlisted men with candidates for deputy at off-duty times.

From the moment of registration of candidates for deputy by respective constituency electoral commissions, political parties, election blocs, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, voters, who nominated candidate for deputy, candidates for deputy have the right to manufacture pre-election posters, slogans, statements, inscriptions, leaflets, photo materials, etc. (hereinafter referred to as "posters"). The posters are polygraphic production for manufacturing of which special admission is not required.

After the completion of registration of candidates for deputy, Executive Committees, on agreement with the constituency and divisional electoral commission, determine the territory of each electoral division locations, which are the most frequently attended by citizens, for placing pre-election posters.

Executive Committees may prohibit placing of posters outside allowed locations.

Taking off, tearing off, painting out and damaging posters which are not placed in forbidden locations, is prohibited.

Campaigning on the day of elections is prohibited.

ARTICLE 43-1. Usage of State Mass Media in Campaigning

Candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, political parties, election blocs, organizations of veterans of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusan society of eyesight invalids, Belarusan society of the deaf, collectives, voters, who nominated candidates for deputy, from the moment of registration of candidates for deputy by constituency electoral commission have equal rights to use the state mass media.

State mass media, one of founders of which are state bodies, organizations, institutions, as well as those mass media, which are partially financed on account of state means, are required to ensure equal opportunities for the pre-election campaign of candidates for deputy.

A candidate for deputy has the right to publish his (her) pre-election program in the mass press upon presenting the text of the said document no later then 20 days before elections. Publishing of these documents in proper sequence of their application is observed. The scope of such publications is determined by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

A candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus has the right to one speech on local state broadcasting. The National State TV and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus, within ten days after calling the elections, presents to the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus the time limit for candidate speeches on local broadcasting, taking into account the number of constituencies within each region (oblast) and in Mynsk city.

The sequence of speeches of candidates for deputy on broadcasting is established by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus on submissions of constituency electoral commissions. This should ensure equal opportunity to speak to candidates for deputy.

The republican radio every morning, and the republican TV every evening, are required, on request of the Central Commission on election of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, to grant it opportunity to broadcast information about campaigning.

Reports of sessions of the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, as well as decisions taken by it, are regularly published in the republican press, while reports and decisions of constituency electoral commissions - in the local press.

Publication of the results of public opinion surveys concerning elections is prohibited within the final ten days before elections.

ARTICLE 44. Release of a Candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, of Authorized Persons of Candidate for Deputy from Production or Office Duties for Participation in Campaigning

A candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus after registration and for the period of conducting meetings with voters, speeches at pre-election conferences, meetings, on TV and radio, is released from his (her) employment duties, while keeping the average salary on account of resources, allocated for the conduct of elections. Without his (her) consent, a candidate for deputy may not be sent on a long-term business trip, or be conscripted to fixed-term military service or for military muster.

On the application of a candidate for deputy, his (her) authorized person may be released from employment duties. Based on the proposal of a candidate for deputy, no more than three of his (her) entrusted persons have the right for money compensation in the amount of up to seven minimum salaries. Procedure and terms of compensation payments are established by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

ARTICLE 45. The Right of Candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus for Free Transport

A candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, after registration, has the right of free transport in all means of passenger transport (except taxi) within the respective constituency. A candidate for deputy who lives outside the constituency has the same right for transport to the constituency and for return to his home.

ARTICLE 46. Immunity of Candidate for Deputy

Criminal proceedings cannot be initiated against a candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, nor may candidate be arrested or subjected to administrative prosecution applied by court procedure, without the agreement of the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

CHAPTER VIII. PROCEDURE OF VOTING AND TABULATION OF RESULTS OF THE FIRST ROUND OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 47. Time and place of voting

On elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from constituencies, voting is held on the day of elections from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. local time. The time and place of voting is announced by divisional election commission to voters no later than ten days before elections.

At electoral divisions formed within military units, sanatoriums, houses of resort, hospitals and other stationary medicinal institutions, the division electoral commission may announce the voting completed at any time, if by that time all voters included on the voter list, have cast their votes.

ARTICLE 48. Organization of Voting

The voting is conducted in special premises, where a sufficient number of cabins or rooms for secret voting are equipped, places for giving out ballots are determined and ballot boxes are installed. The ballot boxes are installed in such way that voters, must pass through the cabins or rooms for secret voting.

Responsibility for the organization of voting, for ensuring secrecy of voters intent, for equipping the premises and keeping within them necessary order, is placed upon the divisional electoral commission.

On the day of elections, before voting, ballot boxes are checked, sealed or stamped by the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission in the presence of all members of commission.

ARTICLE 49. Voting Procedure

Every voter shall vote personally; voting for other persons is not permitted.

The election ballot is given to voters by member of divisional electoral commission on the basis of the voters list, upon the presentation by the voter of a passport or other identity certificate.

The election ballot is completed by the voter in the cabin or room for secret voting. The presence of any other person while the voter completes the ballot is prohibited. The voter who cannot complete the ballot himself (herself) has the right to invite to the cabin or the room another person at his (her) discretion, except members of electoral commission, candidates for deputy and their authorized persons.

During voting the voter, under conditions excluding control over his (her) will, strikes off the surnames of candidates whom he (she) votes against.

If there is only one surname of candidate for deputy in the ballot, then the text of the ballot shall contain words "for" and "against", one of which the voter strikes off when voting.

The completed ballot is placed in the ballot box by the voter.

In cases where certain voters cannot personally come to the polling station due to health or other serious reasons, the divisional electoral commission, on their request stated in writing or orally, shall authorize no less than two members of the electoral commission to organize voting at their place of residence on the day of elections. During such voting representatives of political parties, other public associations, election blocs and collectives of voters have the right to be present.

ARTICLE 50. Tabulation of Votes at Polling Station

In the elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from constituencies the calculation of votes is conducted for each candidate for deputy separately.

The ballot boxes are opened by the divisional electoral commission after the announcement of the completion of voting the Chairman of commission. Opening ballot boxes before completion of voting is prohibited. Before opening of ballot boxes all unused ballots are counted and voided; they are packed into a package and sealed by divisional electoral commission. On the package shall be written the name and number of the division and number of unused ballots. The package is signed by the Chairman of the electoral commission in the presence of the electoral commission members.

The divisional electoral commission, in accordance with voters list, determines the overall number of voters within the division, as well as the number of voters who received ballots. On the basis of number of ballots which were inside the ballot boxes, the commission determines: the overall number of voters who participated in voting; the number of votes "for" and "against" each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots considered invalid. For surnames of citizens, which were additionally written to the list, votes are not counted.

When calculating votes, votes presented to electoral commission in accordance with paragraph 7 of Article 49 of this Law are taken into consideration.

Ballots of non-approved form, as well as ballots in which more than one candidate is left, or ballots in which neither of the two words "for" and "against" are stricken out, are considered invalid. If there are doubts regarding the validity of the ballot, the question is resolved by vote of the divisional electoral commission.

Results of the tabulation of votes are considered at the session of the divisional electoral commission and are entered into the minutes. The minutes are signed by the Chairman, deputy Chairman, Secretary and members of commission; the minutes are transferred to respective constituency electoral commission according to procedure established by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

ARTICLE 51. Announcement of Result of Elections on Electoral Constituency

According to the minutes of divisional electoral commissions, the constituency electoral commission determines: the overall number of voters within the constituency; the number of voters, who received ballots; the number of voters who participated in the voting; number of votes cast "for" and "against" each candidate for deputy; the number of ballots considered invalid; the number of unused ballots.

A candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus from a constituency shall be deemed elected in the first round, if he (she) receives more than half of votes of those voters who took part in the voting, if the elections are considered to be conducted.

Constituency electoral commission may declare the elections void if there were violations of this Law in the tabulation of votes or in determination of election results, if these violations affected the results of the election. A complaint against such violations is filed with the constituency electoral commission no later than the next day after the elections.

Elections are acknowledged void, if less than half of voters included in the voters list, took part in elections.

Results of elections within a constituency are determined at a session of the constituency electoral commission and are entered in the minutes. The minutes are signed by the Chairman, deputy Chairman, Secretary and members of the commission, and are transferred to the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, according to the stated procedure.

Announcement of the results of elections within a constituency is published in the press by the respective constituency electoral commission in terms established by the central Commission on election of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. In the announcement shall be enlisted: overall number of citizens on voter lists; number of votes "for" and "against" each candidate; number of ballots considered invalid; surname, name and patronymic, post (occupation), party membership, place of work and residence of elected deputy.

ARTICLE 52 is excluded.

CHAPTER IX. PROCEDURE OF TABULATING AND PUBLICATION OF RESULT OF THE FIRST ROUND OF ELECTIONS OF DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

ARTICLE 53. Determination of Results of the First Round of Elections by the Central Commission on Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

The Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, on the basis of the minutes of constituency electoral commissions, determines the results of elections of deputies within constituencies and registers elected deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

If in the course of the elections, or in the tabulation of votes, or in the determination of results of elections there were violations of this Law, which affected the results of the elections the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus may declare the elections void and refuse to register the deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus.

ARTICLE 54. Publication of Results of Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

The announcement of results of elections within the Republic and the list of elected deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus is transferred by the Central Commission to the press for publication within seven days; data is printed in alphabetical order, indicating: surname, name and patronymic; post (occupation); party membership; place of work and residence; constituency of elected deputy. In the same order the list of candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus involved in the second round of voting, is printed.

ARTICLE 55. Credential and Badge of Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

After publication in the press list of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, registered by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, the constituency electoral commission issues to each deputy the credential on his (her) election.

After confirmation by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus powers of selected deputies, the issued to them credentials on his (her) election are replaced by the credentials of the deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. The deputy also obtains the badge "Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus".

CHAPTER X. THE SECOND ROUND OF VOTING, REPEAT ELECTIONS AND ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS INSTEAD OF RETIRED

ARTICLE 56. The Second Round of Voting

If none of the candidates for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus within a constituency was elected during the first round of elections, the constituency electoral commission makes a decision on the conduct within the constituency of the second round of voting for the two candidates who received the most number of votes in the first round. The constituency electoral commission notifies the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus of its decision; it also informs voters within the constituency. The second round of voting is held within two weeks and is conducted in accordance with the requirements of this Law.

Elections in the second round are deemed to be conducted if more than a half of voters within the constituency take part. A candidate for deputy, who received the most votes (if the number of votes "for" was more than number of votes "against"), is deemed to be elected.

ARTICLE 57. Repeat Elections

If within constituency during the first round of elections or after the second round of voting elections were deemed to be void or invalid, or during either the first or the second round of voting no candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus received the necessary number of votes, the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus charges the constituency electoral commission to conduct repeat elections within the constituency. At the same time, the former may adopt a decision on the necessity to conduct elections by constituency and divisional electoral commissions of new composition. The voting is conducted at the same electoral divisions and with voter lists compiled for elections and refined on the eve of the repeat elections.

The repeat elections are held within the time established by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. Formation of electoral commissions, nomination and registration of candidates for deputy, as well as other measures shall be performed by procedures and in terms, stipulated by this Law. Repeat elections are deemed to be conducted if more than 50% of the number of voters enlisted take part in them. A candidate for deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, who received more than 50% of the votes (of those voters, who took part in the voting), is deemed to be elected. In case of holding repeat elections, candidates for deputy, who violated the election law and whose registration was canceled in accordance with Article 13 of this Law may not be candidates in repeat elections.

ARTICLE 58. Elections to Fill Vacancies in the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus

If the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus acknowledge the powers of a certain deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus as invalid, as well as in case of the recall of a deputy, early cessation of a deputy's powers for other reasons, new elections are held within three months. Elections are called by the Central Commission on elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus; they are organized in accordance with requirements of this Law.

If a deputy retires less than six months before the expiration of the term of powers of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus, elections of a new deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus are not conducted.

Bulgaria

BILL
FOR ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS AND MAYORS

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

This law defines the procedure for election of National Assembly members, municipal councilors and mayors, as well as the termination of their powers.

ARTICLE 2.

1. Elections shall be held on the basis of a universal, equal and direct franchise exercised by casting a secret ballot.
2. The right to vote belongs to all Bulgarian citizens over 18 years of age with the exception of those placed under legal disability and those who are serving a term of imprisonment.
3. The right to vote for municipal counselors and mayors have all citizens who are permanent residents of the municipality, town or village, respectively, or who have been registered and prior to election day have lived there for at least two months.

ARTICLE 3.

1. The right of being elected into Assembly membership belongs to all citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria, who do not have any other but Bulgarian citizenship, who are over 21 years of age, and not placed under judicial disability or imprisoned.
2. Eligible for municipal counselors and mayors are to be deemed all citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria, over 18 years of age, not placed under judicial disability or imprisoned and such as have been registered to live on the municipality, town or village territory at least two months prior to election day.

ARTICLE 4.

1. Each voter is entitled to one vote for Assembly member, one vote for municipal councilor and one vote for a mayor in the town or village.
2. The vote of one voter is equal to the vote of any other voter.

ARTICLE 5.

1. National Assembly elections shall be held by proportional representation with lists of parties, independent candidates, party coalitions and coalitions of parties and independent candidates, prepared for each election district.
2. Municipal councilor elections shall be held by proportional representation with lists of parties, independent candidates, party coalitions and coalitions of parties and independent candidates in The municipalities, each being a multi-mandate election district in its own right.
3. Municipal mayors shall be elected directly by the municipality electorate.
4. Mayors in the towns and villages shall be elected by the respective town or village electorate

ARTICLE 6.

1. Elections shall be held on a non-working day for the entire country.
2. The President of the Republic of Bulgaria shall appoint the elections for National Assembly members, municipal councilors and mayors and announce election day at least 50 days in advance.

ARTICLE 7.

1. The Organizational and technical preparation of the elections shall be carried out by the Council of Ministers, the interim executive committees and interim local administrations.
2. All expenses connected with the organizational and technical preparation of the elections shall be paid from the State's account within the state budget
3. All electoral papers, applications, complaints, certificates and other documents shall be exempted from taxation.

CHAPTER II. ELECTION LISTS

SECTION I. ON ELECTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

ARTICLE 8.

The elections are held on the basis of two election lists: one for election of National Assembly members and one for election of municipal councilors and mayors

ARTICLE 9.

The election lists shall be prepared in the municipalities. towns and villages, where the population register is kept, and shall be signed by the chairman, the deputy chairman, the secretary of the interim executive committee, as well as by the mayor and

Secretary of the interim administration, respectively.

ARTICLE 10.

1. The names of generals (admirals), officers, sergeants, men on temporary military service and military employees shall be entered in the election lists according to their current place of residence and their address registration prior to election day.
2. The names of people on temporary military service shall be entered by the interim executive committees only in the election list for National Assembly elections in the election section which is closest to the army unit.
3. The election list of men on temporary military service in each army unit shall be prepared under the supervision of the commander who shall sign and send it to the respective interim executive committee of the municipality so that it can be included in the election list of the municipality, the town or village, on whose territory the army unit is located, but no later than 35 days prior to election day.

ARTICLE 11.

The names of Bulgarian citizens living permanently or temporarily abroad, and who intend to remain in the country on election day, shall be entered into the election lists, provided that prior to election day they have personally expressed their wish to participate in the elections. To prove that voting has been exercised, the voter's international passport shall be marked

ARTICLE 12.

1. The election lists are designed individually for each separate section.
2. In the election lists the names of the voters, who have been registered to live on the territory of the municipally, town or village respectively at least two months prior to election day, shall be entered.
3. In the election lists the names of voters, living temporarily on the territory of the respective municipality or town, shall be entered, provided they have been registered as residents at least 60 days prior to election day. The interim municipal executive committees or the interim executive administrations shall immediately send information on the citizens, living temporarily in the municipally, town or village, and whose names have already been entered into the election lists of the municipality, towns or village, corresponding to their permanent place of residence, so that their names can duly be deleted therein.
4. In the election lists shall be entered the names of all citizens, satisfying the conditions under subsections 2 and 3, who prior to or on the election day itself, have become 18 years of age, as well as the citizens who on election day have served the term of imprisonment or are no longer deemed under judicial disability.
5. In the election lists and according to the address registration, the voter's name / first, surname, maiden name/, their date and place of birth and civil registration number are entered. If 6 months prior to the election day the name of the town, village, street, area, etc. or numeration has been changed, both the new and the old names or numeration shall be entered.
6. Each voter's name shall be entered into one election list only.
7. In the election list shall be deleted the names of citizens who prior to the election day have lost their right to vote or passed away.

ARTICLE 13.

1. The election lists shall be announced by the interim executive committees or the interim administrations at least 30 days prior to election day.
2. The interim executive committees, respectively the interim administrations, shall be allowed to provide, on request, political parties with copies of the prepared election lists against payment.

ARTICLE 14.

1. Each voter may require a correction of the electoral list in the way of entering or deleting a voter's name, corrections of other mistakes or incompleteness in the election lists.
2. Applications shall be addressed either orally or in writing to the interim executive committee or administration. The latter shall make an official and motivated statement within no more than 3 days of filing the application.
3. The applicant may appeal against the decision as announced by the respective authorities or in case the three day period, pursuant to the previous paragraph has elapsed, before the district court, which within 3 days, at an open meeting and in the presence of the applicant and a representative of the interim executive committee or the interim administration, shall consider the appeal and take a decision, which is immediately announced. The decision of the court is final.
4. All corrections in the election lists shall be announced immediately.

ARTICLE 15.

The certificate for voting elsewhere shall be issued only to candidates for National Assembly members, their advocates, observers, members of the election commissions and initiative committees for independent candidates nomination and other persons engaged in the holding of the elections. This certificate shall be signed by the chairman, deputy chairman and the secretary of the municipal council.

A special register shall be used for the certificates issued. Voters who have obtained a certificate for voting elsewhere shall declare in writing that they will vote in one section only.

ARTICLE 16.

The originals of the election lists, as well as all election papers, shall be kept by the newly-elected municipal council till the time of the following elections. By the time it has been formed they shall be entrusted for safekeeping to the body, responsible for their preparation.

ARTICLE 17.

Election lists in hospitals, maternity homes, sanatoriums, holiday homes, homes for the disabled, the old and the like, as well as in vessels sailing under Bulgarian flag, shall be prepared by the director of the respective establishment or the captain of the respective vessel, on the basis of an identification document /passport/. The director of the respective establishment or the captain of the vessel shall then advise the interim executive commissions or the interim administrations corresponding to the place of residence of the persons living in those establishments so that their names will be deleted from the election lists where they have originally been entered. The names of the persons who have come to live in these establishments on election day shall not be entered in the election lists and shall not vote.

SECTION II. ON ELECTION OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS AND MAYORS

ARTICLE 18.

1. For the purpose of holding elections for municipal councilors and mayors, separate election lists shall be prepared by the interim executive committees and interim administrations.
2. In the election lists only the names of the persons as defined in Art. 2, subsection 3 of the present law shall be entered.

ARTICLE 19.

1. In the election lists shall not be included the names of the Bulgarian citizens, living abroad and the army people on temporary service, as well as Bulgarian citizens on the crew of a vessel sailing under Bulgarian flag who are absent from Bulgaria.
2. Certificates for voting elsewhere shall not be issued.
3. For the second round election for mayors, the election lists shall be brought up-to-date and the names of the persons who in the period between the first and the second round have acquired the right to vote shall be entered in the election lists.

ARTICLE 20.

For matters unsettled in the present section, the regulations on the election of Assembly members as defined in the previous section shall apply.

CHAPTER III. ELECTION DISTRICTS

SECTION I. ON ELECTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

ARTICLE 21.

1. For election of National Assembly members, the territory of the country shall be divided up into 31 election districts, including 3 in the city of Sofia, and 2 in the former Plovdiv district. The rest shall coincide with the former districts.
2. The boundaries of the election districts, their names, numeration and election papers shall be defined in a decree by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, but no later than 50 days prior to election day.
3. The Central Election Commission shall establish the number of seats for each election district at least 40 days prior to election day on the basis of a uniform representation norm valid for the whole country depending on the number of the population.

SECTION II. ON ELECTION OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS AND MAYORS

ARTICLE 22.

The election papers for municipal councilors and mayors shall be specified in a decree by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria at least 50 days prior to election day.

ARTICLE 23.

1. The territory of each municipality and that of the city of Sofia shall be deemed one multi-mandate election district for election of municipal councilors and one single-mandate district for election of mayor.
2. The territory of every town or village shall be deemed a single-mandate district for election of mayor.

ARTICLE 24.

1. The municipal council shall consist of:

   1) 15 councilors for municipalities of up to 2000 people;

2) 21 councilors for municipalities of up to 5 000 people;
3) 33 councilors for municipalities of up to 20 000 people;
4) 45 councilors for municipalities of up to 50 000 people;
5) 51 councilors for municipalities of up to 100 000 people;
6) 65 councilors for municipalities of more than 100 000 people;

2. The Sofia city council shall consist of 101 councilors.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTION SECTIONS

ARTICLE 25.

The voting and counting of votes shall be performed by election sections.

ARTICLE 26.

1. The interim executive committees shall form collective election sections for the purpose of holding elections for National Assembly members, municipal councilors and mayors.
2. The district election commissions shall establish the numbers of the municipal election sections in the respective district; the municipal election sections shall establish the numbers of the election sections in the municipality which shall contain the indexes of the respective district and municipal commissions and election sections.
3. The election section shall be formed at least 45 days prior to election day.

ARTICLE 27.

1. One election section shall comprise no more than 1000 residents. Villages of more than 1000 inhabitants shall form as many election sections as the number 1000 is contained in the total number of residents. If the remainder is more than 500, a separate section shall be formed, and should the remainder be less than 500, the voters are further assigned to neighboring sections.
2. The municipal election Commission may form, on the proposal of the interim executive council, sections of less than 500 people.

ARTICLE 28.

1. For election of National Assembly election sections shall be formed in the following:

   1) hospitals, maternity homes, sanatoriums, resting homes, homes for the old and the disabled, etc. provided that there are at least 30 voters;
   2) on board a vessel sailing under Bulgarian flag on election day with no less than 20 voters on board and which is not in the country on election day.

2. The voters specified under subsection 2 of the preceding article shall vote for the candidates in the election district where the vessel has been registered.

CHAPTER V. ELECTION COMMISSIONS FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS AND MAYORS

ARTICLE 29.

1. Pursuant to this law, and for the purpose of holding elections the following election commissions shall be constituted:

   1. **CENTRAL** - for the whole country. It shall be appointed for a term corresponding to that of the National Assembly plenary powers.
   2. **DISTRICT** - for election of Assembly members in each election district.
   3. **MUNICIPAL** - for each municipality. These shall be appointed for a term corresponding to that of the municipal councilors powers.
   4. **SECTIONAL** - for each election section.
   5. **SOFIA** - for election of Sofia city council and mayor of the city of Sofia. This commission shall be appointed for a term corresponding to that of the Sofia city council powers.

2. The Central Election Commission shall be appointed by the President of the Republic, after consultations with the political organizations, at least 50 days prior to election day. It shall consist of: a chairman, deputy-chairmen, a secretary and members, including representatives of political parties as well as people with no party affiliation. The majority of the Central Election Commission members must be lawyers by education. The Central Election Commission may consist no more than 25 members.
3. Expert and specialists work groups shall be formed for the Central Election Commission

ARTICLE 30.

1. The members of the district and municipal election commissions shall be appointed by the Central Election Commission at least 40 days prior to election day on the proposal of the interim executive committees and after consultations with political parties have been carried out.
2. The sectional election commissions shall be appointed by the municipal election commissions, pursuant to the conditions under subsection 1 but no later than 35 days prior to election day.

ARTICLE 31.

1. The district and municipal election commissions shall consist of a chairman, two deputy chairmen, and a secretary, all of which must be lawyers, if possible, and up to 7 members, who shall be representatives of different political parties or independents.
2. Expert and specialists work groups may be formed for the district and municipal election commissions.

ARTICLE 32.

The sectional election commissions shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary and 3 to 7 members.

ARTICLE 33.

1. Interim executive committee and administration members, military men and Ministry of Internal Affairs employees, as well as candidates for National Assembly members, municipal councilors and mayors may not be election commissions members.
2. The meetings of the election commissions shall be deemed legal when more than half of their members attend. The decisions shall be taken by a majority of 43 of the attending members.
3. The meetings of the commissions shall be open for attendance by the advocates of the respective candidates with the right of an advisory vote and objections.

ARTICLE 34.

1. The Central Election Commission:

   1) monitors the precise execution of the present law and exercises methodological guidance and control over the activities of the district election commissions;
   2) considers appeals against illegal acts and deeds by the district election commissions and pronounces a final decision on them within a 3-day term;
   3) registers and announces the participation of parties, election coalitions and independent candidates in the elections as well as the color of their ballots. No party or coalition has the right to use or register the color of already registered ballots of some other party or coalition. Parties and coalitions has the right to preserve the color of their ballots as used in the Grand Assembly Elections;
   4) exercises control over the registration of the district candidate lists for National Assembly;
   5) announces the election results for Assembly members and issues certificates to the elected assembly members;
   6) determines the regulations and conditions for participation in the elections by observers from Bulgaria and abroad and provides them with an appropriate document;
   7) checks the election lists after the elections are over and if it finds that a citizen has voted more than once and has thus violated this law, shall advise the legal bodies.

2. The decisions of the Central Election Commission may be appealed before The Supreme Court within 3 days of their announcement. The Supreme Court within 3 days shall issue a decision which is final and shall be announced immediately.

ARTICLE 35.

1. The District Election Commissions shall:

   1) monitor the exact execution of the present law on the territory of the election district and exercise control over the sectional election commissions activities for election of National Assembly members;
   2) supervise the proper formation of the election sections;
   3) supervise the proper and exact preparation and announcement of the electoral lists for election of National Assembly members and issues certificates for voting elsewhere;
   4) provide the sectional election commissions with ballot boxes, envelopes, ballots and protocols for election of National Assembly members and at the same time exercise control over their production, safe-keeping and distribution to the individual sections and transport;
   5) consider appeals against illegal acts and deeds by the sectional election commissions connected with the elections for Assembly members and make final decisions about them within a 3-day term;
   6) register candidate lists for National Assembly members in the election district and announce them before the electorate;
   7) register advocates of candidates for Assembly members of different parties, coalitions and independent candidates and issue them certificates;

8) establish and announce within 3 days the results from the elections in the election districts by way of analyzing the sectional commissions protocols;
9) hand over to the Central Election Commission all materials from the elections for National Assembly members.

2. The resolutions of the district Election Commission may be appealed before the Central Election Commission within 3 days of their announcement. the latter shall consider the appeal and within 3 days issue a final decision on the matter which shall be announced immediately.

ARTICLE 36.

1. The municipal election commissions shall:

1) monitor the execution of the present law on the territory where they carry out their functions as well as exercise control over the activities of the sectional election commissions for the election of municipal councilors and mayors;
2) see to the proper and precise preparation of as well as the announcement of the election lists for the election of municipal councilors and mayors;
3) form sectional election commissions;
4) provide the sectional election commissions with election ballot boxes, ballots, envelopes, protocols and all other necessary papers, connected with the holding of elections and at the same time exercise control over their production, safe-keeping, distribution to the individual sections and transport;
5) consider appeals against illegal acts and deeds by the sectional election commissions and issue decisions about them within a 3-day term;
6) register candidate lists for the election of councilors in the municipal councils and candidates for mayors and announce them before the electorate;
7) register advocates and candidates for councilors in the municipal councils and mayors and issue them certificates;
8) establish the results from the election for municipal councilors on the basis of the sectional commission protocols, announce them within 2 days after the last protocol has been received and issue certificates to the elected councilors;
9) establish the results for election of mayors, announce them and issue certificates to the elected mayors.

2. The resolutions of the municipal Election Commission may be appealed before the District Court within 3 days of their announcement, the latter shall consider the appeal and within three days make a final decision on the matter which shall be announced immediately.

ARTICLE 37.

1. The sectional election commissions shall:

1) ensure the free and peaceful voting process in the election section;
2) ensure the order of voting;
3) accept the election envelopes;
4) count the ballots and prepare, announce and send the protocols for the results of the voting to the respective district and municipal election commissions within 24 hours after the announcement of the results from the voting;
5) consider complaints and announce their decisions immediately.

2. At the time of the elections, the instructions of the sectional election commission chairman shall be binding for all citizens in the election room. These instructions may be repealed by the commission's resolution.

ARTICLE 38.

Members of the sectional election commissions may also be voters, who do not live in the respective sections and districts.

ARTICLE 39.

1. Political parties and independent candidates shall present a list of names of persons who shall replace their representatives in the sectional, municipal and district election commissions. In the case when the latter are unable to carry out their functions the replacement shall be done in the following way: for sectional election commissions - with the decision of the municipal election commissions; for municipal and district election commissions - with the decision of the Central Election Commission.
2. At the commission meetings allowed to be present are the advocates of the respective candidates with the right of a deliberative vote and objections. On their request, their objections can be entered into the minutes of the commission meeting.

ARTICLE 40.

1. The persons who are part of the election commission membership shall be relieved of their office duties during the time necessary for their work in the respective commission, for which they may have unpaid official leave. The remuneration of

the election commission members is on the account of the State budget and shall be defined by the Central Election Commission. The remuneration of the Central Election Commission members shall be defined by the president of the Republic.

2. Within the meaning of the Penal Code, the persons who are members of election commissions and when performing their duties, shall be deemed election officials.
3. In the process of performing their functions, the election commissions officials shall not wear any distinctive marks or insignia of the party or coalition, to which they belong, nor carry out or participate in election campaign activities.

CHAPTER VI. CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS AND MAYORS

SECTION I. CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

ARTICLE 41.

1. The candidates for Assembly members shall be named and arranged in the candidate lists for the respective multi-mandate election district.
2. Candidate lists in the election districts shall be proposed for registration by party leadership and coalitions.
3. Party and party coalitions and nominating candidate lists shall meet all the requirements of this law and the Political Parties law.
4. Organizations and movements which have not been registered as parties, shall not participate in pre-election coalitions and nominate candidates in the elections for National Assembly, municipal councilors and mayors.
5. Independent candidates shall be registered with individual candidate lists, provided their nominations have been supported by the signatures of 2000 voters from the respective election district. For their nomination, initiative committees may be formed of 5 to 7 voters, registered with the respective district commission who organizes the subscription for the candidate's nomination.
6. The lists pursuant to subsection 5 shall contain: the person's name, exact address, civil registration number and signature.

ARTICLE 42.

Provided that the Central Election Commission or the District election commissions establish that an independent candidate list has not been supported by the required number of voters, the registration shall be denied, and if it has already been effected, it shall be annulled.

ARTICLE 43.

1. Each candidate for Assembly member may be registered by only party or coalition. Candidates for National Assembly members may be registered in two multi-mandate election districts at most.
2. Provided that one candidate has been registered in more than two election districts, the first two according to the time of registration shall be deemed valid. The district election commission shall inform the Central Election Commission on the registrations 24 hours within the termination of the registration term, pursuant to this law. The Central Election Commission shall announce the invalid registrations within a 3-day term and shall immediately notify the respective party or coalition and the candidate of its decision.
3. The parties and coalitions shall establish the order of arrangement of candidates on the candidate list.
4. One candidate list may contain an unlimited number of candidate names.

ARTICLE 44.

1. When pre-election coalition comes forward with a common list in the established election regions, the participating parties and independent candidates may not come forward with an individual list.
2. A party or independent candidate may participate in one coalition only.

ARTICLE 45.

1. The registration of the candidates lists for Assembly members in the election districts shall be made in a special register on presentation of the following documents:

   1) a proposition of the central party leadership or of the initiative committee in the respective election district, signed by the number of voters, as envisaged by the law;
   2) a declaration by the candidates showing their consent to be registered by the parties, party coalitions or initiative committees that have nominated them;
   3) the candidate for an Assembly member shall present a declaration confirming that he satisfies the conditions under Art. 3 par. 1, address and civil registration number.

2. Registration of the candidate lists for National Assembly members in the election districts shall be completed at least 30 days prior to the election day.

ARTICLE 46.

1. When the requirements of the present law have not been met, the district election commission shall refuse registration by motivating its decision in writing and notifying the candidate for Assembly member.
2. The refusal, pursuant to subsection 1 1may be further appealed before the Central Election Commission.
3. In the case of a final refusal, as well as in the cases under Art 43, subsection 2, parties, coalitions and initiative committees who have nominated the candidate may, within 10 days of the refusal or the announcement of the invalidity of the registration, but no later than 20 days before holding the elections, nominate another candidate for registration.
4. In the event of any of the candidate registered in the party lists dies or has a lasting disability to participate in the elections, it is possible under the conditions of the preceding paragraph, the party, coalition or the initiative committee to nominate another candidate.

ARTICLE 47.

The registration of the parties and coalitions with the Central Election Commission shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure, laid down in Art. 45 of this law. Provided that parties participate in a coalition, a copy of the court order shall be presented for each of them. Party coalitions shall present a decision for their constitution, signed by the leadership of the respective parties, signature of the persons who represent them and a stamp of the coalition, if there is one.

ARTICLE 48.

Each candidate list may have one advocate in each election section, who shall assist candidates and parties in the election campaign and represent their interests before the state bodies, social organizations, voters, the Central and other election commissions.

ARTICLE 49.

1. Candidates for National Assembly members holding state jobs shall discontinue the execution of their duties after their registration and shall go on full-pay leave.
2. The period during which the candidates for Assembly members have participated in the election campaign shall count as term of service at the job which they have worked before their nomination.
3. The elected candidates working for the government in state enterprises, establishments, trade companies with state participation constituting more than 50% or organizations shall be entitled, after the termination of their powers, to resume their job, and provided it has already been closed, some other equivalent job shall be provided for them either in the same or, with their consent, at some other state enterprises, establishments, trade partnerships with state participation constituting more than 50% or organizations.
4. When the previous job of the elected candidate has been filled by some other person, the legal labor relations with the latter shall be discontinued without notice.

ARTICLE 50.

1. During the election campaign the registered candidates for Assembly members and their advocates shall not be detained and sued except in the cases of personally committed serious offenses.
2. From the moment of registration through the announcement, the candidates and their advocates are officials within the meaning of the Penal Code.

ARTICLE 51.

An election commission member registered as candidate shall automatically resign from membership.

SECTION II. CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS AND MAYORS

ARTICLE 52.

1. Registration of the candidates lists for municipal councilors and mayors shall be carried out by the municipal election commissions as nominated by parties, coalitions and initiative committees pursuant to the procedure laid down in this chapter and under the following conditions:

   1) a candidate for municipal councilor shall not be nominated in more than one candidate list when the municipal election commission finds that a candidate for municipal councilor has been nominated in more than one candidate list, the candidate list prepared first shall be considered valid;
   2) independent candidates shall present 500 signatures of voters from the respective election district;
   3) parties and independent candidates may participate in one coalition only;
   4) candidates for mayor shall not be nominated in more than one municipality, nor shall they run for National Assembly. Provided the candidate is elected both mayor and National Assembly member, he shall hold the post of mayor.

2. Registration shall be completed at least 30 days prior to election day.
3. Candidate lists for municipal councilors and the candidates for mayors shall have the rights specified under Art. 49, subsection 1 and 2 of this law.

4. The persons elected mayor shall have the rights under Art. 49, subsection 3 and 4.

ARTICLE 53.

Provided that the municipal election commission finds that an independent candidate list for a municipal councilor and mayor has not been backed up by the signatures of the required number of voters, registration shall be denied, and provided such has been made, it shall be annulled.

CHAPTER VII. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 54.

1. Citizens, parties, candidates for National Assembly members, municipal councilors, mayors and their advocates have the right of free propaganda "for" and "against" the election of candidates. They may outline their election platforms and ideas either orally or in writing at pre-election meetings or through the mass-media.
2. The election campaign shall be carried out in the official language.
3. Pre-election meetings are public. The organizers and the Ministry of Internal Affairs organs shall be responsible for keeping the order at these meetings.
4. The interim executive committees, the interim administrations and other state bodies, and trade unions shall not be permitted to distribute pre-election propaganda materials of the candidates as well as to participate in other propaganda activities.

ARTICLE 55.

The Central Election Commission together with the Defense Minister shall specify the manner in which military men shall be introduced to the platforms of the candidates and parties. Election campaigning shall not be carried out in the army units. The commanders shall ensure free access to the mass media, as well as participation in some other election campaign events during furloughs in the residential area where the garrison is located.

ARTICLE 56.

Candidates for National Assembly members, parties and coalitions shall have equal access to the sources of information nesessary for the election campaign.

ARTICLE 57.

All Assembly candidates and parties have equal right of access to the national mass-media. The Grand National Assembly shall define the manner of this access.

ARTICLE 58.

1. The editor-in-chief or the publisher of a daily or a periodical who has published material whereby he has infringed upon the rights of a candidate for a National Assembly member, municipal councilor or mayor, or has in some way offended his dignity, is obliged to publish the reply in the first number of the respective daily or periodical upon receipt of the reply.
2. The reply shall be printed on the same space and in the same print as the offensive material.
3. The reply shall be published free of charge and shall not he longer than the corresponding material to which it is a reply.

ARTICLE 59.

1. During the pre-election campaign political parties, coalitions and candidates may prepare and use propaganda materials, posters, advertisements, notices, leaflets, addresses, etc. Each printed propaganda material shall bear the name of the political party, coalition or candidate for National Assembly member issuing the material.
2. Propaganda materials may be placed on sites assigned for this purpose or on walls, buildings and fences but only with the permission of their respective owner/manager.
3. The interim executive committees shall be specify the sites for placing posters and other propaganda materials.
4. The destruction of propaganda materials placed in accordance with the established order shall be forbidden till the end of the election campaign.
5. The interim executive committees or the interim administrations with the decision of the district election commissions shall remove or confiscate propaganda materials threatening the life of citizens, public health, private or public property, safety of traffic as well as materials of immoral content or offending the reputation and honor of the candidates.
6. Using public transport for election propaganda shall be forbidden.

ARTICLE 60.

1. The results from public opinion polls about the elections may be not be published later than 14 days prior to election day or on election day.
2. Propaganda of any sort shall not be allowed 24 hours prior to election day and on election day.

ARTICLE 61.

Parties and coalitions that received 50 000 votes in the elections for Grand National Assembly, shall be entitled to obtain in advance 50% of the sum included in the budget for financing the election campaign. Other parties, coalitions and independent candidates shall receive finances in the form of a short-term loan bearing no interest from the sum included in the budget for the holding of the elections. Parties, coalitions and independent candidates shall receive, after the elections, proportionally to the seats won by them, some extra funds or shall have to reimburse the sums they have already received following the procedure defined by the Council of Ministers.

ARTICLE 62.

The sum total allotted to each candidate for their election campaign shall not exceed 30,000 leva.

CHAPTER VIII. VOTING

ARTICLE 63.

1. The act of voting for National Assembly members, municipal councilors and mayors shall be performed in specially designed for this purpose premises assigned by the interim executive committees and the interim administrations.
2. No propaganda materials of parties, coalitions and independent candidates shall be placed in the election room.

ARTICLE 64.

1. at 6:00 A.M. on election day the chairman of the section election commission in the presence of more than a half of the commission members, shall announce the opening of the election. If there is a lack of quorum and within one hour the section commission members do not appear, the chairman of the district election commission shall include the reserve members. At the opening of voting may be present candidates, advocates, voters, parties representatives, journalists and observers. The commission chairman checks the availability of the electoral lists, the condition of the ballot boxes and whether they are empty. The boxes shall be sealed with the municipal or town council's stamp and only then shall voting begin.
2. The parties' representatives present in the election room must be persons authorized in writing by the party leadership.
3. The parties or coalitions shall not be in a position to authorize more than two representatives for each section, only one of whom shall be permitted to observe the voting.

ARTICLE 65.

1. The voters may cast their ballots from 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. If after 7:00 P.M. there are still people in front of the election room who have not been able cast their ballots, the voting time shall be extended until there are no voters in front of the election section.
2. With the decision of the Central Election Commission the voting in some sections may start an hour earlier.

ARTICLE 66.

1. The voter shall verify his/her identity before the section election commission chairman or the person authorized by the later only by showing a passport valid for the country. a military identity card shall be shown by army personal, and people permanently living abroad shall show the passport that they hold.
2. The section election commission chairman or a commission member authorized by him, shall check the passport data against the same as entered in the election list. only then shall the voter be permitted to enter the voting booth. Provided the voter presents a certificate for voting elsewhere, the section election commission chairman shall check the data from the certificate against that in the passport. the voter's name shall then be entered in the complementary election list to which the certificate shall be enclosed. After the voting for Assembly members has been completed, the election commission shall check the voter's passport data against the same as entered in the election list for election of municipal councilors and mayors, and only after that shall the voter be permitted into the respective voting booth.
3. The voter may declare before the section election commission his wish to vote for Assembly members only, or for municipal councilors and mayors only.
4. After voting for each choice the voter shall sign the respective election list which shall verify his voting. The passport's number, series and date of issue shall be recorded. The voter's passport shall be marked.

ARTICLE 67.

1. Two types of voting booths shall be used in the voting room. One of them shall be used for voting for Assembly members, the other for municipal councilors and mayors.
2. On the front side of the booths shall be placed notes specifying which of them is for voting for Assembly members and which for municipal councilors and mayors.
3. In the booths themselves shall be placed a sufficient number of ballots. Distribution of ballots and envelopes among voters in advance shall be forbidden.
4. The presence of another person or commission member in the election booths when voters are exercising their right to vote shall be forbidden except in cases where the voter is disabled and cannot perform the necessary voting procedure on his own and asks for the help of a person as chosen by him. In such cases permission may be granted by the section election commission chairman and this shall be recorded on the election list.

5. Voting outside the election booth is not allowed.
6. When there is a voter inside the election booth, the presence of any persons other than the commission members, at a less than 3 meter distance from the election booth, shall be forbidden.
7. If necessary to restore order in the election room, the chairman of the section election commission may seek the assistance of the police.
8. Armed persons shall not be permitted to enter the election room, except in the cases under the preceding paragraph.

ARTICLE 68.

1. The voters shall cast their ballots for Assembly members first, then for municipal councilors and mayors.
2. Voters shall receive election envelopes from the section election commission.
3. Voters shall cast their ballots for Assembly members by entering the respective booth, placing the candidate list of their choice in the envelope. Then they seal it and after going out of the booth they shall put it in the respective ballot box. After the voting the election list for Assembly members shall be marked. The section election commission shall inscribe into the voter's passport the following text: "Vote cast for National Assembly members". If in the process of voting a difference is established between the civil registration number in the election list and that in the passport of the voter, the section election commission chairman shall put both of them in the election list.
4. Voters shall cast their ballots for municipal councilors and mayors, by entering the respective booth, placing one candidate list for municipal councilors and one for mayor in the envelope. Then they seal it and after going out of the booth they shall put it in the respective ballot box. After the voting has been completed, the election list for municipal councilors and mayors shall be marked. The election section commission chairman or an authorized member shall inscribe the following text in the voter's passport: "Vote cast for municipal councilors and mayor".
5. The ballot boxes for election of National Assembly members are white in color and bear the inscription in black letters: "Assembly members election". The ballot boxes for election of municipal councilors and mayors are black and shall bear the following inscription in white letters: "Municipal Councilors and mayors election".

ARTICLE 69.

1. If the room in the ballot box turns out to be insufficient to hold all envelopes of all the voters in the election section, the ballots shall be placed in an extra ballot box of the same type. In this case the opening of both boxes shall be performed simultaneously after the voting has been completed, and the envelopes therein shall be counted simultaneously.
2. Taking ballots, envelopes and ballot boxes out of the election booth shall not be permitted.
3. The section election commission members, the advocates and the observers shall periodically check the availability of ballots for the candidate lists in the election booths provided no voter is inside the booths.

ARTICLE 70.

1. Voting shall be performed by means of ballots which shall follow the form as established by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria:

   1) ballots containing the names of candidates from the candidate list in the multi-mandate district for election of National Assembly members;
   2) ballots containing the names of candidates from the candidate list for the election of municipal councilors;
   3) ballots containing the names of candidates for a municipal mayor;
   4) ballots containing the names of candidates for a town or village mayor.

2. The individual ballots pursuant to the preceding paragraph shall have a different size each.

ARTICLE 71.

1. Each party or party coalition shall participate in the elections for Assembly members municipal councilors and mayors with ballots in the same color, according to their registration. Independent candidates for Assembly members, municipal councilors and mayors, as nominated by the initiative committees, shall participate in the elections with white colored ballots.
2. On the ballot shall be marked the number of the election district and the name of the political party or coalition. The names of candidates on the candidate lists shall be arranged one after the other in a consecutive order.
3. For color of ballots the following shall be used as primary colors: white, orange, blue, green and red. After the primary colors have been chosen by the respective parties, white ballots with one to three color bands in the bottom end of the ballot shall be used. The combination of the three colors contained in the Bulgarian national flag: white, green and red, shall not be used.

ARTICLE 72.

In case there are substantial violations of the voting process, the section election commission may decide to suspend the voting until those have been eliminated. This decision shall be made known to the Central Election Commission immediately.

CHAPTER IX. DETERMINING ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 73.

1. As the election day comes to an end, the section election commission chairman shall announce the termination of the voting. The unused ballots shall be packed into packages, which are then to be sealed. Only then shall the ballot box be opened.
2. First shall be opened the ballot boxes for Assembly members election. After counting the ballots therein, the protocol for election of Assembly members shall be filled out and signed. Only then shall the ballot boxes for election of municipal councilors and mayors be opened following the procedure specified in the first sentence.

ARTICLE 74.

At the opening of the ballot boxes and establishing the election results may be present parties' representatives, Assembly candidates and their advocates, observers and journalists.

ARTICLE 75.

1. The section election commission shall check the number of the envelopes in the ballot box against the number of actual voters as marked on the election list and shall enter the results in the protocol. Then the envelopes shall be opened and the valid and invalid ballots for candidate lists as well as the empty envelopes shall be divided.
2. In the cases when the section election commission finds that in one envelope there is one or more invalid ballots, the latter shall be put back in the envelope and their type and number shall be described in the respective list.
3. For the invalid ballots and empty envelopes a separate list shall be compiled which shall be an inseparable part of the respective protocols and shall be signed by the section election commission members.
4. The opening of the envelopes and the counting of the ballots shall be performed only by the chairman or some other member of the section election commission as authorized by the commission's decision.

ARTICLE 76.

1. The ballots shall be deemed invalid in the following cases:

   1) they have been found in the ballot boxes without envelopes;
   2) when more than one ballot for different candidate lists have been put in the same envelope. These ballots shall count as one invalid ballot.
   3) when they are made by voters themselves.

2. Any arguments about the validity of ballots shall be settled by the commission. Each commission member may make remarks or have objections against the decision, which shall be entered in the protocol of the commission. The decision shall be written in the protocol.
3. Whenever in the ballot box for Assembly members an envelope has been found containing ballots for municipal councilors and mayors as well, those shall be destroyed and it shall be deemed that the envelope contains ballots for Assembly members only. The number and the type of the destroyed ballots shall be described in the protocol. When in the envelope there are no ballots for Assembly members, it shall be deemed empty.
4. Whenever in the ballot box for municipal councilors and mayors an envelope has been found, containing ballots for Assembly members those shall be destroyed and it shall be deemed that the envelope contains ballots for municipal councilors and mayors only. The number and the type of the destroyed ballots shall be described in the protocol. Whenever the envelope contains no ballots for municipal councilors and mayor, it shall be deemed empty.
5. Whenever ballots for municipal councilors without ballots for mayors or the other way about have been found, the envelope shall be deemed empty for the missing ballot only.
6. When in the envelope have been inserted more than one ballot of the same type for different candidate lists, the ballots found shall count as one invalid ballot. In the protocol shall be marked the total number of the ballots found.
7. The empty envelopes shall be deemed invalid ballots.

ARTICLE 77.

1. Whenever two or more identical ballots have been placed in one envelope, they shall count as one. The extra identical ballots found shall be put aside and voided by the signature of the section election chairman on them and their number and the type shall be described in the protocol.
2. If in the envelope there is a ballot containing names of candidates which do not correspond to the names of the candidates as registered in the district, the ballot shall count as valid and shall go to the respective list in the district that has registered the color of the ballot. This applies to all other deviations of the ballots from the established specimen (size, color nuance, mistakes in the printed text), due to production errors.

ARTICLE 78.

Changes in the order of the candidates on the candidate lists, no matter how they are made by the voter, do not render the ballot invalid. The order established in the ballot cannot be changed.

ARTICLE 79.

Written words or marks on the ballot, names entered by the voter himself, mechanical damage, smudges or deletions do not render the ballot invalid.

ARTICLE 80.

1. The section election commission shall draft the following four protocols for voting:

   1) for election of municipal councilors;
   2) for election of National Assembly members;
   3) for election of municipality mayor.
   4) for election of town or village mayor.

ARTICLE 81.

1. The protocols shall be drawn up in triplicate.
2. In the protocols shall be specified:

   1) the number of the election section and the name of the municipality;
   2) the time of beginning and end of the voting;
   3) the number of voters in the general election list;
   4) the number of voters in the complementary election list;
   5) the number of registered candidate lists;
   6) the number of actual voters according to the markings in the election list;
   7) the number of voters according to the envelopes found in the ballot box;
   8) the number of valid ballots cast for each candidate or list;
   9) the number of the invalid ballots;
   10) the number of the destroyed ballots, pursuant to Art. 70, subsections 3 and 4;
   11) the number of empty envelopes;
   12) the number of filed in applications, grievances and complaints, as well as the decisions taken about them;
   13) the atmosphere of the voting process.

3. The data specified under points 3 to 11 of the preceding paragraph shall be written both in figures and in words
4. The protocols shall be signed by all the commission members on each page. After the final signing of the protocols by the commission members, the chairman of the commission shall announce the results from the voting.
5. Corrections in the protocols after the latter have been signed by all members of the election commission may be made only prior to the announcement of the voting results by the respective election commission. Each correction shall be re-signed by all commission members and in the margin shall be written "correction". Corrections and deletions shall be made only after the signing of the protocol by all commission members. Obvious factual mistakes may also be corrected after the announcement of the voting results.
6. The members of the election commissions shall not have the right to refuse signing the protocol. If they do not agree with the contents of the protocol, they can draft a separate opinion.
7. Each party, coalition or independent candidate, as well as their advocates, may receive transcripts from the protocol about the voting results in accordance with the established specimen. The same applies to the observers present in the election section. One transcript from the protocol shall be displayed in front of the election section.

ARTICLE 82.

1. The section election commission chairman shall hand in:

   1) two copies of the protocols about election of Assembly members to the district election commission, one for the Central Election Commission, and the other for the district election commission;
   2) two copies of the protocols about election of municipal councilors and mayors to the municipal election commission, one for the Central Election Commission, and the other for the municipal election commission;
   3) one copy of all protocols of the interim executive committee or interim administration, where the voting has taken place.

2. One copy of all the protocols about election of Assembly members and municipal councilors and mayors, together with all the ballots, the valid and invalid ballots grouped separately, together with the envelopes used in the voting process, and all other election materials shall be sent to the respective municipal council where they shall be kept till the following elections.
3. The transportation and handing over of the protocols and the other election documents shall be performed by the chairman or the deputy chairman and at least two members of the election commission.

ARTICLE 83.

1. The district election commission in the multi-mandate election district for election of Assembly members shall establish the results from the voting on the basis of the section election commission protocols and shall announce them.
2. The municipal election commission shall establish the results from the voting for municipal councilors on the basis of the section election commissions protocols and shall announce them.
3. The municipal election commission shall establish the results from the voting for mayors on the basis of the section election commissions protocols and shall announce them.

ARTICLE 84.

1. The district election commission in the multi-mandate district for election of Assembly members shall draft a protocol in duplicate about the results of the voting in the district, which shall be signed by the commission members.
2. In the protocol shall be specified:

   1) the section election commissions;
   2) the section election commissions, which have presented protocols about the voting;
   3) the number of voters in the election district according to the election list;
   4) the registered election candidate lists;
   5) the number of actual voters according to the markings in the election list;
   6) the number of voters according to the number of envelopes found in the ballot box;
   7) the valid ballots for each candidate list;
   8) invalid ballots;
   9) the empty envelopes;
   10) the completed applications, complaints and objections as well as the decisions taken about them.

3. The data specified under points 3 - 9 of the preceding paragraph shall be written both in figures and in words.

ARTICLE 85.

1. The district election commission chairman shall deliver to the Central Election Commission and the respective municipal council one copy of all protocols.
2. Together with the protocols the first copy of the section election commissions protocols shall be delivered to the Central Election Commission.
3. Together with the protocols the second copy of the section election commissions protocols shall be delivered to the municipal council, and also the election lists, the ballots and the other election papers as received by the section election commissions.
4. The transportation and delivery of the protocols and the other election documents shall be performed by the chairman or the deputy chairman and at least two members of the election commission.

ARTICLE 86.

1. The establishing of the results from the voting for National Assembly members as registered by parties and coalitions, shall be performed by the Central Election Commission by the method of D'Ondt and on the basis of a method published in the State Gazette, No 46 of June 8, 1990.
2. The right to participate in the elections have the parties and coalitions which have received at least 4% of all valid ballots cast nation-wide for election of National Assembly members.
3. The restriction specified in the preceding paragraph shall not apply to the independent candidates for National Assembly members.

ARTICLE 86A.

1. The independent candidate for an Assembly member, registered with a separate list shall be considered elected if the number of votes he has received is equal or more than the district election quota.
2. The district election quota is established by dividing the total number of valid ballots cast in the respective multi-mandate district by the number of seats allotted to this district.

ARTICLE 87.

1. On the basis of the section election commissions protocols the municipal election commission shall draft three protocols:

   1) for election of municipal councilors;
   2) for election of municipality mayor;
   3) for election of town or village mayor.

2. In the protocols shall be specified:

   1) the section election commissions;
   2) the section election commissions, which have presented protocols about the voting;
   3) the number of voters in the municipality Town or village according to the election list;
   4) the number of registered candidate lists, resp. candidates for mayors;
   5) the number of actual voters according to the markings in the election list;
   6) the number of envelopes found in the ballot box;
   7) the valid ballots cast for each candidate list or a candidate for mayor;
   8) the total number of valid ballots cast for all candidates for mayors;
   9) invalid ballots;
   10) empty envelopes;
   11) the completed applications, complaints and objections as well as the decisions taken about them.

3. The data specified under points 3 to 10 of the preceding paragraph shall be written both in figures and in words.
4. The protocols shall be drafted in duplicate.
5. A copy of the protocol about election of municipal councilors, respectively protocols about election of a municipality mayor, shall be sent to the Central Election Commission. One copy of the protocol about the election of municipal councilors, municipality mayor, town or village mayor, together with the election papers shall be sent to the municipal council.

ARTICLE 88.

The parties, coalitions and independent candidates, participating in the elections shall have the right to obtain against payment a copy of the protocols from the section, district and municipal election commissions and from the offices where the above shall be left for safe-keeping against payment.

ARTICLE 89.

Each candidate list shall receive such a number of seats in the municipal council as corresponds to the number of valid ballots it has received and in conformity with the D'Ondt method.

ARTICLE 90.

1. The election of a mayor shall be deemed valid if more than a half of the respective district voters have taken part in the voting.
2. Elected shall be deemed such a candidate for mayor who has received more than a half of the cast valid ballots.
3. If none of the candidates for mayor has received the required majority, new elections shall be fixed by the municipal election commission, within one week and on a non-working day. In the second round shall participate the two candidates who have received the most votes.
4. When only one candidate for a mayor has been registered and he has not been elected, new candidates may be nominated for the second round.
5. In the cases defined under subsections 3 and 4 elected shall be deemed the candidate for mayor who has received the largest number of votes.

ARTICLE 91.

1. When in the voting for election of mayor less than a half of the total number of voters in the respective district have participated, the municipal election commission shall schedule new elections within one week and on a non-working day.
2. The municipal election commission shall set the time of the new election by means of a decision which shall be announced.
3. In the election of this type the rules specified under paragraph 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the preceding article shall apply.
4. If in this election less than half of the voters from the respective district have participated, elected shall be deemed the one candidate who has received the most votes shall be declared elected.

ARTICLE 92.

1. Provided a candidate for a National Assembly member, registered by a party or coalition, has been elected in more than one district list, he is obliged to declare before the Central Election Commission within one day of the announcement, in which candidate list he shall be deemed elected.
2. In these cases the Central Election Commission shall announce elected the candidate next in turn in the
3. respective election list.
4. An independent candidate for a National Assembly member elected in two multi-mandate election districts shall have the duties of the candidate as specified under subsection 1.

ARTICLE 93.

1. The Central Election Commission shall publish the results from the voting for National Assembly members in the State Gazette immediately after their announcement.
2. The Central Election Commission shall 30 publish in a special bulletin the results from the voting for National Assembly members in the election sections nation-wide.
3. After the termination of the elections and settlement of the disputes related to them, The Central Election Commission shall direct the election materials to be kept in the Archives of the National Assembly.

ARTICLE 94.

1. Every Assembly candidate, the central leaderships of the political parties or coalitions that have participated in. the National Assembly elections, may dispute the legality of the election of a National Assembly member through the bodies specified in Art. 150, subsection 1 of the Constitution before the Constitution Court within 1 month of their announcement by the Central Election Commission.
2. Every candidate for a municipal councilor and mayor and the local leaderships of the political parties and coalitions that have participated in the election for municipal councilors and mayors, may appeal the decisions about the announcement of the election -results before the District, respectively the Sofia city, court within 2 weeks of their announcement. The court decisions shall be final.

ARTICLE 95.

The newly elected Assembly members, councilors and mayors within one month of the elections shall declare before the National Assembly, respectively the municipal council, the sources of finance and the expenses, they have made during the election campaign.

CHAPTER X. TERMINATION OF POWERS

ARTICLE 96.

1. In the event of termination of the powers of a National Assembly member, the Central Election Commission shall declare elected the candidate next in line in the respective candidate list.
2. If a National Assembly member is elected Minister, during his tenure as minister, he shall be replaced by the next candidate in the election list.

ARTICLE 97.

The powers of a National Assembly member shall be terminated ahead of term in the cases specified in Art. 72 of the Constitution.

ARTICLE 98.

The powers of a municipal councilor and a mayor shall be terminated ahead of term in the following cases:

1) resignation;
2) an effected conviction sentence, whereby a term of imprisonment is imposed for premeditated crime, or when the execution of the punishment of imprisonment has not been postponed;
3) change of residence outside the district where they have been elected. The change of residence shall be established by the respective municipal council;
4) in the event of a lasting disability or systematic failure to fulfill there obligations over a period of more than a year;
5) death.

ARTICLE 99.

In the event of termination of the powers of a municipal councilor, the municipal election commission shall declare municipal councilor the next candidate on the list.

CHAPTER XI. PARTIAL ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 100.

1. When the post of a mayor has been vacated, the municipal election commission shall fix new elections within one month of the vacancy.
2. In the case specified under subsection 1, elections shall not be held provided that the vacant mandate is shorter than 6 months.

ARTICLE 101.

1. The partial elections of mayors shall be held following the common procedure and with the observance of the regulations of the present law and also in the case of the following deviations:

1) the elections shall be fixed at least one month prior to election day;
2) the election lists shall be announced at least 20 days prior to election day;
3) the candidate' registration shall be completed within 15 days and shall be announced 10 days prior to election day at the latest;
4) the election sections shall be formed at least 25 days prior to election day. The same term shall apply to the section election commissions formation;
5) the voting may end before 7.00 PM provided all of the voters have voted.

CHAPTER XII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PENAL REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 102.

1. Whoever violates the regulations of the present law, shall be fined 50 - 500 leva, provided the violation does not qualify as crime.
2. For the violation specified under Art. 69, subsection 2 and Art. 81, subsection 5, the fine shall be between 500 - 2900 leva, provided the violation does not qualify as crime.
3. An official within the meaning of the present law who has deliberately violated what is specified under subsection 1 shall be imposed a fine of 100-1000 leva, and under parity a fine of 1000 - 3000 shall be imposed, provided the violation does not qualify as crime.

ARTICLE 103.

1. The statements for administrative violations shall be drawn by the chairmen of the municipal and district election commissions.
2. The penal statements shall be drawn by the chairmen of the interim municipal executive committees, by the municipally mayors.

Croatia

LAW
ON THE ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PARLIAMENT (SABOR) OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

This Law regulates elections for the representatives in the House of Representatives and the House of Counties of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter referred to as Elections of Representatives).

ARTICLE 2.

Representatives shall be elected by Croatian citizens, who have reached the age of 18 years (hereinafter referred to as voters), in direct elections, by secret voting, for a term of 4 years.

ARTICLE 3.

A Croatian citizen, who has reached the age of 18 years, may be elected representative.

ARTICLE 4.

Elections for representatives shall be called by the President of the Republic of Croatia.

At least 30 days must elapse from the date of the calling of elections to the date of elections for representatives.

The date of elections for representatives shall be determined by a decision on the calling of elections.

ARTICLE 5.

In the elections for representatives the right to vote shall be ensured in diplomatic-consular missions and foreign offices of the Republic of Croatia located abroad, for voters who find themselves outside the borders of the Republic of Croatia at the time of elections.

The voters who find themselves outside the borders of the Republic of Croatia at the time of elections, but whose residence is on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, shall elect the representatives depending on their place of residence on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, voting in conformity with Paragraph 1 of this Article.

The voters who do not have a place of residence on the territory of the Republic of Croatia shall vote for the representatives in the House of Representatives in conformity with Paragraph 1 of this Article, on the basis of the state lists, under the conditions and in the manner as provided by Article 24 hereof.

ARTICLE 6.

No one can be a representative in the House of Representatives and in the House of Counties at the same time.

A representative cannot be, at the same time, a judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, a judge, public prosecutor, deputy public prosecutor, public attorney, deputy public attorney, public defender, deputy public defender, deputy minister, director of at state institute, director of a body within a ministry, head of staff of the office of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. It may be stipulated by the law that the representative's duty is incompatible with another duty as well.

The persons performing any of the duties from Paragraph 2 of this Article may run for a representative, but if elected, they must resign either from the representative's duty or from the duty which is incompatible with the duty of a representative.

The representative elected in an electoral unit, who accepts one of the duties from Paragraph 2, of this Article, is substituted by a deputy elected in the electoral unit.

The representative elected from the state list, who accepts one of the duties from Paragraph 2 of this Article, is substituted by the first successive candidate who was not elected from the state list from which the representative was elected.

The deputy representative commences his representative duty according to the provisions of this Law after the elected representative has resigned from the duty or after the House of Representatives or the House of Counties finds that the representative performs a duty from Paragraph 2, of this Article.

A representative cannot be, at the same time, the president, vice president, a minister or other member of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, nor a deputy minister. In the period during which the representative performs the duty of the president, vice president, minister or other member of the Government of the Republic of Croatia or the deputy minister, his representative mandate is at a standstill and the duty is carried out by his deputy who would have replaced him if his mandate had expired in conformity with the provisions of Paragraphs 4 and 5, of this Article.

ARTICLE 7.

Representatives do not have binding term. Representatives are not recallable.

ARTICLE 8.

A representative's term shall expire prior to the expiration of the period for which he has been elected, in the following events:

1) if he resigns;

2) if he has been deprived of his business ability by an effective court ruling;
3) if he has been convicted to a prison penalty for a period exceeding 6 months, by an effective court ruling;
4) if he accepts the election or appointment to one of the duties incompatible with the duty of a representative in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 2, of this Law.

ARTICLE 9.

Representatives have their respective deputies assume their duty in the event of the occurrence of one of the conditions as listed in Article 8 hereof.

Deputy representatives shall be elected, along with the representatives, in the manner provided by this Law.

ARTICLE 10.

Members of ethnic and national communities or minorities, with a share of the population of the Republic of Croatia exceeding 8% as per the population census from 1981, shall be entitled to be represented in the Parliament proportionally to their respective participation in the overall population in the manner as provided by this Law. The basis for the computation of their proportional representation in the House of Representatives shall be the number of 120 representatives in this House.

Members of ethnic and national communities or minorities 'whose participation in the population of the Republic of Croatia is below 8% shall be entitled to elect at least 5 representatives in the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia, and one of them shall have to be elected by the members of each of the Hungarian, Italian, Czech and Slovakian as well as Russian and Ukrainian, German and Austrian minorities.

ARTICLE 11.

Freedom of choice of voters and secrecy of voting shall be guaranteed. No one may be called to account because of voting or because he has not voted. No one may require a voter to disclose his voting choice.

CHAPTER II. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 12.

Candidates for representatives and their deputies may be proposed by political parties which have been registered in the Republic of Croatia, and voters either individually or jointly.

Two or more parties which have been registered in the Republic of Croatia may propose one candidate or his deputy, and a joint state or county list.

Political parties shall propose candidates for representatives and their deputies in the manner as provided by their Statute, or by a separate decision reached on the basis of the Statutes.

ARTICLE 13.

Candidates for representatives and their deputies shall be proposed by the voters on the basis of validly collected signatures.

When candidates for a representative or his deputy are proposed by the voters in the electoral unit in which, under this Law, one representative and his deputy shall be elected, at least 400 signatures must be collected for the validity of such a candidacy.

In electoral units from Article 10, Paragraph 2 hereof, 100 signatures shall have to be collected for the validity of the candidature.

When the voters propose a state list, at least 5000 signatures must be collected for the validity of the candidacy.

When voters propose a district list, at least 300 signatures must be collected to ensure validity of candidacy.

ARTICLE 14.

Voter signatures in the nomination procedure for representatives and their deputies shall be collected on a prescribed form in which the name and the surname, the nationality, the address, and the personal number of the proposed candidate shall be entered, and the same data, except for the nationality, shall be entered for each signed proposer as well.

Each voter may support by his signature only one candidate for a representative and for his deputy, and one state or county list only.

ARTICLE 15.

Proposals for candidates for representatives and their deputies, who shall be elected thereunder individually in an electoral unit, must be files with the electoral committee of the electoral unit within 12 days from the date of the calling of elections at the latest. Proposal for state lists or district lists must be filed with the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia within 12 days. from the date of the calling of elections.

The proposal for candidates from Paragraph 1, of this Article, must include the name and the surname, the nationality, the address, and the personal identification number of each proposed candidate, as well as the candidate's verified statement on the acceptance of candidacy.

The proposal for a state list must include, in addition to the date from the preceding Paragraph, the title of the list, whereas the candidates on the list shall be listed from number 1 to number 60 conclusively. The proponent is free to establish the order in which candidates appear on the list.

The title of the list shall be the full and abbreviated name, if there be any, of the party, parties or party coalition which have proposed the list. If the list has been proposed by a group of voters, its title shall be an "independent state list" or "independent county list".

The bearer of the list is not necessarily a candidate proposed on the list.

ARTICLE 16.

The competent electoral commission of an electoral unit shall, within 48 hours from the expiration of the term from Article 15, Paragraph 1 hereof, compile, from all validly proposed candidates, a list of candidates of the electoral unit and publish it in all daily newspapers in the Republic of Croatia, and announce it on Croatian Radio-Television.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall, within 48 hours from the expiration of the term from Article 15, Paragraph 1 hereof, accept and publish all validly proposed state lists in all daily newspapers in the Republic of Croatia and announce it on Croatian Radio-Television.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall publish a collective list of all validly proposed state lists in the manner from the preceding Paragraph. The collective list shall include the title of each state list, as well as the name and the surname of the bearer of each state list.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall, within the period from Paragraph 2 of this Article, furnish all Croatian diplomatic-consular missions and foreign offices with all accepted state lists, as well as with the collective list of state lists, with the purpose of their announcement in public.

County electoral commissions shall accept and publish county lists and collective list of county lists under the conditions, in the manner and within the period stipulated for the acceptance and publishing of state lists and collective lists of state lists in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia.

ARTICLE 17.

Candidates shall be included in the list of candidates of an electoral unit in the alphabetical order of their surnames. Along with their respective names and surnames, and their personal numbers, the name the party and/or parties and/or party coalition which has, and/or which have proposed the candidate, shall be obligatorily entered as well. If a candidate has been proposed by voters, "independent candidate" shall be entered next to his name and surname.

The parties and/or the coalitions which have proposed respective lists, shall be entered into the collective list of the state or county list in the alphabetical order of their respective full names. If several parties have proposed a collective state or county list then it shall be entered into the collective list under the name of the first in order proposing party.

ARTICLE 18.

All candidates for representatives and all political parties which have proposed the candidates, shall be entitled to present and explain their electoral programs, and to campaign, under equal conditions, from the date of the publishing of the candidate lists of electoral units and of the collective list of state or county lists, up to 24 hours before the elections.

ARTICLE 19.

In the period of the electoral campaign, the Croatian Radio-Television shall be obliged, within the framework of its radio and television programs, to enable all political parties, minority communities from Article 10, Paragraph 2 hereof, participating in the elections for representatives, to present their electoral programs in equal portions of time.

All mass media shall be obliged to enable all political parties and minority communities from Article 10, Paragraph 2 hereof, participating in the election for representatives, and the candidates for representatives, to present their programs and conduct their electoral campaign under equal conditions.

ARTICLE 20.

Any campaigning whatsoever, as well as any publishing of previous results, or surveys of election results shall be forbidden on election day, and during the preceding 24 hours.

ARTICLE 21.

A candidate for representative, who will be elected by individual election in the electoral unit, obtaining at least 6% of the votes in the elections, and the political party whose state or county list shall obtain at least 3% of the votes in the elections, shall have the right to equal reimbursement of the expenses of the electoral campaign.

Resources or the coverage of the reimbursement from the preceding Paragraph shall be provided from the funds for the coverage of election expenses.

The amount of the reimbursement from Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined by the Government of the Republic of Croatia 30 days prior to the election day at the latest.

CHAPTER III. ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

ARTICLE 22.

124 representatives shall be elected into the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter referred to as the House of Representatives).

The number of the representatives of the House of Representatives may be increased in conformity with the conditions from Article 26 hereof.

ARTICLE 23.

64 representatives shall be elected in the House of Representatives in electoral units, and one representative shall be elected in each of them.

Sixty representatives shall be elected in electoral units, and one representative shall be elected in each of them on the approximately equal number of voters.

One representative in the House of Representatives shall be elected by the members of each of the Hungarian, Italian, Czech and Slovakian, Russian and Ukrainian, as well as German and Austrian minorities, in special electoral units which are defined by the Law on Electoral Units for the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia.

Regardless, whether one or more candidates take part in the elections, the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes of the voters who have cast their ballots shall be elected representative. If two or more candidates obtain an equal number of votes, the elections shall be repeated.

ARTICLE 24.

60 representatives shall be elected in the House of Representatives in such a manner that the territory of the entire Republic of Croatia makes one electoral unit and that all voters taking a vote elect all representatives on the basis of the state list.

The number of representatives to be elected from each state list, shall be determined in the following manner:

The total number of votes obtained by each state list (the electoral mass of the list) shall be divided by the numbers from 1 to 60 inclusive. Out of all obtained results, the 60th result shall be the common divisor by which the total number of votes of each state list (the electoral mass of the list) shall be divided. Each state list shall obtain as many representatives seats as many times the total number of its obtained votes (the electoral mass) contains the common divisor. The result shall be calculated to two decimal places, with the numbers from 1 to 4 to be rounded off to the lower figure, and those from 5 to 9 to the higher figure until the rounded numbers are obtained. If the votes have been divided in such a way that its impossible to establish which of the two or more state lists would obtain which seat, it shall belong to that state list representative which has received more votes.

The state list obtaining less than 3% of votes in the elections, shall not participate in the share of representative seats.

ARTICLE 25.

From each state list, candidates shall be elected from the ordinal number 1 to the number equaling the number of representative seats obtained by a certain list.

Deputy representatives from each state list shall be the candidates who have not been elected, in the order from the first non-elected candidate to the number equaling the number of the representative seat obtained by a certain list at the most.

ARTICLE 26.

If the representation of ethnic and national communities and minorities, as required under Article 1 hereof, is not reached in the elections for the representatives in the House of Representatives, the number of the representatives of the House of Representatives shall increase up to the number which is needed for the required representation to be attained, and the members of a certain community or a majority, who have been put up on state list, but have not been elected shall be considered as elected representatives in the order corresponding to the proportional success of each individual list in the elections.

If it is impossible to attain the required representation of communities or minorities in the manner as provided by the preceding Paragraph, the President of the Republic of Croatia shall call by-elections in that number of special electoral units as required for the attainment of the proportion. By-elections shall have to take place within 60 days from the date of the first session of the newly elected houses of the Parliament.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTIONS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE HOUSE OF COUNTIES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

ARTICLE 27.

To the House of Counties of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia three representatives shall be elected in each county, in such a way that the territory of a county shall constitute one electoral unit and that all the voters who cast their votes elect, on the basis of county lists, all three representatives of the county.

The number of representatives to be elected from each county list shall be established in the following manner.

The total number of votes received by each county list (electoral mass of the list) is divided by the numbers starting from 1 up to conclusively 3. Of all the results obtained, the third result in sequence is a common divisor by which the total number of votes of each county list (electoral mass of the list) is divided. Each county list shall receive as many representative seats as many times the total number of votes it received (electoral mass) contains the common divisor. If the votes are divided so that it is

impossible to determine which of the two or more county lists would receive which representative seat, it will belong to the district list which received more votes.

A county list which receives less than 5 % of votes in the elections shall not participate in sharing of representative seats.

ARTICLE 28.

From each candidate list are elected the candidates starting with number 1 up to the number denoting the number of seats which the list has won.

A deputy representative is elected from each list together with the representative.

CHAPTER V. BODIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 29.

The bodies for the conduct of elections for representatives shall be as follows:

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia, electoral commissions of electoral units, county electoral commissions and electoral committees.

A member of an electoral commission and electoral committee, as well as a deputy member of this body, must be a person having the right to vote.

Members of electoral commissions and their deputies must be law school graduates, and they may not be members of any political party.

ARTICLE 30.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia consists of the chairman and four members, each of whom has his own deputy, to be appointed by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia from among the judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia and other eminent lawyers.

The electoral commission of an electoral unit consists of the chairman and two members, each of whom has his own deputy to be appointed by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia from among the judges or other lawyers.

The county electoral commission consists of the chairman and two members, each having a deputy, appointed by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia among the judges or other lawyers.

ARTICLE 31.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall perform the following:

1) it shall take care of the lawful preparation and conduct of the elections for representatives;
2) it shall appoint the members of electoral commissions and give binding instructions for the work of electoral commissions of electoral units and electoral committees;
3) it shall define polling stations and appoint electoral communities in Croatian diplomatic-consular missions and foreign offices;
4) it shall prescribe forms in the procedure of preparation and the conduct of the elections;
5) it shall supervise the work of electoral commissions of electoral units;
6) it shall publish the state lists and compile a collective list of state lists, on the basis of valid proposals;
7) it shall supervise the regularity of the election campaign in keeping with this Law;
8) it shall publish the election results;
9) it shall perform other tasks as provided by this Law as well.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia is required to publish binding instructions for the work of electoral commissions of electoral units and electoral committees in all daily newspapers in the Republic of Croatia and on the Croatian Radio and Television.

ARTICLE 32.

The electoral commission of an electoral unit shall perform the following:

1) it shall take care of the lawful conduct of the elections in polling stations on its territory;
2) it shall determine polling stations;
3) it shall appoint electoral committees;
4) it shall carry out all technical preparations for the holding of elections on its territory, under the binding instructions of the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia;
5) it shall compile and publish the list of candidates for representatives in the electoral units, on the basis of the valid proposal of the candidates;
6) it shall collect and add up the voting results in polling stations on its territory, and deliver them to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia in the manner and period as provided thereby;
7) it shall perform other work as provided by this Law as well.

ARTICLE 32A.

The county electoral commission shall:

1) take care of the lawful preparation of the elections for the representatives in the House of Counties;
2) take care of the lawful conduct of the elections at polling stations in the county;
3) perform all technical preparations or conduct the elections on the territory of the county, in accordance with the binding instructions of the electoral commission of the Republic of Croatia;
4) publish the county lists and compile and publish a collective list of county lists on the basis of valid nominations;
5) supervise the regularity of election promotion in compliance with this Law;
6) collect and establish the voting results at polling stations on the territory of the county and submit them to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia in the manner and within the period set by the Commission;
7) perform other tasks stipulated by Law.

ARTICLE 33.

The electoral committees shall directly conduct the voting in the elections for representatives and ensure the regularity and secrecy of voting.

A electoral committee shall be appointed for each place at which votes will be cast. The electoral committee consists of the chairman and two members. Deputies shall be appointed to the chairman and the members of the committee.

The competent electoral commission shall appoint the members and member deputies of the electoral committee no later than five days prior to the date on which elections for representatives are to be held.

Registered political parties proposing the candidates for the election of representatives in the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia may appoint observers who will observe the work of the bodies for the conduct of the elections.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall determine, by its binding instructions, the rights and obligations of the observers, as well as the manner of the observing of the work of the bodies which conduct of the elections.

CHAPTER VI. CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 34.

Voting for the election of the representatives shall be carried out in polling stations on the territory of the Republic of Croatia and, in keeping with Article 5 hereof, in the polling stations in Croatian diplomatic-consular missions and foreign offices abroad as well.

Each polling station will be given the ordinal number.

Not later than five days prior to the elections, the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall announce for polling stations abroad, and electoral commissions for electoral units on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, which polling stations have been defined, indicating which voters will cast their voters in each individual station.

ARTICLE 35.

The voters serving in the armed forces of the Republic of Croatia shall cast their votes in the polling stations designated by the Minister of Justice and Administration at the proposal of the Minister of Defense.

The voters who as members of the crew of the sea and river ships of the Croatian Trade Marine find themselves outside of the borders of the Republic of Croatia on the election day, shall vote in the polling stations designated by the Minister of Maritime Affairs.

The voters who are under arrest shall vote in the polling stations designated by the Minister of Justice and Administration.

ARTICLE 36.

The polling stations shall be defined with regard to the number of voters and/or distance, in a manner that the number of voters in one polling station is such that casting of votes can be carried out without difficulties within the period as provided for voting. A separate room shall be arranged in such a way as to ensure the secrecy of voting.

CHAPTER VII. VOTING AND DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF VOTING

ARTICLE 37.

Voting shall be performed in person.

Voting shall be performed on ballots.

Ballots are printed in the state printing house assigned by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia under the Commission's direct supervision and must have serial numbers printed on them.

ARTICLE 38.

A ballot on which a vote is cast in the electoral unit where one representative is elected, shall include the following:

1) the name and surname of the candidate and his deputy;
2) the full and abbreviated names of the political party and/or parties or a party coalition proposing the candidate. If the candidate has been proposed by a group of voters, a remark "an independent candidate" shall be placed next to his name and surname.
3) the serial number.

Candidates shall be listed on the ballot in the same order in which they are listed on the candidate list. An ordinal number shall be placed in front of the name and surname of each candidate.

ARTICLE 39.

A ballot on which votes shall be cast for one of the state or county lists, shall include the following:

1) the title of the list;
2) the name and surname of the bearer of the list.
3) the serial number.

State lists shall be listed on the ballot in the same order in which they are listed on the collective list of the state or county lists. An ordinal number shall be placed in front of the title of the list.

ARTICLE 40.

Votes shall be cast only for the candidates and/or state or county lists as listed on the ballot.

A ballot shall be completed by the voter in such a way that the ordinal number is encircled in front of the name of the candidate, and/or the title of the state or county list for whom and/or which the vote is cast.

The ballot, from which it may be established with certainty which candidate and/or which state list a vote was cast, shall be considered valid as well.

ARTICLE 41.

The ballot which has not been filled in, as well as the ballot which has been filled in such a way that it may not be established with certainty for which candidate and/or which state list a vote was cast, shall be considered invalid.

The ballot on which a voter has cast his vote for two or more candidates, and/or two or more state or county lists, shall be considered invalid as well.

ARTICLE 42.

Voting shall last from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. At 7 p.m. the polling stations shall be closed. Voters finding themselves in the polling station at that time shall be allowed to cast their votes.

The polling station in which all registered voters have cast their votes, shall be closed prior to the expiration of the time from the preceding Paragraph.

ARTICLE 43.

During the entire time of voting, all members of the electoral committee or their deputies must be present in the polling station.

The chairman of the electoral committee shall take care of the maintenance of peace and order during the voting. If necessary, the chairman shall require the assistance of the police who shall, upon arrival at the polling station, act in accordance with his instructions, and within the framework of legal authorization.

No one shall be allowed to come to the polling station armed, except in the event as provided in Paragraph 2 of this Article.

ARTICLE 44.

The chairman of the polling committee, or a member of the electoral committee who has been authorized by him, shall check in the electoral list whether the voter who has come to cast a ballot, has been entered in the list.

An voter who, due to any physical disability whatsoever, or because he is illiterate, is not be able to vote in the manner as provided by this Law, may come to the polling station escorted by a person who is literate and who shall, on his authorization, encircle those ordinal numbers in front of the names of the candidates, and/or the state or county list, for which the voter is casting his vote.

If an voter has not been registered in the electoral list, the chairman shall not allow him to vote, unless the voter proves by a certificate that he has the right to vote.

When the voter, who is not in a position to vote in the polling station, advises thereof the electoral committee, the committee shall enable him to vote.

The voting, in the manner as provided in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Article, shall be entered in the record of work of the electoral committee by each individual name.

ARTICLE 45.

Upon completion of voting, the electoral committee shall first count the unused ballots and place them in a separate envelope, which shall be sealed.

Thereafter, the electoral committee shall establish, on the basis of the electoral list, and/or the excerpt from the voting register, and on the basis of the record, the total number of the voters who have voted, and it shall open the ballot boxes and count the votes.

If on the occasion of the counting of votes it is established in the polling station that the number of the votes on the basis of the voter list exceeds the number of the votes based on the ballots, the voting results as per ballots shall prevail. If on the occasion of the counting of the votes in the polling station it is established that the number of the voters who have voted is less than the number of the votes in the ballot box, the polling committee shall be dismissed, and a new committee shall be appointed, and the voting shall be repeated in this polling station. The result of the voting in this polling station shall be established within 24 hours after the repeated voting.

ARTICLE 46.

When the electoral committee establishes the results of the voting in the polling station, the number of the voters as per the voter list, and/or as per the excerpt from the electoral list, shall be entered in the record, as well as how many voters have cast their votes as per the electoral list, and/or the excerpt from the voter list, and how many on the basis of Article 44, Paragraph 3 hereof, and how many altogether, how many votes have been obtained by each of the candidates, and how many by each state or county list, and how many ballots have been declared invalid.

All other facts of importance for the voting shall be also entered in the record of the work of the electoral committee.

Each member of the electoral committee may give his comments on the record. The record shall be signed by all members of the electoral committee.

ARTICLE 47.

The electoral committee shall submit the record of its work with other election material to the electoral commission of the electoral unit not later than within twelve hours from the closing of the polling station.

The electoral committee in the Croatian diplomatic-consular missions and foreign offices shall submit the acts from the preceding paragraph directly to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia within twelve hours from the closing of the polling station.

ARTICLE 48.

The electoral commission of the electoral unit shall determine the voting results in the polling stations on its territory within 24, hours from the time of the closing of the polling station.

The electoral commission of the electoral unit shall submit the election results on its territory to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia along with the record on its work, in the manner and within a period determined thereby.

ARTICLE 49.

The electoral commission of the electoral unit shall keep a record of its work, in which the following will be entered:

1) the number of the voters registered in the electoral list, and/or the excerpt from the voter list or its territory;
2) the number of the voters who have cast the ballots, and the number of ballots which have been declared invalid;
3) the name and the surname of each individual candidate, indicating how many votes each candidate has obtained in the electoral unit;
4) the name and surname of the candidate who has been elected in the electoral unit;
5) the number of the votes obtained by each individual state list on its territory.

Each member of the electoral commission of the electoral unit may give his comments on the record. The record shall be signed by all members of the electoral commission of the electoral unit.

ARTICLE 49A.

The county electoral commission keeps record of its work in which it shall enter:

1) the number of voters registered in the electoral list or the excerpt for from the voter list of the territory of the county;
2) the number of voters who have cast their votes and the number of ballots declared invalid;
3) the number of votes received by each county list;
4) the number of representative seats won by each county list, and the names and surnames of the candidates from each county list who have been elected for representatives, as well as the names and surnames of their deputies.

Any member of the county electoral commission may give his remarks on the record. The record is signed by all the members of the electoral commission of the electoral unit.

ARTICLE 50.

The results of the elections for representatives shall be established by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia on the basis of the voting results in all polling stations all electoral units in the Republic.

ARTICLE 51.

When the results of the voting for representatives are established by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia, it shall announce forthwith the following:

1) the number of the voters registered in the electoral list, the number of the voters who have voted in each electoral unit, how many votes have been obtained by each individual candidate in each electoral unit, how many votes have been obtained by each individual state or county list, and how many ballots were invalid;
2) the name and surname of the candidate who has been elected in each electoral unit in which one representative is elected;
3) the number of representative seats which each state list has obtained, and names and surnames of the candidates from each state list who have been elected representatives.
4) the number of representative seats which individual county list has won in each county, and the names and surnames of the candidates from the individual county list who have been elected for representatives and the names and surnames of their deputies.

CHAPTER VIII. ELECTION EXPENSES

ARTICLE 52.

Funds for the covering of the election expenses shall be provided in the budget of the Republic of Croatia.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall dispose of the funds from the preceding paragraph.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall determine the manner of use of the funds for the conduct of elections, and it shall supervise the use thereof.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall allocate adequate funds to the electoral commissions in electoral units and to the county electoral units.

CHAPTER IX. PROTECTION OF THE ELECTORAL RIGHTS

ARTICLE 53.

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia shall supervise the constitutionality of the elections for representatives in the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia, and it shall resolve disputes in conformity with provisions of this Law.

ARTICLE 54.

A complaint may be filed on account of the irregularity in the nomination the procedure proposing candidates by a political party, two or more political parties, and/or the voters who have proposed a candidate for the representative, and/or a state or district list, as well as by the candidates for a representative.

A complaint may be filed on account of the irregularity in the election procedure only by a political party, two or more political parties and the voters whose candidates for a representative, and/or for whose state or bounty lists it has been voted in the elections. A complaint may be filed by the candidates for representatives as well, for whom it has been voted.

If a candidate has been proposed for a representative, and/or a state or district list by more political parties, and/or more voters, the complaint shall be considered valid also when it has been filed by one political party only, and/or any one of the voter who was a proposer of the candidature.

ARTICLE 55.

A complaint on account of the irregularity in the nomination procedure and in the procedure of elections for representatives shall be filed with the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia within 48 hours from the date when the action was performed in respect of which the complaint has been filed.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall be required to render a decision in respect of the complaint within 48 hours from the date when the complaint has been filed, and/or from the date when election materials to which the complaint refers have been submitted thereto.

ARTICLE 56.

If the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia, while deciding on the complaint from Article 55 hereof, establishes that there were irregularities which had substantially affected, or could have affected the results of the elections, it shall void the actions in this procedure and rule that within a defined period of time, which must enable the elections to be held on the date

when called, these actions shall be repeated.

If there is no possibility of repeating the void actions from the preceding paragraph, or if the irregularities refer to the voting procedure, and they have substantially affected, and/or could affected election results, the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall declare elections of representatives in a certain electoral precinct, and/or elections on the basis of the state or county list void, and determine the time within which repeated elections shall he held.

ARTICLE 57.

The appeal, as well as the candidates for a representative who is dissatisfied with such decision, are entitled to file an appeal with the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia against the decision of the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia.

The appeal from the preceding paragraph shall be filed with the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia within 48 hours from the date when the decision has been received.

The appeal shall he filed through the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia.

The appeal shall be considered as submitted within the prescribed time period, if it has been submitted to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia prior to the expiration of the term from paragraph 2 of this Article.

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia shall be required to reach a decision on the appeal within 48 hours from the date of the appeal.

ARTICLE 58.

The submitted complaint and/or appeal in the procedure of the protection of the election right, shall not postpone the performing of election actions as prescribed by this Law.

CHAPTER X. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 59.

No tax shall be paid on requests and decisions in the procedure under provisions of this Law.

ARTICLE 60.

The Law on the Election and Recall of commission members and representatives (Narodne novine No.7/90) ceases to be valid on the date of the coming into force of this Law.

ARTICLE 61.

This Law comes into force on the eighth day from the date of its being published in "Narodne novine".

ARTICLE 62.

The Law on the Changes and Amendments to the Law on the Elections of Representatives in the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia enters into force on the day of publication in "Narodne novine" and shall become applicable from the day it entered into force, except for the provisions of Articles 1 and 2, of this Law, which become applicable from the day of the establishment of the results of the first elections for the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia.

LAW
ON THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

The president of the Republic of Croatia shall be elected by Croatian citizens who have reached the age of eighteen years (in further text: voters) at direct elections by secret ballot for a term of 5 years.

ARTICLE 2.

Any Croatian citizen who has reached the age of 18 years may by elected president of the Republic of Croatia.

ARTICLE 3.

Elections for the president of the Republic of Croatia shall be called by the Government of the Republic of Croatia within a term which makes it possible to conduct them within a minimum of 30 days and maximum of 60 days before the expiration of the incumbent president's term of office.

In the event of the termination of the term of office of the president of the Republic of Croatia according to Article 97, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, elections for the President of the Republic of Croatia shall be called by the Government of the Republic of Croatia so that they can be conducted within a term of 60 days from the date when the outgoing president ceased to perform his office.

ARTICLE 4.

The day of elections for the president of the Republic of Croatia shall be determined by a writ to call the elections.

At least 30 days shall elapse from the date of the call for elections of the president of the Republic of Croatia and the holding of such elections.

ARTICLE 5.

Electors who at the time of the elections find themselves outside the boundaries of the Republic of Croatia shall be ensured their electoral right concerning election of the president of the Republic of Croatia in diplomatic-consular missions and foreign offices of the Republic of Croatia.

ARTICLE 6.

Freedom of a elector's choice and secret ballot shall be guaranteed.

No one shall be called to account for the way he has voted or for not voting.

No one may demand that voters disclose their voting choice.

CHAPTER II. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 7.

Candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia may be proposed by political parties registered in the Republic of Croatia, and by voters individually or in groups.

Two or more political parties registered in Croatia may propose one candidate.

Political parties shall propose candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia in the way provided for by their by-laws or a special decision made on the basis thereof.

ARTICLE 8.

All those who are proposed by one or more political parties and supported by signatures duly collected from at least 10,000 voters, or who have been proposed by voters on the basis of at least 10,000 duly collected signatures shall be eligible as candidates for president of the Republic of Croatia.

ARTICLE 9.

Signatures of voters in the nomination procedure for the election of the president of the Republic shall be collected on a prescribed form in which their first and family names and identity numbers shall be entered, and the same data shall also be entered for each proposer signed.

A proposer may by his signature support only one candidate for the president of the Republic.

ARTICLE 10.

Proposals for candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia made in conformity with the conditions and the manner specified in Articles 7, 8 and 9 of this Law shall reach the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia no later than 12 days from the date of the call for elections.

Proposals for candidates as referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be accompanied by a court-attested declaration of the candidates concerning their acceptance of the nomination.

Together with the proposal for a candidate for the president of the Republic, the political party concerned shall also submit a testified declaration signed by a person who according to the party's by-laws represents the party, which confirms that the party has proposed the candidate in conformity with the conditions specified in Article 7, paragraph 3, of this Law.

ARTICLE 11.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall within 48 hours from the expiration of the time-limit mentioned in Article 10, paragraph 1, of this Law, publish the list of candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia in all daily newspapers in the Republic of Croatia and over Croatian Radio-Television.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall, within the term mentioned in the preceding paragraph, send the list of candidates for the president of the Republic to diplomatic-consular missions and foreign offices abroad for its publication.

ARTICLE 12.

Candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia shall be entered in the list of candidates in alphabetic order of their family names. The name of the party or parties or the party coalition which have or has proposed the candidates shall be cited together with their first and family names and identity numbers. If a candidate has been proposed by voters, "independent candidate" shall be added to this first and family name.

ARTICLE 13.

From the day when the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia has published the list of candidates until 24 hours before the day of the elections, all candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia shall have under the same conditions the right to present and explain their electoral programs and electoral campaign.

ARTICLE 14.

Croatian Radio-Television shall during the period of the electoral campaign, within the framework of its radio and television programs, give each candidate equal time to present their electoral program.

All media of public communication shall make it possible for all candidates for the president of the Republic to present their programs and conduct their electoral campaign under the same conditions.

ARTICLE 15.

On the day of the elections and 24 hours preceding it any campaigning and any publication of preliminary results or estimated of results of the elections shall be forbidden.

ARTICLE 16.

A candidate for the president of the Republic of Croatia who has at the elections obtained a minimum of 10 percent of votes shall be entitled to an equal compensation for electoral campaign expenses.

Funds for covering the compensation referred to in the preceding paragraph of this Article shall be ensured from the funds for financing the election costs.

The amount of the compensation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined by the Government of the Republic of Croatia no later than 30 days before the date of the elections.

CHAPTER III. ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 17.

The president of the Republic of Croatia, regardless of whether one or more candidates stand for the elections, shall be elected by a majority vote of all the voters who voted. If none of the candidates obtained such a majority, the elections shall be repeated after 14 days.

If several candidates were put up for the elections, the candidate who in the first round of voting obtained the largest number of votes shall have the right to stand for a new election. If one of the candidates withdraws, the candidate who is next in number of votes obtained shall have the right to stand for a new election.

If, owing to the withdrawal of a candidate who under the provisions of the preceding paragraph had the right to stand for a new election, there remains only one candidate, elections shall be carried out.

At a new election the candidate who has obtained the largest number of votes shall be elected. If the candidates have obtained the same number of votes, the elections shall be held again.

ARTICLE 18.

If one of the candidates for the president of the Republic dies between the day of the publication of the list of candidates and 48 hours before the day of the elections, the political party or parties may propose a new candidate. In such a case the conditions regarding the number of signatures cited in Article 8 of this Law shall not be required.

If one of the candidates who has the right to stand at new elections dies in the period from the day of the first voting at which none of the candidates obtained the majority referred to in Article 17, paragraph 1, of this Law and the date of the new

elections, the entire electoral procedure shall be repeated.

ARTICLE 19.

If according to the provisions of Article 17 of this Law elections for the president of the Republic of Croatia are repeated, in the period from the first day of voting and 24 hours before the day of the new elections, candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia shall have all rights regarding the presentation of their electoral programs and regarding the electoral campaign as determined in Articles 13 and 14 of this Law.

CHAPTER IV. BODIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTION

ARTICLE 20.

Elections for the president of the Republic of Croatia shall be conducted by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia, commune electoral commissions and electoral committees.

Only persons having the right to vote may be members of the electoral commissions and electoral committees or their deputies.

Members of electoral commissions and their deputies shall be graduate lawyers and they may not be members of any political party.

Members of electoral committees and their deputies may not be members of any political party.

ARTICLE 21.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall consist of a chairman and four members, each of whom shall have a deputy, who shall be appointed be the Constitutional Court of Croatia from among members of the Supreme Court of Croatia and other outstanding lawyers.

A commune electoral commission shall consist of a chairman and two members, each of whom shall have a deputy, who shall be appointed by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia from among judges and other lawyers.

ARTICLE 22.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall:

1) ensure the lawful preparation and conduct of elections for the president of the Republic of Croatia;
2) appoint members of commune electoral commissions and issue binding instructions for the work of commune electoral commissions and electoral committees;
3) prescribe forms for the procedure of preparation and conduct of the elections;
4) supervise the work of commune electoral commissions;
5) on the basis of valid propositions of candidates draw up a list of candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia;
6) supervise the correctness of electoral campaigns in conformity with this Law;
7) announce the results of the elections for the president of the Republic of Croatia;
8) carry out other work as specified by this law.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall publish binding instructions for the work of commune electoral commissions and electoral committees in all daily newspapers in the Republic of Croatia and over Croatian Radio-Television.

ARTICLE 23.

Commune electoral commissions shall:

1) ensure the lawful conduct of the elections at the polling stations in their respective areas;
2) designate polling stations;
3) appoint electoral committees;
4) make all technical preparations for the conduct of the elections in their respective areas according to the binding instructions of the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia;
5) collect and count the ballots at polling stations in their communes and send the results to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia in the way and within the time-limits set by the latter;
6) perform other work specified by this Law.

ARTICLE 24.

Electoral committees shall directly conduct voting at the elections for the president of the Republic of Croatia and ensure correctness and secrecy of voting.

An electoral committee shall be appointed for every polling station. An electoral committee shall consist of a chairman and two members. The chairman and the members shall have deputies.

Commune electoral commissions shall appoint members and deputy members of the electoral committees no later than five days before the date of the election of the president.

Registered political parties which have proposed candidates for the election of the president of the Republic of Croatia may appoint observers to monitor the work of the bodies in charge of the conduct of the elections.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall by its binding instructions determine the rights and duties of the observers and way they shall monitor the work of the bodies in charge of the conduct of the elections.

CHAPTER V. CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 25.

Voting in elections for the president of the Republic of Croatia shall take place at polling stations in the territory of the Republic of Croatia and, in conformity with Article 5 for this Law, at the polling station in Croatian diplomatic-consular missions and foreign offices.

Every polling station shall have an ordinal number.

Not later than five days before the date of the elections, the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall for polling stations abroad, and commune electoral commissions for the area of the Republic of Croatia, publish which polling stations have been determined, with the designation which voters shall vote at individual stations.

ARTICLE 26.

Polling stations shall be determined with regard to the number of voters and territorial distances respectively, so that the number of voters at one polling station shall be such as not to cause any difficulties in voting at the time set for voting. A separate room shall be provided for each polling station.

Rooms provided for voting shall be arranged so as to ensure secrecy of voting.

CHAPTER VI. VOTING AND DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF VOTING

ARTICLE 27.

Votes shall be cast personally.

Voting shall be carried out on ballots.

ARTICLE 28.

A ballot shall contain:

1) first and family name of the candidate;
2) full and abridged name of the political party or parties or the party coalition which have or has proposed the candidate. If a candidate has been proposed by Croatian citizens, his first and family name shall be followed by the designation "independent candidate".

Candidates shall be listed on the ballots in the order in which they are cited on the list of candidates. An ordinal number shall be placed before the first and family name of every candidate.

At a new election for the president of the Republic, candidates shall be entered in the ballots so that first place is taken by the candidate who obtained more votes at the first voting.

ARTICLE 29.

Votes shall be cast only for candidates listed on the ballots.

Ballots shall be filled in by encircling the ordinal number preceding the name of the candidate voted for.

Ballots from which it is possible to determine with certainly and unambiguously for which candidate the vote was cast shall also be valid.

ARTICLE 30.

Ballots which have not been filled in and ballots filled in so that it is not possible with certainty to determine for which candidate the vote was cast shall be deemed invalid.

A ballot on which an voter has voted for two or more candidates shall also be deemed invalid.

ARTICLE 31.

Voting shall last uninterruptedly from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Polling station shall close at 7 p.m. Voters who find themselves at this time in the polling stations shall be enabled to vote.

A polling station at which all registered voters have voted shall be closed even before the time-limit referred to in the preceding paragraph.

ARTICLE 32.

Members of electoral committee and their deputies shall be present at the polling stations during the entire time of voting.

The chairman of an electoral committee shall ensure maintenance of law and order during voting. In case of need, the chairman shall request assistance from the police, who shall when they arrive at the polling station, proceed according to the chairman's instructions and within the framework of their statutory powers.

No one may come armed to a polling station, except in the case referred to paragraph 2 of this Article.

ARTICLE 33.

The chairman of an electoral committee or a member of an electoral committee authorized by him shall check in the electoral list whether the voter about to vote is entered in the list.

A voter who owing to a bodily defect or because he is illiterate is unable to vote in the way provided for in this Law, may come to the polling station escorted by another person who is literate and who will on his authority encircle the ordinal number preceding the name of the candidate for whom the voter wants to vote.

If a voter is not entered in the electoral list, the chairman shall not allow him to vote, unless the voter proved by a certificate of a competent authority that he has the right to vote.

If a voter who has no possibility to vote at the polling station notified thereof the electoral committee, the committee shall make it possible for him to vote.

Voting in the way determined in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of this Article shall be by name of the voter involved entered in the record of the work of the electoral committee.

ARTICLE 34.

Voters serving in the armed forces of the Republic of Croatia shall vote at the polling stations designated for them by the ministry of justice and administration at the proposal of the defense minister.

Voters who as members of the crew of maritime and river vessels of the Croatian merchant marine find themselves at the time of the election outside the boundaries of the Republic of Croatia shall vote at the polling stations determined by the minister of maritime affairs.

Voters deprived of liberty shall vote at the polling stations determined by the minister of justice and administration.

ARTICLE 35.

After voting has been completed, the electoral committee shall first count the unused ballots and place them in a separate folder and seal it.

After that the electoral committee shall, according to the electoral list or excerpts therefrom and on the basis of the record, determine the total number of the voters who have voted, and start opening the ballot boxes and count the votes.

If at the counting of votes at the a polling station it is found that the number of those voting according to the electoral list is bigger than the number of votes according to the ballots, the results of the voting shall be valid according to the ballots cast.

If at the counting of votes at polling station it is found that the number of voters who have voted is smaller than the number of votes in the ballot box, the electoral committee shall be dissolved and a new one appointed, and voting at the polling station shall be repeated. Voting results at this polling station shall be determined within 24 hours after the repeated voting.

ARTICLE 36.

When an electoral committee has determined the voting results at the polling station, it will in the record of its work register the number of voters according to the electoral list or an excerpt therefrom, how many voters voted according to the electoral list or the excerpt therefrom, and how many on the basis of Article 33, paragraph 3, of this Law, and how many altogether, and how many votes were received by each of the candidates, and how many ballots were declared invalid.

All other facts relevant to voting shall be entered in the record of the work of the electoral committee.

Each member of an electoral committee may enter his observations in the record.

The record shall be signed by all members of the electoral committee.

ARTICLE 37.

An electoral committee shall send to the commune electoral commission the record of this work together with other electoral material no later than within twelve hours after the closing of the polling station.

Electoral committees in Croatian diplomatic-consular mission and foreign offices shall deliver the document referred to in the preceding paragraph directly to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia within twelve hours from the closing of the polling stations.

ARTICLE 38.

A commune electoral commission shall add together the voting results at the polling stations no later than 24 hours after the hour of the closing the polling stations.

The commune electoral commissions shall transmit the voting results in its area to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia together with the record of its work in the way and within the term determined by the latter.

ARTICLE 39.

A commune electoral commission shall keep a record of its work in which it shall enter:

1) the number of voters registered in the electoral list or excerpts therefrom;
2) the number of those who voted and of invalid ballots;
3) the first and family name of each candidate with the designation how many votes individual candidates obtained in the area of the commune.

Each member of the electoral commission of a constituency may enter his observations in the record. The record shall be signed by all members of the commune electoral commission.

ARTICLE 40.

The result of the election of the president of the Republic of Croatia shall be determined by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia on the basis of the voting results at all polling stations.

ARTICLE 41.

When the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia has determined the results of the elections of the president of the Republic of Croatia, it shall immediately make known:

1) the number of voters registered in the electoral list, the number of voters who voted, how many votes individual candidates obtained, and how many ballots were found invalid;
2) the first and family name of the candidate elected.

If none of the candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia has obtained the majority required for election according to Article 17, paragraph 1, of this Law, the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall make known in all daily newspapers in the Republic of Croatia and over Croatian Radio-Television the first and family names of the two candidates who have obtained the largest number of votes and who have the right to take part in a new election.

CHAPTER VII. ELECTION EXPENSES

ARTICLE 42.

Funds for the defrayment of election expenses shall be provided in the budget of the Republic of Croatia.

The funds referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be disposed of by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall determine the way the funds shall be used for the conduct of the elections, and shall supervise their use.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall allocate appropriate funds to commune electoral commissions.

CHAPTER VIII. PROTECTION OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS

ARTICLE 43.

The Constitutional Court of Croatia shall supervise the constitutionality and legality of the election of the president of the Republic of Croatia and decide electoral disputes in conformity with the provisions of this Law.

ARTICLE 44.

A political party, two or more political parties, and voters that have proposed a candidate for the president of the Republic of Croatia, and candidates for the president of the Republic of Croatia, may lodge a complaint concerning irregularities in the nomination procedure.

A complaint concerning irregularities in the electoral procedure may only be lodged by the political party, two or more political parties and voters whose candidates were voted on in the election of the president of the Republic.

If a candidate for the president of the Republic was proposed by several political parties, or by several voters, the complaint shall be deemed as legally valid even if it was lodged by one political party only, or by any of the voters who proposed the nomination.

ARTICLE 45.

A complaint concerning irregularities in the nomination procedure or in the procedure for the election of the president of the Republic of Croatia shall be lodged with the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia within 48 hours from the expiration of the date when the act was committed against which the complaint is being lodged.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall render a ruling on the complaint within 48 hours from the date of receipt of the complaint or the date of receipt of the electoral materials to which the complaint relates.

ARTICLE 46.

If in considering a complaint as referred to in Article 45 the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia finds that there were irregularities which substantially influenced, or might have influenced, the result of the election, it shall annul the acts in this procedure and order that these acts be repeated within a specified term, so as to make it possible for the election to be held on the day for which it was called.

If there is no possibility of repeating the annulled acts as referred to in the preceding paragraph, or if these irregularities relate to the voting procedure, and have substantially influenced, or might have influenced, the results of the election, the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall annul the election of the president of the Republic of Croatia and shall fix another term for a new election.

ARTICLE 47.

An appeal may be lodged against the ruling of the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia with the Constitutional Court of Croatia by the complaints and by the candidate for the president of the Republic if they are not satisfied with this ruling.

An appeal as referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be lodged with the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia within 48 hours counting from the expiration of the day of receipt of the contested ruling.

The appeal shall be submitted through the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia.

It shall be deemed that the appeal has been

lodged in time if it has been delivered to the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia before the expiration of the term cited in paragraph 2 of this Article.

The Constitutional Court of Croatia shall render a ruling on the appeal within 48 hours from the date of receipt of the appeal.

ARTICLE 48.

Neither a complaint nor an appeal in the procedure for the protection of electoral rights shall defer the performance of electoral procedures prescribed by this Law.

CHAPTER IX. ASSUMING DUTY AND SWEARING IN

ARTICLE 49.

The elected president of the Republic of Croatia shall assume duty on the last day of the term of the outgoing president.

In the event of the election of the president of the Republic of Croatia according to Article 97 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the elected president shall assume duty on the day of the announcement of the electoral results.

On the day of assuming duty, the president of the Republic of Croatia shall be sworn in before the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, by which he shall undertake to respect the Constitution.

The oath reads:

"I swear on my honour that I will perform the duty of President of the Republic of Croatia conscientiously and responsibly for the benefit of all Croatian citizens, that I will abide by the Constitution and law and respect the legal order to the Republic of Croatia, strive to preserve the independence, existence and unity of the Republic of Croatia, and do all I can to ensure the normal functioning of all government bodies."

CHAPTER X. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 50.

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day from the day of its publication in Narodne novine.

LAW
ON THE ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTATION UNITS

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

This Law regulates the election of representative bodies of municipalities, cities, counties (Zupanije) and districts with special self-government status.

ARTICLE 2.

Members of the municipal and city councils, members of the county assembly, and the members of the assemblies of districts with special self-government status (hereinafter referred to as representative bodies of local self-government units") shall be elected by Croatian citizens over 18 years old with the place of abode in municipalities, cities and counties, as well as in special status districts for the representative bodies for which the elections are called, and who are recorded in the voter register in the place of abode.

Members of the representative bodies referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be elected in direct elections, by secret ballot, for a period of 4 years.

ARTICLE 3.

Any Croatian citizen over 18 years old residing in a local unit of self-government may be elected member of the representative body of this self-government unit.

ARTICLE 4.

Elections for members of the representative bodies of local self-government units shall be called by the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Elections for members of the representative bodies of local self-government units shall be held within 60 days from the expiration of the mandate or the dissolution of the representative body of the local self-government unit.

ARTICLE 5.

The date of the elections for members of representative bodies of local self-government units shall be set in the decision on calling the elections.

Not less than 30 and not more than 60 days shall pass from the day the elections were called to the election day.

ARTICLE 6.

No one may at the same time be a member of a municipal, city, district or special status district representative body.

A member of the representative body of a local self-government unit may not at the same time be a judge, a judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, public prosecutor, deputy public Prosecutor, attorney general, deputy attorney general, ombudsman, deputy ombudsman, deputy minister, director of state agency, president of a body within a ministry, head of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, nor an official in the administrative bodies of local self-government units. It may be stipulated by law that the office of a member of the representative body of a local self-government unit is incompatible with any other office.

Persons holding one of the offices stated in Paragraph 2 of this Article may stand for elections for member of the representative body of a local self-government unit, but if elected, they must resign either from the office of the member of the representative body or the office the holding of which is incompatible with the office of the member of the representative body of a local self-government unit.

The member of the representative body of a local self-government unit elected in a voteral unit, who accepts an office referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article, shall be replaced by his deputy elected in the same electoral unit. A member of the representative body of a local self-government unit elected from the municipal, city, county or special status district list of candidates, who accepts an office cited in Paragraph 2 of this Article, shall be replaced by the first candidate in succession on the same list of the representative body of the local self-government unit who was not elected.

A deputy member of the assembly of a local self-government unit shall assume office under the provisions of this Article after the elected member of the representative body of the local self-government unit resigns from his office, or after the representative body of the local self-government unit finds that the member of the representative body of self-government unit holds an office cited in Paragraph 2 of this Article.

ARTICLE 7.

Members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall not have a binding mandate. Members of these assemblies shall not be recallable.

ARTICLE 8.

The mandate of a member of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be terminated before the expiration of the period he was elected for:

1) if he resigns;
2) if he has been deprived of capacity by a final court ruling;
3) if he has been sentanced to more than six months imprisonment by a final unsuspended sentence;
4) if he accepts election or appointment to an office which, in compliance with Article 6 of this Law, isincompatible with the office of the member of the representative body of a local self-government unit.

ARTICLE 9.

Members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall have deputies who shall take over their office if one of the conditions stated in Article 8 of this Law has occurred.

Deputy members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be elected along with the members of those representative bodies in the manner specified by this Law.

ARTICLE 10.

Members of ethnic and national groups or minorities which, according to the 1981 population census make up more than 8% of the municipality, city or county population, shall have the right to be represented in the representative body of the municipality, city or county in proportion to their share in the total municipality, city or county population.

The number of representatives in municipal and city councils or county assemblies of ethnic and national groups or minorities which, according to the latest population census conducted before the introduction of municipal, city or county by-laws, make up less than 8% of the municipality, city or county population, shall be determined by the by-laws, so that their number is in proportion to their share of the total municipality, city or county population.

ARTICLE 11.

Croats residing in districts with a special self-government status (hereinafter referred to as "special status districts") shall have the right to be represented in the municipal or city council and district assembly in proportion to their share in the total municipality or special status district population according to the 1981 population census.

The principles referred to in Article 10 of this Law shall also apply to members of other ethnic and national groups or minorities residing in a special status district. They shall be guaranteed the right to be represented in the district assembly and municipal councils in special status districts in proportion to their share in the total district population.

ARTICLE 12.

Freedom of a voter's choice and secret ballot shall be guaranteed.

No one shall be called to account for the way he has voted or for not voting.

No one may demand that voters disclose their voting choice.

CHAPTER II. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 13.

Candidates for members of representative bodies of local self-government units may be nominated in the Republic of Croatia by registered political parties and voters.

Two or more parties registered in the Republic of Croatia may nominate one candidate and his deputy and a common municipal, city and county list of candidates, as well as the list of candidates for a special status district.

Political parties shall nominate candidates for members of the representative body of local self-government unit in a manner specified by their by-laws or a special decision, reached on the basis of their by-laws.

A candidate for a member of the representative body of a local self-government unit may be nominated in one electoral unit only.

ARTICLE 14.

When voters propose a candidate for a member of the municipal council in a voteral unit in which, in compliance with this Law, one member of the municipal council is to be elected, at least 20 signatures shall be required for the proposal.

When voters propose a candidate for a member of the city council in a voteral unit in which, in compliance with this Law, one member of the city council is to be elected, at least 50 signatures shall be required for the proposal.

When voters propose a candidate for a member of the county assembly in a voteral unit in which, in compliance with this Law, one member of the assembly is to be elected, at least 100 signatures shall be required for the proposal.

When voters propose a candidate for a member of the special status district assembly in a voteral unit in which, in compliance with this Law, one member of the council is to be elected, at least 80 signatures shall be required for the proposal.

When voters propose a municipal list, at least 30 signatures shall be required for the proposal.

When voters propose a city list, at least 70 signatures shall be required for the proposal.

When voters propose a district list, at least 200 signatures shall be required for the proposal.

When voters propose a list of candidates for members of the special status district council (hereinafter referred to as "special status district list"), at least 150 signatures shall be required for the proposal.

ARTICLE 15.

In the procedure for the nomination of members of the representative body of a local self-government unit and their deputies, the voters' signatures shall be collected on a special form providing the following data: name and surname, nationality, address and personal identification number of the candidate, and the same data, excluding nationality, for each voter signature.

By his signature an voter may support only one candidate for member of the representative body of a local self-government unit, and only one municipal, city, county and special status district list.

ARTICLE 16.

The names of candidates for members of the representative body of a local self-government unit who are elected individually, under the provisions of this Law, in the electoral unit, shall be submitted to the electoral commission of the local self-government unit within a period of 12 days from the day on which the elections were called.

Lists of candidates must be submitted to the relevant electoral commission of the local self-government unit within a period of 12 days from the day on which the elections were called.

A proposal of a candidate as referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article must contain the name and surname, nationality, address and personal identification number of each nominated candidate, as well as a verified statement by the candidate that he accepts the nomination.

A proposal of a list of candidates shall, in addition to the data referred to in the preceding Paragraph, contain the title of the list. The names of the candidates must be listed in sequence starting from number 1 to the ordinal number of the last candidate on the list limited to the number of members of the representative body of the local self-government unit. The proponent of the list may freely arrange the sequence of candidates on the list.

The full title of the list shall be submitted, as well as the abbreviated title, if there is any, of the party, several parties or the party coalition which proposed the list. If the list is proposed by a group of voters its title shall be "independent municipal list", "independent city list", "independent county list" or "independent special status district list".

The first candidate proposed on the list shall be its bearer.

ARTICLE 17.

The competent electoral commission of a local self-government unit shall, within 48 hours from the expiration of the term stated in Article 16, Paragraph 2 of this Law, draw up a list from all validly proposed candidates and announce the list of candidates of the electoral unit in local media.

The competent electoral commission of a local self-government unit shall, within 48 hours from the expiration of the term stated in Article 16, Paragraph 2 of this Law, accept and announce in local media all validly proposed municipal, city and county candidate as well as the candidate lists for special status districts.

The competent electoral commission of a local self-government unit shall announce a collective list of all validly proposed municipal, city, county and special status district candidate lists, in the manner specified in the previous Paragraph.

The collective list shall include the titles of all the lists of candidates, as well as the names and surnames of all the list bearers.

ARTICLE 18.

Candidates shall be entered in the list of candidates of the electoral unit in the alphabetical order of surnames. Along with their names and surnames and identification numbers, the name of the party, parties or the party coalition which has nominated the candidate, shall be stated. If a candidate has been proposed by voters, designation "independent candidate" shall be added to his name.

The lists of candidates of local self-government units shall be entered in the collective list in the alphabetic order of the full names of the parties or coalitions which have proposed the list. If several parties have proposed a common list of candidates, it shall be entered in the collective list under the name of the first party.

ARTICLE 19.

From the day of the announcement of the lists of candidates of electoral units and collective lists of candidates of local self-government units up to 24 hours before the elections, all candidates for members of the representative bodies of local self-government units, and all political parties which have proposed the candidates, shall have the right to present and explain their electoral programs and to carry out the electoral campaign, under the same conditions.

ARTICLE 20.

Local media shall make it possible for all the political parties and independent candidates taking part in the elections for the members of the representative bodies of local self-government units, to present their programs and conduct their electoral campaign under the same conditions.

ARTICLE 21.

On the day of the elections and 24 hours preceding it, any campaign and any publication of preliminary results or estimates of the results of the elections shall be forbidden.

ARTICLE 22.

Candidates for members of the representative body of a local self-government unit who are elected by individual elections in the electoral unit and who receive at least 10% of the votes, shall be entitled to an equal refund of expenses of the electoral campaign. Political parties whose candidate lists receive at least 3% of the votes shall be entitled to the same refund of the expenses of their electoral campaign.

Money for the refunds stated in the previous Paragraph shall be ensured from the funds provided for the conduct of the elections.

The amount of the refund referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined by the Government of the Republic of Croatia 20 days before the elections at the latest.

CHAPTER III. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNITS

ARTICLE 23.

The number of members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be determined by the local self-government unit's by-laws.

The number of members of the representative body referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined in compliance with the provisions of the Law on Local Self-Government and Administration.

ARTICLE 24.

One half of the members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be elected in the electoral units, one member in each unit.

Electoral units for the elections of members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be determined by a decision of the representative body of local self-government unit so that one member the representative body of the local self-government unit is elected for approximately the same number of voters.

ARTICLE 25.

Regardless of whether one or more candidates participate in the elections for a member of the representative body of local self-government unit, the candidate who received the largest number of votes from the voters who voted shall be elected. If two or more candidates receive the same number of votes, the elections shall be repeated.

Deputy members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be elected together with the members without a separate vote.

ARTICLE 26.

One half of the members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be elected so that the whole territory of the local self-government unit shall represent one electoral unit and that all the voters who reside in the local self-government unit and who go to the polls, shall elect from the lists of candidates of the local self-government unit all the members of the representative body of the local self-government unit. The number of members of the representative body of a local self-government unit who are to be elected from each list of the local self-government unit shall be determined in the following manner:

The total number of votes received by the list of candidates of the local self-government unit (voting mass of the list) shall be divided by the numbers starting from 1 to inclusively the number of the members of the representative body of the local self-government unit which is elected on the basis of the list. Of the total of the achieved results, the last result in sequence shall be a common divisor by which the total number of the votes received by each candidate list (voting mass of the list) shall be divided. Each candidate list shall receive as many seats in the representative body of the unit as many times the total number of gained votes (electoral mass) contains the common divisor. If votes are divided in such a way that it is not possible to determine which of two or more lists would receive which seats in the representative body of the local self-government unit, it shall go to the list which received more votes.

The list of candidates which receives less than 5% of votes in the elections shall not participate in sharing seats in the representative body of the local self-government unit.

ARTICLE 27.

Elected shall be the candidates from each candidate list starting with ordinal number 1 to the ordinal number denoting the number of seats the list gained in the representative body of the local self-government unit.

Candidates who are not elected, shall be deputy members of the representative body of a local self-government unit from each candidate list starting in sequence from the first candidate not elected up to the candidate whose number denotes the number of seats which the list gained in the representative body of the local self-government unit.

ARTICLE 28.

If the representation of ethnic and national groups or minorities in municipal and city councils or county assemblies, which is required in Article 10 of this Law, is not achieved in the elections, it will be realized by completing the number of representatives in the municipal and city council or the county assembly concerned with those members of a particular minority who were on municipal, city or county lists of candidates but have not been elected, in proportion to the success of a particular list in the

elections.

If the representation of Croats and members of other ethnic and national groups or minorities with the place of abode in a special status district in accordance with the propositions in Article 11 of this Law is not achieved in the elections for special status district assemblies, the required representation shall be realized by completing the number of members of special status district assemblies with those Croats and members of other ethnic and national groups or minorities who were on the district lists of candidates but were not elected, in proportion to the success of a particular list in the elections.

CHAPTER IV. BODIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 29.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall determine the forms used in the electoral procedure and the conduct of the elections and issues binding instructions for the work of electoral commissions.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall supervise the work of county electoral commissions.

ARTICLE 30.

Responsibility for the conduct of elections for members of municipal councils shall be vested in municipal electoral commission and polling committees.

Bodies responsible for the conduct of elections for members of city councils shall be city electoral commission and polling committees.

Bodies responsible for the conduct of elections for members of county assemblies shall be county electoral commissions, municipal and city electoral commissions and polling committees.

Bodies responsible for the conduct of elections for members of special status district council shall be special status district electoral commissions, municipal and city electoral commissions, and polling committee.

Only a person with voting rights (suffrage) may become a member or a deputy member of a voteral commission or a polling committee.

A polling committee's members and their deputies may not be members of any political party.

ARTICLE 31.

The electoral commission of a local self-government unit consist of a chairman and two members, each of whom shall have a deputy.

The chairman of the electoral commission shall be a graduate lawyer.

The chairman, members and deputy members of a county electoral commission and a special status district electoral commission shall be appointed by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia.

The chairman, members and deputy members of a district and city electoral commission shall be appointed by the county electoral commission.

ARTICLE 32.

A municipal electoral commission shall:

1) be responsible for the lawful preparation and conduct of elections for members of the municipal council;
2) appoint members of polling committees for municipal and county elections;
3) determine polling stations for municipal and county elections;
4) supervise the work of the polling committees;
5) carry out all technical preparations for the conduct of elections on its territory;
6) prepare and publish the list of candidates for members of the municipal council on the basis of a valid proposal of candidates;
7) on the basis of a valid proposal, publish the district lists and prepares a collective municipal list;
8) supervise the correctness of electoral campaigns for municipal elections, in accordance with this Law;
9) collect and tabulate the results of voting in the polling stations on its territory and, in the case of county elections, submit them to the county electoral commission;
10) announce the results of the municipal elections; and
11) perform other tasks as specified by this Law.

ARTICLE 33.

A city electoral commission shall:

1) ensure the lawful preparation and conduct of the elections for members of the city council;
2) appoint members of the polling committees for city and county elections;
3) carry out all technical preparations for the conduct of the elections on its territory;
4) prepare and publish the list of candidates for members of the city council on the basis of valid proposals of candidates;

5) on the basis of valid proposal, publish the city lists and draw up a collective city list;
6) supervise the correctness of the electoral campaigns for city elections in accordance with this Law;
7) collect and tabulate the results of voting in the polling stations on its territory and, in case of county elections, submit the results to the county electoral commission;
8) announce the results of city election; and
9) perform other tasks as specified by this Law.

ARTICLE 34.

A county electoral commission shall:

1) ensure the correctness of preparation and conduct of the elections for the members of the county council;
2) supervise the work of municipal and city electoral commissions;
3) on the basis of valid proposals, publish the county lists and draw up a collective list of county lists, and draw up and publish the list of candidates for member of the county assembly;
4) supervise the correctness of electoral campaigns in accordance with this Law;
5) announce the results of voting for members of the county assembly;
6) perform other tasks as specified by this Law.

ARTICLE 35.

The electoral commission of a special status district shall:

1) ensure the lawful preparation and conduct of the elections for members of the special status district assembly;
2) determine the polling stations and appoint the members of the polling committees for the elections of members of the special status district assembly;
3) supervise the work of the municipal electoral commissions and polling committees;
4) on the basis of valid proposals publish the special status district candidate lists, draw up a collective candidate list and prepare and publish a list of candidates for members of the special status district assembly;
5) supervise the correctness of electoral campaign in accordance with this Law;
6) announce the results of the elections for the members of the special status district council;
7) perform other tasks as specified by this Law.

ARTICLE 36.

Polling committees shall be in charge of the conduct of voting procedure in the elections for members of the representative bodies of local self-government unit and shall ensure the correctness and secrecy of voting.

A polling committee shall be appointed for each polling station. A polling committee shall consist of a chairman and two members. The chairman and members shall be assigned deputies.

The competent electoral commission of a self-government unit shall appoint the members and deputy members of the polling committees no later than five days before the day of the elections for the members of the representative body of the local self-government unit.

Registered political parties which have nominated candidates for the election of members of the representative body of a local self-government unit may appoint observers to monitor the work of the bodies in charge of the conduct of the elections.

The Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia shall, by binding instructions, define out the rights and duties of the observers, and the manner of observation of the work of the bodies in charge of the conduct of the elections.

CHAPTER V. CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 37.

Voting in the elections for members of representative bodies of local self-government units shall take place at polling stations on the territory of the municipality or city concerned.

Each polling station shall have an ordinal number.

Not later than five days before the election day the competent electoral commission shall announce which polling stations have been designated and which voters shall vote at individual stations.

ARTICLE 38.

The polling stations shall be determined with respect to the number of elections and territorial distance respectively, so that the number of voters at one polling station shall be such as not to cause any difficulties at the time of voting. A separate room shall be provided for each polling station.

Rooms provided for voting shall be arranged to ensure the secrecy of voting.

CHAPTER VI. VOTING AND DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF VOTING

ARTICLE 39.

Votes shall be cast personally.

Voting shall be carried out on ballots.

Ballots shall be printed in a specified state printing house under the direct supervision of the Electoral Commission the Republic of Croatia and shall be marked with serial numbers.

ARTICLE 40.

A ballot by which a vote is cast in a voteral unit in which only one member of the representative body of a local self-government unit is to be elected shall contain:

1) name and surname of the candidate and his deputy;
2) full and abbreviated title of the political party, parties or party coalitions which have proposed the candidate. If the candidate was proposed by a group of voters his name shall be followed by the designation "independent candidate";
3) the serial number.

Candidates shall be listed on the ballots in the sequence in which they are cited on the candidate list. An ordinal number shall precede the name of each candidate on the ballot.

ARTICLE 41.

A ballot by which a vote is cast for the list of candidates of a local self-government unit shall contain:

1) name of the list;
2) name and surname of the list bearer;
3) the serial number.

Lists of candidates of local self-government units shall be listed on ballot in the same order as on the, collective list of candidate lists of the local self-government unit. The ordinal number must be placed in front of the name of the list.

ARTICLE 42.

Votes shall be cast only for candidates on municipal, city and county lists, and on the special status district list, who are listed on the ballots.

Ballots shall be completed by encircling the ordinal number preceding the candidate's name or the name of the candidate list of the local self-government unit for which one votes.

Ballots from which it is possible to determine with certainty and unambiguously for which candidate or candidate list the vote was cast shall also be valid.

ARTICLE 43.

Ballots which have not been completed and ballots which have been filled in so that it is not possible with certainty to determine for which candidate or candidate list the vote was cast shall be deemed invalid.

A ballot on which a voter has voted for two or more candidates, or two or more candidate lists, shall also be deemed invalid.

ARTICLE 44.

Voting shall last uninterruptedly from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. At 7 p.m. the polling station shall be closed. Voters who find themselves in the polling station at this time shall be allowed to cast their votes.

A polling station in which all registered voters have voted shall be closed before the expiration of the period stated in the previous Paragraph.

ARTICLE 45.

During the voting all the members of the polling committee or their deputies shall be present in the polling station.

The chairman of the polling committee shall ensure the maintenance of peace and order during the voting. In case of need, the chairman shall request assistance from the police who, upon their arrival to the polling station, shall act according to his instructions, within the framework of their statutory powers.

No one may come armed to a polling station, except in the case referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article.

ARTICLE 46.

The chairman of a polling committee or a member of the committee authorized by the chairman shall check in the registration list whether the voter about to vote is registered in the list.

Voter who owing to a bodily defect or because he is illiterate would not be able to vote in the way provided for in this Law,

may come to the polling station escorted by another person who is literate and who will on his authority encircle the ordinal numbers preceding the names of candidates or candidate lists for whom the elector wants to vote.

If a voter is not registered in the electoral list, the chairman shall not allow him to vote, unless the elector proves by a certificate from the competent authority that he has the right to vote and has the place of abode in the electoral unit. The voter shall show the certificate to the polling committee, which shall make a special record of the matter.

If a voter who has no possibility to vote at the polling station notifies thereof the electoral committee, the committee shall make it possible for him to vote.

Voting in the manner determined in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Article shall be by the name of the voter involved entered into the records of the work of the polling committee.

ARTICLE 47.

After voting has been completed, the polling committee shall first count the unused ballots and put them in a separate folder and seal it.

After that the polling committee shall, according to the electoral list excerpts therefrom and on the basis of the record, determine the total number of the voters who have voted. Then the committee proceeds to open the ballot boxes and count the votes.

If during the counting of votes at a polling station it is found that the number of those voting according to the electoral list is greater than the number of votes according to the ballots, the results of voting shall be valid according to the ballots cast. If during the counting of votes at a polling station it is found that the number of voters who have voted is smaller than the number of votes in the ballot box, the polling committee shall be dissolved and a new one appointed, and the voting at the polling station shall be repeated. Voting results at this polling station shall be determined within 24 hours from the repeated voting.

ARTICLE 48.

When the polling committee has determined the voting results at the polling station, it will in the record of its work register the number of voters according to the electoral list or an excerpt therefrom, how many voters voted according to the electoral list or the excerpt therefrom, and how many on the basis of Article 46, Paragraph 3, of this Law, and how many altogether, and how many votes were received by each of the candidates or candidate lists, and how many ballots were declared invalid.

All other facts relevant to voting shall be entered in the record of the work of the polling committee.

Each member of a polling committee may enter his observations in the record.

The record shall be signed by all the members of the polling committee.

ARTICLE 49.

The polling committee shall submit the records of its work together with other electoral material to the municipal or city electoral commission not later than 12 hours from the closing of the polling station.

ARTICLE 50.

Municipal or city electoral commissions shall determine the results of voting at polling stations on their territory within 24 hours from the closing of the polling stations at the latest.

After the voting for the members of a county assembly or special status district council, the municipal or city electoral commission shall submit the voting results on its territory, together with the records of its work, to the competent electoral commission of the local self-government unit, in the manner and within a period stated by the competent electoral commission.

ARTICLE 51.

A municipal or city electoral commission shall keep a record of its work in which it shall enter:

1) the number of voters registered on its territory in the electoral list or excerpts therefrom;
2) the number of voters who have cast their votes and the number of invalid ballots;
3) the name and surname of each candidate with the designation how many votes the individual candidate has received in the electoral unit;
4) the name and surname of the candidate who was elected in the electoral unit;
5) the number of votes in favor of each of the candidate lists of the local self-government unit.

Any member of the municipal or city electoral commission may enter his observation in the record. The record shall be signed by all members of the electoral commission of the electoral unit

ARTICLE 52.

The results of the elections for the members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be determined by the competent electoral commission of the local self-government unit on the basis of the voting results at all polling stations in all electoral units of the local self-government unit.

ARTICLE 53.

When the municipal or city electoral commission has determined the results of voting for members of municipal or city council, or when the county or special status district electoral commission has determined the results of voting for members of their representative bodies, it shall immediately announce:

1) the number of voters registered in the electoral lists of the municipality, city, county or special status district, the number of voters who have voted in each electoral unit, the number of votes received by each individual candidate in each electoral unit, the number of votes received by each individual list of candidates and the number of invalid ballots;
2) the name and surname of the candidate who was elected in each electoral unit in which one member of the representative body of the local self-government unit was to be elected;
3) the number of seats in the representative body of the local self-government unit received by each candidate list and the names and surnames of the candidates from each candidate list who were elected for the members of the representative body of the local self-government unit.

CHAPTER VII. ELECTION COSTS

ARTICLE 54.

The costs of elections for members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be financed from its funds.

Funds for the conduct of municipal elections shall disposed of by the municipal electoral commissions. They shall determine the manner in which the funds shall be used, supervise their management and assign the adequate amounts to the polling committees.

Funds for the conduct of city elections shall be disposed of by the city electoral commissions. They shall determine the manner in which they shall be used, supervise their management and assign adequate amounts to the polling committees.

Funds for the conduct of county elections shall be disposed of by the county electoral commissions. They shall determine the manner in which they shall be used, supervise their management and assign adequate amounts to the municipal or city electoral commissions on their territory and to the polling committees.

Funds for the conduct of the elections for members of the special status district assemblies shall be disposed of by the district electoral commissions. They shall determine the manner in which the funds shall be use, supervise their management and assign adequate amounts to municipal electoral commissions and polling Committees on their territory.

CHAPTER VIII. PROTECTION OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS

ARTICLE 55.

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia shall exercise general jurisdiction over the constitutionality and conduct of the elections of members of the representative bodies of local self-government units and resolve electoral disputes in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

ARTICLE 56.

A political party, two or more political parties or voters that have proposed candidates for members of the representative body of a local self-government unit or who have proposed the candidate list, and candidates for members of the representative body of a local self-government unit, may files a complaint concerning irregularities in the nomination procedure.

A complaint concerning the irregularities in the electoral procedure may only be lodged by that political party, two or more political parties or voters whose candidates/candidate lists were voted for in the elections. The complaint may also be filed by the candidates for members of the representative body of a local self-government unit who were voted for.

If a candidate for a member of the representative body of a local self-government unit or the candidate list of a local self-government unit were proposed by several political parties or voters, the complaint shall be deemed as legally valid even if it was filed by one political party or one elector only.

ARTICLE 57.

Complaints about the irregularity of nomination procedure and election of the members of municipal and city councils are resolved by the district electoral commission.

A complaint concerning irregularities of the nomination procedure and election of the members of a county assembly and a special status district assembly shall be resolved by the Electoral Commission of the Republic of Croatia.

ARTICLE 58.

A complaint concerning irregularities of the nomination procedure and election of members of the representative body of a local self-government unit shall be filed with the competent electoral commission within 48 hours from the date when the act was committed against which the complaint was filed.

The electoral commission cited in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall render a decision on the complaint within 48 hours from the date of receipt of the complaint or the date of receipt of the electoral materials to which the complaint relates.

ARTICLE 59.

If in considering a complaint referred to in Article 57 of this Law, the competent commission finds that irregularities existed which substantially influenced the result of the elections, it shall void the acts in this procedure and order that these acts be repeated within a specified term, so as to make it possible for the elections to be held on the date for which they were called.

If there is no possibility of repeating the voided acts referred to in the preceding Paragraph or if these irregularities relate to the voting procedure and have substantially influenced the election results, the competent electoral commission shall void the election of the member of the representative body of local self-government unit in a particular electoral unit or the elections based on the candidate lists and shall fix another term for new elections.

ARTICLE 60.

The decision of the competent Electoral Commission can be appealed to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia by the complainant who is dissatisfied with such decision.

The appeal shall be filed with the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia within 48 hours from the the date when the decision was made. The appeal shall be filed through the competent Electoral Commission.

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia shall reach a decision on the appeal within 48 hours from the date of its receipt.

ARTICLE 61.

The submitted complaint and/or appeal in the procedure of the protection of the election rights, shall not postpone the performing of election actions as prescribed by this Law.

CHAPTER IX. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 62.

No tax shall be paid on requests and decisions in the procedures under provisions of this Law.

ARTICLE 63.

Polling committees in the first elections for members of municipal councils, city councils, county assemblies, and special status district councils shall be regulated by special laws under provisions of this Law.

ARTICLE 64.

16 members shall be elected under provisions of this Law in the first elections for members of municipal councils.

26 members shall be elected in the first elections for members of city councils.

60 members shall be elected in the first elections for members of Zagreb city council.

40 members shall be elected in the first elections for members of county assemblies.

34 members shall be elected in the first elections for members of special status district councils.

ARTICLE 65.

If the representation of ethnic and national groups or minorities (in correlation with general number of population of this local unit of self-government) is not achieved in the first elections, as it is required in this Law, the required number of representatives shall be determined by special Laws; such a number shall be elected by members of minorities. This procedure shall also be executed for the representation of Croats in special status district councils.

ARTICLE 66.

The first session of local units of self-government, elected in the last elections, under provisions of this Law, shall be conducted within 60 days from the day of determining the results of voting.

The first session of municipal and city councils of local units of self-government shall be called by the Head of the municipal assembly on the territory of that city or municipal center where council is located.

The first session of local units of self-government, elected in the last elections, shall be chaired by the senior deputy.

ARTICLE 67.

The costs of the first elections (see Art. 1, paragraph 1 of this Law) shall be financed from the state budget in accordance with current legislation.

ARTICLE 68.

This Law comes into force on the first day from the date of its being published in "Narodne novine".

Czech Republic

LAW
OF CZECH NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF 28 AUGUST 1990
"ON ELECTIONS TO CZECH NATIONAL COUNCIL"

The Czech National Council has adopted the following Law:

CHAPTER I. BASIC REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 1.

Elections to the Czech National Council are held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot, in accordance with the principle of proportional representation in electoral districts.

ARTICLE 2.

1. Citizens of Czech Republic, who live in the Czech Republic and reach the age of 18 by the day of elections, have the right to participate in the elections.
2. Persons, who are declared legally incompetent[1], are deprived of the electoral right.
3. The laws on restrictions of personal freedom, related to protection of the health of the population, are the basis for the prohibition of the rights of participation in the elections[2].

ARTICLE 3.

Any citizen of Czech Republic, who has the right to participate in the elections and reaches the age of 21 by the day of conduct of the elections, may be elected as Deputy of the Czech National Council.

CHAPTER II. TERRITORY OF THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 4.

The elections are held on the territory of Czech Republic.

ARTICLE 5. Constituencies

Constituencies are formed by territorial regions[3] according to their state by the day of elections.

ARTICLE 6. Number of Delegates

The number of delegates is stipulated by the special Decree that has the force of law.

ARTICLE 7. Electoral Districts

1. Electoral districts are formed within populated locations with the purpose to provide for the free will of the electorate, the will being expressed by balloting, and to poll the votes.
2. Electoral districts and premises for electoral districts within each constituency are allocated by the Council of local, municipal or district National committee (hereinafter referred to as "local National committee"), the allocation being made no later than 30 days before the elections.
3. Electoral districts are formed in such way that they include, as a rule, 1000 voters. For remote areas of populated locations smaller electoral districts may be formed, under condition that they includes at least 50 voters.
4. Special electoral districts may be formed at hospitals, maternity homes, sanatoriums, houses for the aged and the like, or at their departments, but under conditions that there are no less than 100 voters.
5. The possibility to take part in the elections at commitment places[4], imprisonment pending trial places[5] or in imprisonment places, or in other locations of detention, is realized on the basis of a voter's certificate; the possibility being provided by a electoral district commission, on the territory of which said institution is located, jointly with the Head of the respective said special institution. If the above-mentioned being the case, dimensions of electoral districts, stipulated in section 3, may not be observed. Persons who are imprisoned in said special institutions, take part in the elections on the basis of a voter's certificate; the latter being issued in the case when those persons do not live permanently within the territory of said electoral districts. If imprisonment pending trial is the case, the respective board of the National Security Committee acts in such way that the imprisoned person is given the opportunity to participate in the elections[6].
6. If elections to the Czech National Committee are conducted simultaneously with elections to the Federal Assembly, the electoral districts may be merged for such elections.

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[1] Articles 10 and 499 of Civil Legislation No. 40/1964;
[2] Article 5, section 2, sub-section 6); Article 9, section 2, sub-section a) and Article 24 of the Law "Care for People's Health";
[3] Articles 4 through 10 of the Law No. 36/1960 "on territorial division of the State";
[4] Articles 75 and 76 of the Law No. 141/1961 "on Criminal and Judicial Procedures Code";
[5] Article 23 of the Law NO. 40/1974 "on Committee of National Safety";
[6] Article 20 of the Law No. 40/1974;

CHAPTER III. VOTER LISTS AND VOTER CERTIFICATES

ARTICLE 8. Entering to Voter List

1. All Czech-Slovakian citizens, who have the right to participate in the elections, are entered to the voter list in accordance with the place of their permanent residence[7]. Servicemen of Armed Forces and Forces of National Security, who live in barracks, are entered to voter list of voters of that populated location, within which the barracks of their registration are situated. The commander of the military formation together with local national committee of the populated location, where said military formation is registered, compiles the list of personnel of the formation, in accordance with place of registration; the list is approved jointly.
2. Citizens who either were deprived of the suffrage or were restored to suffrage and obtain opportunity to participate in the elections after compilation of the list, are to be either additionally entered to the voter list, or to be additionally excluded from it.
3. If there are impediments for a voter to take part in the elections (Article 2, section 3), this fact is to be reflected in the voter list.
4. Each voter may be entered to one list only.

ARTICLE 9. Compilation of Voter Lists

1. Voter lists are compiled by the local National committee in accordance with electoral districts.
2. When it concerns servicemen of Armed Forces and Forces of National Security, who live at barracks, then the voter list is compiled by local national committee on the basis of data, submitted by the Commander of said military formation. The local national committee is obliged to control electoral districts, where only servicemen of Armed Forces or Forces of National Security or persons listed in Article 7, section 5 shall take part in the election.
3. If elections to the Czech National Committee are conducted simultaneously with elections to the Federal Assembly, electoral districts may be merged for such elections.

ARTICLE 10. Publication of Voter Lists

1. The local National committee is required to publicize voter lists for citizens' familiarization with them no later than 30 days before election day. The local National committee informs citizens about publication of said lists through all available to it means.
2. At population locations where there are more than 5000 voters entered to voter lists, the local National committee is obliged to provide that on each building are placed voter list of those voters who live in the building. Said measures may be undertaken by local National committee as well in the cases when there are less than 5000 voters, entered to voter list, living in the populated location. Such lists are sure to be posted within barracks where serviceman of Armed Forces and Forces of national Security live.

ARTICLE 11. Appeal Against the Voter List

1. Each citizen has the right orally or in writing to indicate to the local National committee errors or inaccuracies in the voter list and to submit his (her) proposals on their correction. The local National committee is required within three days either to introduce respective amendments to voter list, or to inform the citizen of the reasons (in writing), for which the amendments are not introduced.
2. If the proposal is denied, the citizen has the right to appeal to district court, in the jurisdiction within the said electoral district; the court is required to make decision within 3 days. The court makes its decision on the basis of law on administrative management, which stipulates the procedures for court inspection of decisions of various state bodies. In accordance with the decision of the court, the local National committee is obliged to introduce appropriate corrections to the voter list; these corrections are to be inspected by the district electoral commission on election day. In this case costs are not reimbursed. The verdict of the court is final and is not subject to appeal.

ARTICLE 12. Voter Certificates

1. Those voters, who are unable to participate in the elections in their electoral districts (i.e. at the electoral districts where they are have been entered to the voter list), shall submit an application to local National committee which issues them a voter certificate and simultaneously excludes them from voter list of particular electoral districts.
2. The voter certificate gives the voter right to be entered on the voter list of other electoral districts to participate in elections to Czech National Council.

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[7] Law No. 135/1982 "on Registration of Citizens and their Passports";

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL BODIES

ARTICLE 13. General Regulations

1. Elections to the Czech National Council are conducted under by the Czech Election Commission. Within a region the elections are conducted by the regional Electoral Commission; the latter forms district commissions within particular populated locations.
2. At electoral districts divisional electoral commissions are formed.
3. Each Czech citizen, who has the right to participate in the elections and with respect to whom any restrictions of his (her) will are absent, may be a member of an electoral commission. A candidate for Deputy of the Czech National Council may not be a member of an electoral commission.
4. The electoral commission consists of equal numbers of authorized representatives of political parties[8], political movements[9] and their coalitions[10] (hereinafter referred to as "political parties") which submit separate lists of candidates. Names and surnames of representatives and their deputies, with addresses, are submitted by political parties to the person, who calls the first session of electoral commission. If the list of candidates is deamed invalid, or if the list is withdrawn, the representatives of this political party are deprived of the right to be members of the respective electoral commission. In case of illness, business or refusal of member of an electoral commission, the chairman of the electoral commission replaces the candidate with one of his (her) deputies in the order of priority, established by the political party.
5. Members of an electoral commission take their offices after taking the following oath: " I swear by my honor to accomplish honestly and without prejudice my duties and in this I will be governed by laws and other legal regulations". The member of a commission transfers the text of the oath with his (her) signature to the person who calls the first session of the electoral commission.
6. In order for the decision to be made, more than half of members of electoral commission must be present at its session. The decision is made by a simple majority of votes. If equality of votes being the case, the proposal is rejected.
7. On the first session the electoral commission elects the Chairman and his (her) deputy among members of the commission by drawing lots. Each member of an electoral commission, who performs additional functions besides work on commission, ought to be a member of a political party. The process of drawing lots, owing to which additional functions are distributed, is controlled by the oldest member of the commission.
8. The secretary of the Czech Electoral Commission is an official of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic; he (she) is appointed by the minister of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic. The secretary of regional electoral commission is an official of the regional National committee, under jurisdiction of which is territory of the electoral commission. The secretary of the divisional electoral commission is an official of the district National committee; he (she) is appointed by the secretary of the respective district (municipal or country) National committee. The secretary of the district electoral commission is an official, appointed by the Council of the local National committee. In the course of all sessions of the above-mentioned commissions, the secretary has right of deliberative vote and takes the oath in accordance with text, specified in section 5.
9. The Czech Electoral Commission, regional electoral commissions and district electoral commissions of the latter form special (polling) groups for polling and determination of elections results; the latter consist of officials which are especially appointed for this purpose by bodies of State statistics. The above-mentioned persons take an oath in accordance with the text specified in section 5.

ARTICLE 14. The Czech Electoral Commission

1. Each political party, that submitted list of candidates at least for one region of the country, appoints to the Czech Electoral Commission two members and their two deputies; this shall be done no later than 60 days before the day of elections.
2. Within three days after the expiration of the term specified in section 1, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Czech Republic calls the first session of the Czech Electoral Commission.
3. The Czech Electoral Commission performs in general the following functions:

   a) Surveys the observance of legal regulations concerning elections;
   b) makes decisions on claims against actions of regional electoral commissions and appeals on decisions, taken by these commissions;
   c) determines and publishes election results;
   d) submits the protocol on elections results to the Presidium of the Czech National Council;
   e) issues to elected candidates the certificates of their election;
   f) performs additional duties in accordance with this Law and other legal regulations.

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[8] Law No. 15/1990 "on Political Parties";
[9] Article 8 of the Law No. 15/1990;
[10] Article 18, section 8 of the Law No. 15/1990;

ARTICLE 15. Regional Electoral Commissions

1. Each political party that submitted a list of candidates for a region, appoints to the regional electoral commission two members and their two deputies; this shall be done no later than 60 days before the day of elections.
2. Within three days after the expiration of the term specified in section 1, the Chairman of the respective Council of National committee calls the first session of the regional electoral commission.
3. The regional electoral commission:

   a) Surveys the observance of legal regulations concerning elections;
   b) makes decisions on claims against actions of district and divisional electoral commissions;
   c) considers and registers lists of candidates in the region;
   d) determines and publishes election results;
   e) submits documents concerning elections, for storage to regional National committee;
   f) performs additional duties in accordance with this Law and other legal regulations, and performs duties for the Czech electoral Commission.

ARTICLE 16. District Commission

1. Each political party which registered a list of candidates in the region, delegates one member and one of his (her) deputies to the district electoral commission; this shall be done no later than 30 days before the day when the elections are fixed. The first session of the district electoral commission is called by the Chairman of the respective district (municipal or country) National committee.
2. District commission:

   a) surveys processing of voting results within electoral districts;
   b) If any doubts arises, has the right to require explanation or other information from divisional electoral commissions. The commission corrects obvious errors itself, on agreement with the divisional electoral commission. If said agreement has not been achieved, the commission has the right to require that the divisional electoral commission meet again and eliminate the demonstrated errors;
   c) submits processed results of voting of the electoral division to the regional electoral commission.

ARTICLE 17. Divisional Electoral Commission

1. Each political party, which registered a list of candidates in that region, constituent part of which is the said electoral division, has the right no later than 30 days before elections to delegate to divisional electoral commission one member and one of his (her) deputies as representatives of the party. Taking into consideration local conditions, the Council of the local National committee may call to a political party for delegation to divisional electoral commission a greater number of representatives.
2. Divisional electoral commissions ought to be composed of at least of three members. If a political party does not delegate to the divisional electoral commission one or more of its representatives, than in their places members of divisional electoral commission are appointed by the Council of the local National committee.
3. within three days after the expiration of the term, specified in section 1, the Chairman of the respective local National committee calls the first session of the divisional electoral commission.
4. If elections to the Czech National Council are held simultaneously with elections to the Federal Assembly, a single divisional electoral commission is formed for the electoral division.
5. Divisional electoral commission:

   a) ensures correct voting, provides for observance of proper order at the polling station, for correct completion of ballots and their casting to polling boxes;
   b) performs calculation of votes and records the minutes on results of voting; the minutes are to be submitted to the respective district commission without any delay;
   c) transfers other documents, concerning the elections, for storage to local National Council.

CHAPTER V.

SECTION I.

ARTICLE 18. List of Candidates

1. A list of candidates for elections to the Czech National Council may be submitted by political parties. Lists of candidates are submitted no later than 60 days before the day when elections are fixed. Lists of candidates are received by the Chairman of the regional electoral commission. A political party includes with the list of candidates the following:

   a) confirmation of the fact that there are at least 10,000 individual members of said political party; or
   b) if the condition, specified in sub-section a), is not met, then an application must be attached, with a request on

delegating candidates; the application shall be signed by such number of legally authorized voters which their party falls short of the above-mentioned number of individual members. Next to the signature on the said application the voter, after presentation of his (her) civil passport, indicates his (her) name, surname Registration number in the register of births, marriages and deaths, and address in accordance with registration of the passport. Signatures under the application can not be cancelled. The regional electoral commission has the right to check the correctness of data, concerning the number of members of the said political party, or data, presented in the application.

2. If a political party submits a list of candidates in several regions of country, then such application can be submitted to one regional electoral commission only; other regional electoral commissions are notified about this.
3. The secretary checks whether the submitted lists of candidates meet stipulated requirements. If they do not meet them, the secretary notifies the authorized representatives of said political parties. If the list of candidates is accepted, the secretary notifies the authorized representatives of said political parties.
4. The list of candidates includes:

   a) name of political party;
   b) name, surname, age, place of work and address, according to registration of passport, of candidates and priority of their places in the list of candidates (in the list of candidates individual candidates obtain a number, written in Arabic numerals);
   c) name and surname of authorized person of political party, as well as those of his(her) two deputies and their addresses. A candidate may not be such authorized person or deputy.

5. In list of candidates, a political party besides the data specified in section 4 sub-section b), may additionally indicate their membership in a particular political party, may notify that the candidate is not a member of any political party, or to indicate, that the candidate is an independent one.
6. The maximum number of candidates that a political party within particular region has the right to include into list of candidates, is determined in the Annex to present Law, the Annex being cousired part of this Law.
7. The list of candidates is accompanied with the sign on application of the candidate, in which he (she) notifies that he (she) agrees to be nominated for Deputy, that he (she) is absent from other lists of candidates, that there are no obstacles for nomination of his (her) candidacy.
8. Political parties may conclude agreement on the submission of merged lists of candidates. Coalitions, that appeared as the result of such association, are governed by those regulations of this Law, which concerns separate political parties. Fulfilment of the conditions, specified in section 1 sub-sections a), b) and in section 2, if nomination of merged list of candidates from several political parties being the case, is checked with respect to all these political parties in such way, as if the list of candidates was submitted by a single political party.

ARTICLE 19. Consideration of Lists of Candidates by Regional Electoral Commissions

1. A regional electoral commission has the right to consider the submitted lists of candidates within 55 days before day of elections.
2. The regional electoral commission withdraws from the list:

   a) the candidate who did not attach to the list of candidates the application in accordance with Article 18, section 7;
   b) the candidate, if he (she) is included to the lists of several political parties, and he (she) did not attached to this list the application in accordance with Article 18, section 7. In the candidate has signed several application and has attached these to several lists of candidates, then said candidate is to be withdrawn from all lists of candidates;
   c) those candidates who nominated their candidacies in excess of the stipulated number of candidates in accordance with Article 18, section 6.

3. After the candidacy is discussed, the Chairman of the regional electoral commission shall immediately send to the address of the Czech Electoral Commission one copy of the list of candidates, accompanied with the application of the candidate on his (her) agreement to be nominated, and with notes of the regional electoral commission, concerning the results of discussion of the list of candidates. The same information shall be addressed to all political parties, which nominated the list of candidates in this region.
4. After receipt of the minutes on consideration of lists of candidates within particular regions of the country, the Czech Electoral Commission no later than 50 days before election day will register the list of candidates and shall notify all political parties in written form.

ARTICLE 20. Consideration of Lists of Candidates by the Czech Electoral Commission

1. The Czech Electoral Commission considers lists of candidates within 50 days before the election day. Messages of regional electoral commissions are considered and errors in lists of candidates are eliminated.
2. If particular candidates are entered into several lists of candidates, than the Czech Electoral Commission strikes them off all lists of candidates.
3. If it is appears that lists of candidates are submitted by the same political party, but differ in various regions of the country, then the Chairman of the Commission summons the representative of said political party; the representative is required to

ensure uniformity of lists of candidates for all regions of the country at the latest by the end of session of the Czech Electoral Commission. If not, then the Czech Electoral Commission on its own discretion makes a decision on the uniformity of such lists of candidates.

4. The Czech Electoral Commission, by drawing lots, determines the ordinal numbers that will be assigned to individual lists of candidates of each political party which submitted lists of candidates; under their ordinal numbers said lists shall be nominated for elections to the Czech National Council.
5. If elections to the Czech National Council are held simultaneously with elections to the Federal Assembly, then for designation of lists of candidates of political parties for the Czech National Council those ordinal numbers are used, which were established by the Central Electoral Commission by drawing lots. If this being the case, representative of the Czech Electoral Commission also takes part in the drawing lots.
6. Chairman of the Czech Electoral Commission sends the minutes of results of discussion of lists of candidates to regional electoral commissions and to candidates from individual parties without any delay. Results of the drawing lots is announced in such way that they become familiar to the public.

ARTICLE 21. Refusal of Nomination and Withdrawal of Candidacy

1. Within 48 hours before the start of the elections, a candidate has the right to refuse in written form to be nominated for Deputy. Up to this moment a representative of a political party has the right to withdraw his (her) candidacy in a similar way. The application on refusal to be nominated or on withdrawal is submitted in duplicate to the Chairman of the regional electoral commission; the chairman sends without any delay one copy to the Chairman of the Czech Electoral Commission and at the same time duly informs the public on the availability of such application.
2. If such application was submitted after the completion of registration of lists of candidates, then information on the candidate is retained in the list, but this candidate is excluded from consideration when issuing mandates.

ARTICLE 22. Printing Lists of Candidates

1. The chairman of the regional electoral commission with the assistance of the regional National committee, ensures the printing of lists of candidates; the lists includes ordinal number, determined by the way of drawing lots, name of the country and list of all candidates in the stipulated order of priority.
2. Each list is printed in the form of a ballot, dimensions of all ballots being the same, paper of the same color and quality being used, the font being the same, letters being of the same type. The seal of the regional electoral commission must be included on the ballots. Ballots are printed to the such extent that there will be enough of them for voters who will vote in accordance with voter certificates.
3. Lists of candidates (ballots), prepared in such way, are sent by the Chairman of the regional electoral commission to chairmen of local National Committees; the latter ensure the distribution of the ballots among voters within three days before election day. On the day of elections the chairmen sends the ballots to divisional electoral commissions.

SECTION 2. PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 23. Election Day

1. Elections to the Czech National Council are held on a single day in the entire territory of the Czech Republic. The Presidium of the Czech National Council may decide to conduct the elections within two days.
2. The Presidium of the Czech National Council announces the elections to the Czech National Council and determines election day at least 90 days before their conduct. The Decree of the Presidium of the Czech National Council is published in the Code of Laws.
3. The elections are held on the stipulated day from 7.00 to 18.00. If local conditions so require, the Council of the local National committee may change the start of the election to an earlier time.
4. If the elections are held during two days, then the beginning of the elections is at 14.00 of the first day, and the finish of elections at 22.00 of the first day. During the second day elections begin at 7.00 and finish at 14.00. In accordance with local conditions, the beginning of the election may be changed to an earlier time.

ARTICLE 24. Information For Voters

1. The Local National committee announces the time and location of the conduct of elections at least 15 days before election day by virtue of all means at its disposal. If several electoral divisions were organized within territory of populated location, then the local National committee informs which parts of the populated location, special institutions (Article 7, section 5) or formations (Article 8, section 1) are attached to individual electoral divisions.
2. Within those populated locations, where there are more than 5000 residents, the local National committee ensures the issuing of special single certificates, in which all necessary data on elections are listed. The Local National committee provides for the delivery of said certificates directly to places of residence of citizens. Local National committee may make decision on the performance of said measures within populated location where there are less than 5000 voters.

ARTICLE 25. Polling Station Preparation

1. Before the start of the elections the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission along with the members of the commission, who are responsible for the safety of the polling box, executes inspection of the polling box and integrity of seals on the box. Equipment and extent of preparation of the polling station and documentation to the election are also

checked as well as the availability of lists of candidates and sufficient number of ballots.

2. If the elections are held for two days, the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission must ensure that after completion of the first day of election, the portable polling box was sealed in such way as to exclude the possibility to cast into it non-registered ballots. The same person is responsible for the safe storage of the polling box and other documents concerning the elections.

ARTICLE 26. Booths For Completing Ballots

Special booths are intended for completing ballots within polling stations; the booths are to be arranged so that secrecy of voting shall be ensured. The number of such booths is determined by the Council of the local National committee, on the basis of the number of voters within a given electoral division. Only the voter him(her)self can be within these booths. Outside persons, including members of divisional electoral commission, have no right to be within voting booth simultaneously with the voter. The exceptions to this rule are specified in Article 29, section 3.

SECTION 3. THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 27.

1. Under this law an interval of 40 days, ending 48 hours before the elections, is implied.
2. During the campaign period each party which nominated its candidates, has equal access to the State means of the mass media. Radio and television during electoral campaign shall allot 4 hours of broadcasting time for each political party which nominated candidates. The time of broadcasting and allotment of said 4 hours through electoral campaign are assigned in accordance with equality of all political parties, which nominated the candidates.
3. If the local National committee shall allot the site for posters, then usage of said site ought to meet equally the interests of all political parties, which nominated its candidates.
4. Forty-eight hours before beginning of elections and on the election day oral, written, acoustic and visual electoral advertising in all the state means of the mass media, at the polling station and nearby, is prohibited. It is prohibited to publish or in any other way to inform the public on results of pre-election studies and ratings of individual candidates within the last seven days before elections.
5. Before the moment of signing the minutes on voting results, members of electoral commissions and technical personnel, who are servicing elections, are prohibited from providing information concerning the final and intermediary results of elections.
6. In the course of elections, and up to their completion, it is prohibited to publish or in other way to announce results of public opinion polls concerning the elections.

CHAPTER VI. VOTING

ARTICLE 28. Start of Voting

After the survey in accordance with Article 25, section 1, Chairman of divisional electoral commission, on agreement with members of the commission, announces the start of voting. The first voters are the chairman and other members of the commission.

ARTICLE 29. Voting

1. All voters cast their votes individually. In the course of voting it is prohibited to use assistance of representatives. Members of divisional electoral commissions have no right to complete ballots on behalf of voters. Voters cast votes in turn, i.e., according to the sequence they enter the polling station.
2. After entering the polling station, the voter presents an identification card; on the basis of the latter, on both identical lists of voters a note on voter's arrival is noted. After that the voter receives from the commission an empty envelope with the seal of the electoral division. The envelope shall be non-transparent; all envelopes shall be of the same dimensions. If the voter has no identification card, and no member of the commission knows him (her), the commission requires voter to confirm his said data orally, concerning his (her) person. If before completion of voting the voter did not so, and did not present to the commission two witnesses, whom members of the commission know personally, the voter is not permitted to vote. On the request of the voter, the commission issues another ballot to replace a defective, rumpled or in other way spoiled ballot.
3. If a voter comes to the polling station with a voter certificate (detachment coupon) and if he (she) lives within territory of Czech Republic permanently, then the divisional electoral commission includes the voter on the voter list. This record to voter list is certified with signatures of the Chairman and two members of the commission. The voter certificate is attached to the first copy of the voter list. After that the commission issues the ballot to the voter.
4. Having received ballots and the envelope with the seal, the voter proceeds to the polling-booth (Article 26). Inside the booth voter places into the envelope one ballot. In the ballot to be put into the envelope, the voter may circle ordinal numbers of no more than four candidates, listed on a single ballot; this shows the candidates to which the voter gives preference. To perform any other actions with the ballot is prohibited. Any remaining ballots voter must leave inside the polling booth at a specially allotted place.
5. The voter, who can not fill in the ballot personally (as the result of physical injuries, or due to his (her) inability to read or to write), has the right to invite into the polling-booth another voter who, in accordance with instructions of the former voter, shall fill in the ballot and put it into the envelope.

6. Voting is performed in the following way: after leaving the polling-booth, voter puts the ballot into the envelope and in sight of the divisional electoral commission casts the ballot into ballot box. Those voters, who did not pass through the polling-booth, are not allowed to vote. The same regulations are valid for special polling stations (Article 7, section 4), but particular circumstances of voting shall be taken into consideration

ARTICLE 30. Maintaining Order at the Polling Station and Within Adjoining Territory

The chairman of the divisional electoral commission is responsible for maintaining order at the polling station and within adjoining territory. All present are required to obey his (her) instructions, concerning the maintenance of order at the polling station and observance of voting rules.

ARTICLE 31. Voting Interruption

If circumstances arise that make the start, continuation or completion of voting impossible, the divisional electoral commission, on agreement with regional electoral commission, has the right to shift voting to a later time, or to extend time of voting. But the overall time for voting (Article 23) shall not be shortened due to taking such decision. The divisional electoral commission uses all accessible means to inform voters on taking such decision. If voting was interrupted, the divisional electoral commission seals all documents that are at the polling station. At repeated start of voting the chairman in presence of members of the commission, inspects the integrity of seals and records it in the minutes on start of voting.

ARTICLE 32. Voting Completion

Just after expiration of the time determined as the time of completion voting, the polling station is immediately closed. But before closing the polling station, all voters who are inside the polling station or in front of it, ought to vote. After that the chairman of divisional electoral commission announces the voting completed.

CHAPTER VII. DETERMINATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 33. Persons Who May be Present During Tabulation of Votes

Members of electoral commission of the higher rank and technical personnel of said commission, as well as persons, who have permission, issued by the Czech Electoral Commission, have the right to be present in the room where divisional electoral commission is tabulating votes.

ARTICLE 34. Tabulating Votes by Divisional Electoral Commission

1. After completion of voting the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission seals the special polling box, intended for collection of rejected (Article 29, section 4), superfluous, unused ballots and envelopes, and then he (she) opens the ballot box. If the divisional electoral commission (in accordance with requests of individual voters or in accordance with Article 7, section 5) have used mobile ballot boxes, then contents of the boxes after their opening shall be mixed by the commission.
2. The divisional electoral commission extracts envelopes with ballots from the polling box, counts the number of envelopes with seals and compares the number of envelopes with seals with the number of those who voted (according to the voter list). Envelopes without a seal are excluded from further processing by the commission.
3. After extraction of ballots from envelopes, the divisional electoral commission sorts and counts the number of ballots cast for individual political parties. In the course of this the commission eliminates invalid ballots. The commission determines number of voters, who have used the right to give preference to individual candidates, and counts the number of such votes with respect to other candidates.
4. Each member of divisional electoral commission has the right to review ballots. The Chairman of divisional electoral commission surveys the correctness of tabulating votes.

ARTICLE 35. Determination of Valid Ballots

1. Ballots are counted in favour of lists of candidates of a political party which have crossed out, changed or added names of candidates. No attention shall be paid to such corrections. If a voter circled in the ballot more than four candidates, the ballot is counted in favour of the party that submitted it, but no one candidate gains preference.
2. Those ballots which are printed with a non-stipulated font are considered invalid. If there are several ballots of different political parties inside the envelope, they are considered as single vote; if in one of such ballots the preference was given to one or more candidates (but no more than to four candidates), then that ballot, in which the preference was given to the greatest number of candidates, is selected as the valid one.

ARTICLE 36. Voting Minutes For Constituency

1. The divisional electoral commission records the minutes in duplicate; the minutes shall reflect the elections conducted and voting results. The minutes are signed by the Chairman and all members of the divisional electoral commission. When refusal to sign the minutes being the case, the refusal shall be duly substantiated.
2. In the minutes the following shall be represented:

   a) time of start and finish of voting, as well as time of voting interruption (if the latter took place);
   b) total number of persons in electoral division who were included into the voter list;
   c) number of voters who in the course of voting received envelopes with the seal of the electoral division;

d) number of envelopes with the seal of the electoral division, which were cast into the polling box;
e) number of valid votes, cast in accordance with individual lists of candidates;
f) number of votes for a political party, who give preference to individual candidates;
g) number of valid votes, cast for individual candidates in accordance with lists of candidates;
h) summary of claims and proposals, submitted to divisional electoral commission; resolutions, taken by divisional electoral commission, summary and substantiation of the resolutions.

3. For presentation of data in accordance with section 2, sub-section g), the divisional electoral commission uses the necessary number of unused ballots, which after completion of the elections were allotted by Chairman in the presence of all members of divisional electoral commission.

ARTICLE 37. Final Actions of Divisional Electoral Commission

1. After tabulating votes and signing the minutes, reflecting the election conducted and the voting results, the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission announces voting results and without any delay sends one copy of the above-mentioned minutes to the regional electoral commission, and waits for instructions of the higher electoral commission, concerning completion of work of the divisional electoral commission.
2. Divisional electoral commission seals up cast ballots, envelopes and voter lists, and sends them together with all its documents to the local National committee for storage.

ARTICLE 38. Persons Who are Permitted to be Present at the Final Stage of Work of Divisional Electoral Commission

Besides members of divisional electoral commission, only members of the higher electoral commission and technical personnel of said higher electoral commission may be present in the room where divisional electoral commission processes voting results of a given electoral division.

ARTICLE 39. Tabulation of Votes by Regional Electoral Commissions

1. The regional electoral commission determines voting results within a given region. Voting results are established on the basis of the minutes on election conducted and voting results, obtained from individual divisional electoral commissions.
2. Only members of the Czech Electoral Commission and its technical personnel may be present in the room where regional electoral commission is tabulating votes and determining voting results.

ARTICLE 40. The Minutes of Regional Electoral Commission

1. The regional electoral commission records the minutes in duplicate; the minutes reflect voting results within a given region. The minutes are signed by the Chairman, deputy Chairman and all members of the commission. The refusal to sign the minutes ought to be substantiated in details.
2. The minutes of the regional electoral commission on voting results shall include the following data:

a) number of constituencies within given region and number of divisional electoral commissions, which sent voting results within their divisions;
b) number of persons, included into the voter list within a given region;
c) number of voters who received a voter certificate (detachment coupons);
d) number of envelopes with the seal of electoral commission;
e) number of valid votes, cast for individual lists of candidates;
f) number of voters of political party, who used their right of preferential selection of candidates among the candidates for Deputy, specified in list of candidates;
g) number of valid votes, cast for individual candidates in accordance with list of candidates;
h) summary of claims and proposals, submitted to the regional electoral commission; resolutions, taken by the regional electoral commission, summary and substantiation of the resolutions.

3. After signing both copies of the minutes on voting results, the Chairman of the regional electoral commission sends one copy of the minutes without any delay to the Czech Electoral Commission. All the last documents, concerning the conduct of elections, are sent to the respective National committee for storage.

ARTICLE 41. Determination of Number of Deputies Elected Within Individual Regions

1. The Czech Electoral Commission considers the minutes of regional electoral commissions and determines in accordance with these the total number of votes which were cast for all lists of candidates for all regions of the country. These data determines the number of Deputies (Article 6). The number is approximated to the nearest whole number and is the republican mandates number.
2. The republican mandate number allows to determine the number of Deputies from each region of the country. For such determination it is necessary to divide by this number total number of votes, cast in each region. The whole number, obtained in such way, gives the number of mandates assigned for individual regions.
3. If after such distribution not all mandates were dispensed, the Czech Electoral Commission on its own authority transfers

these mandates to those regions, which have the greatest remainder. When equality of remainder being the case, the drawing of lots is executed.

ARTICLE 42. Participation of Political Parties in the Process of Mandates Distribution

1. The Czech Electoral Commission determines the number of votes cast for each political party. Political parties, which gained less than 5% of total number of valid votes, are established. Under further determination of voting results and mandates distribution these political parties and votes, cast for them, are not taken into consideration.
2. The remaining political parties become participants of the first round of elections; in this round distribution of mandates within individual regions is performed.

ARTICLE 43. The First Round of Elections

1. The total number of valid votes, cast within given region for those political parties, which passed to the first round of elections, is divided by the number of mandates, dispensed for given region, plus 1 (Article 41); the whole number, obtained as a result of above-mentioned division and approximation, is the regional electoral number.
2. The total number of valid votes that were gained by political party within a given region, is divided by the regional electoral number; the political party obtains as many mandates, as were the results of the after above-mentioned division (the result of division shows how much times regional electoral number is contained in the total number of valid votes, which were cast for given political party).
3. Within individual political parties the mandates are distributed among candidates nominated by these parties in the order of priority of the list of candidates. But, even if one-tenth of the total number of voters who cast valid votes for this political party use their rights of preferential election of candidates, then the mandate in the first turn is given to that candidate who gained more than half of the votes of those voters, who used their rights of preferential election of candidates. If the political party gained a large number of votes, and the most part of candidates meet these conditions, then , in accordance with previous statement, the candidates obtain mandates in order which is determined by number of preferential votes, cast for them. If equality of preferential votes being the case, decisive is the position of the candidate for Deputy on the list of candidates.
4. If a political party nominated a smaller number of candidates than the number of mandates it could obtain due to election results, then this political party obtains only such number of mandates which equals the number of nominees.

ARTICLE 44. The Seqond Round of Elections

1. All mandates that were not distributed in the course of the first round of elections, the Czech Electoral Commission transfers to the commission of the second round of elections. to the second round of elections the remaining votes, which were cast for individual political parties, are transferred. If in the course of the first round a political party has not won any mandate, then all votes, which were cast for it during elections, are taken into its account. If during the first round of election a political party has not won any mandate, then all votes, that were cast for it during elections, are accounted to it.
2. Before the beginning of the second round of elections, members of the Czech Electoral Commission transfer to its Chairman lists of candidates of their parties. The number of candidates in these lists is unlimited; but the political party has the right to show in lists of candidates only those persons, who were candidates from particular region , and had not been elected in the course of the first round of elections. After transferring lists of candidates, they can not change neither surnames of candidates, nor sequence of their positions within this list.
3. In the second round of elections the Czech Electoral Commission counts remaining votes, which were cast for individual political parties. Then this sum is to be divided by number, which equals to number of mandates, that were not distributed in the course of the first round of elections, plus 1. The whole number, representing the approximated result of the division, is taken as the republican electoral number. on this basis each political party obtains as many mandates, as many times the republican electoral number is contained in the sum of remaining votes, which were cast for a given political party.
4. If under these conditions not all mandates shall be distributed among political parties, then the Czech Electoral Commission shall present these mandates to those political parties, which have the greater remainder after division of the above-mentioned numbers. If remainders from division of said numbers are equal, the mandate is presented to that political party, which has the greater sum of remainders in the course of the second round of elections. If these sums of remainders are equal, then the mandate is presented to that party which gained the greater number of votes. If these indices are equal too, the mandate is distributed by way of drawing lots. In similar way they act in the case if a political party nominated the smaller number of candidates in comparison with number of mandates which this political party could obtain.
5. If in the course of usage of this method the number of distributed mandates was a unity larger than it is required, then the excessive mandate is taken away from that political party which has the smallest reminder of the division in the second round of elections. If these remainders are equal, the mandate is taken away from that political party which has won the smaller number of votes. If these indices are equal as well, the fate of the mandate is determined by virtue of drawing lots.
6. Within individual political parties candidates obtain mandates in accordance with sequence, i.e., in accordance with the ordinal number of their position in the list of candidates for Deputies. Here it is meant lists of candidates of the second round of elections.
7. Those candidates, which did not obtain mandates either in the first, nor in the second round of elections, are placed in reserve.

ARTICLE 45. The Minutes of the Czech Electoral Commission and Announcement of Voting Results

1. After conduct of the first and the second rounds of elections, the Czech Electoral Commission records the minutes on election results. The minutes must be signed by the Chairman, deputy Chairman and all members of the Czech Electoral Commission.
2. The minutes on election results shall include the following data:

   a) total number of persons who were included into voter lists;
   b) total number of voters who have obtained envelopes with the seal of the electoral commission;
   c) numbers of votes, cast for each list of candidates within the country and within each region are to be shown separately;
   d) surnames and names of those candidates, who were elected in the course of the first round of elections; the number of preferential votes, gained by the candidates, is to be shown as well; surnames and names of candidates, elected during the second round of elections; surnames and names of candidates who were placed in reserve.

3. The Czech Electoral Commission announces the final election results immediately after signing the minutes on election results within individual regions of the country. Besides, the Czech Electoral Commission has the right to announce preliminary results, in which it shows data, specified in section 2, sub-sections a) - c).

ARTICLE 46. Deputy Certificate

The Czech Electoral Commission issues Deputy certificates to elected candidates.

ARTICLE 47. Appeal Against Election Results

1. Each citizen included in the voter list of that electoral division where the candidate was elected, has the right to appeal against the issuance of the certificate, referred to in Article 46. The same right belongs to the political party that within given region nominated a list of candidates for Deputies. The appeal must be duly substantiated. The appeal shall be filed within 10 days after the day of announcement of election results. The appeal is filed with the Supreme Court of Czech Republic.
2. Within 10 days, the Supreme Court is required to consider the appeal. The Court is composed of two Chairmen and two judges. In this case the court examination is based upon the Law that stipulates the procedures of appeal against decisions taken by State bodies.
3. The decision of the Supreme Court of Czech Republic is final and not subject to any appeal.
4. The decision of the Supreme Court of Czech Republic, reflecting its point of view on the matter, is sent to the Czech National Council.

ARTICLE 48. Measures Against Violation of Law

If within an individual region violations of this Law were discovered, the Presidium of the Czech National Council, within one week from the day of announcement of election results, required to take measures, directed to the conduct of election in strict accordance with this Law. In this case it is allowed to shorten the terms, stipulated beforehand.

ARTICLE 49. Usage of Reserved Candidates For Deputies.

1. If the mandate is abolished, then a reserved candidate for Deputy from the same political party becomes the delegate. The condition for transition of a reserved candidate for Deputy into actual Deputy is the presence of a reserved candidate for Deputy in the list of candidates of the region where the Deputy, whose mandate was abolished, was the candidate. Transition from reserved candidates for Deputy is effected in accordance with the procedure, determined by election results in the first round of elections (Article 43, section 3). If there is no such reserved candidate for Deputy, then the candidate of the same political party becomes the Deputy, but in accordance with the priority in the list of candidates, the priority being established in the course of the second round of elections.
2. If there is no reserved candidate of the same political party, then the mandate is abolished up to the end of term of authorities of the Czech National Council of the present convocation.
3. The entry into post of Deputy of a reserved candidate is announced by the Presidium of the Czech National Council within 15 days after abolition of the mandate of his (her) predecessor. The reserved candidate receives a Deputy certificate with an indication of the date of beginning of work as a full and equal Deputy.

CHAPTER VIII. MEASURES ON ELECTIONS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 50. Providing With Auxiliary Means

1. All auxiliary facilities, mainly, rooms for electoral division, equipment of such room, envelopes with the seal of the electoral commission and necessary servicing personnel are placed at the disposal of the divisional electoral commission by the local National committee, on the territory of which this electoral commission was formed.
2. The regional electoral commission is provided with all necessary auxiliary facilities by regional National committee; place of location of the latter is simultaneously the place of location of the respective electoral commission.

ARTICLE 51. Co-Operation With Other Bodies and Institutions

1. All State bodies and all institutions are required to assist in the fulfilment of regulations of this Law.

2. Those institutions and persons, who are engaged in the printing industry, are required, on demand of bodies, resolving matters in accordance with present Law, to do all possible for timely and qualitative publication of lists of candidates for Deputy, single certificates, ballots and all necessary documentation.

ARTICLE 52. Rights of Members of Electoral Commissions

The work of the electoral commissions is an honorable duty. Members of electoral commissions may not be appealed against at his (her) main office duties or against other fields of his (her) activity, concerning his (her) participation in electoral commission. Moreover, members of electoral commissions are partially or fully released from his (her) main offices with preservation of full salary[11].

ARTICLE 53. Rights of Candidates

1. A candidate for Deputy, after registration of the list of candidates, has the right to address to the organization where he (she) works, or to person, for whom he (she) works (hereinafter referred to as "employer"), with the application on leave, the employer having no right to refuse him (her). Such leave is presented from the next day after registration of list of candidates and lasts to the end of day preceding the election date.
2. On the request of the candidate an employer is required to pay the candidate an average bonus.
3. Employer has the right to demand from the political party, which nominated this candidate for Deputy, to reimburse expenditures on payment to candidate average salary in for the period of preparation and conduct of elections.
4. An unemployed candidate for Deputy is paid an average bonus by that political party, which included this candidate into its list of candidates for Deputy.
5. The average bonus for candidate is calculated in the same way as average salary of members of electoral commissions.
6. Condition that particular person is a candidate for Deputy may not be a reason for damaging this person. It relates not only to labor, but to other relations as well. Duration of the leave in accordance with section 1 is accounted to the length of service.

ARTICLE 54. Reimbursement of Expenditures on the Conduct of Elections

1. Expenditures on the conduct of elections to the Czech National Council are reimbursed from the State budget of the Republic. If elections to the Czech National Council are held simultaneously with those to the Federal Assembly, the manner of reimbursement is to be agreed upon between respective bodies of the Czech Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.
2. Each political party independently reimburses expenditures on electoral campaign, for instance, by obtaining bank credit.
3. After inspection of elections of Deputies to Czech National Council, the Presidium of the Czech National Council presents to the Ministry of Finance, Prices and Salary of Czech Republic data on number of valid votes, obtained by individual political parties; that political party, which in the course of elections gained more than two per cent of total number of valid votes, will obtain from the State budget reimbursement in the amount of 10 crowns per each vote cast for it.

CHAPTER IX. TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUSIVE REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 55. Regulations on Authorities

1. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Czech Republic, on the basis of agreement with Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs:

   a) determines in detail the tasks of National committees in:

      1) formation of electoral divisions;
      2) compiling voter lists;
      3) printing ballots;
      4) locating and equipping polling stations;
      5) storing ballots and other documents, concerning the conduct of elections;

   b) establishes form of ballots, voter lists, voter certificates, single certificates, Deputy's certificate; in addition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic may establish forms of other documents, concerned with the conduct of elections;
   c) has the right to stipulate procedures of co-operation with bodies of the State management (Article 51, section 1) when inspecting correctness of data in accordance with Article 15, section 1).

[11] Resolution of Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Provisions No. 236/1988 "on Socially-Useful Activity". Resolution of the Government No. 12/1968 "on Salary and Bonus for Deputies of National Committees and Members of Commissions of National Committees".

The Czech Statistical Agency, on agreement with Ministry of Internal Affairs and in co-operation with Federal Statistical Agency, develops methods of processing voting results.

ARTICLE 56.

All measures, undertaken by respective bodies of the State management on implementation of present Law, in spite of this Law not coming into legal force yet, shall be considered so, as if the Law has already legal power.

ARTICLE 57. Cancellation of Old Law

Be it enacted by this the cancellation of Law No. 53/1971 "on elections to the Czech National Council" with the exception of the regulations of Article 49, which shall become null and void on the election day.

ARTICLE 58. Coming Into Force of Law

1. This Law comes into force from the date of its publication.
2. This Law has legal power only for the conduct of elections to the Czech National Council in 1990.

Estonia

RIIGIKOGU ELECTORAL LAW

Passed in Riigikogu on June 7, 1994

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1. Basis of the Electoral System

Members of the Republic of Estonia Riigikogu (State Assembly) shall be elected in free elections on the basis of general, uniform and direct franchise by secret voting.

ARTICLE 2. General Franchise

1. Every Republic of Estonia citizen who has attained the age of 18 years on the election day shall be entitled to vote.
2. Any Republic of Estonia citizen who is entitled to vote and has attained 21 years of age on the election day may be a candidate for member of the Riigikogu.
3. Any citizen who has been declared mentally incompetent by a court of law shall not be entitled to vote.
4. Any citizen who has been convicted by a court of law and is serving a sentence in a detention facility shall not participate in the elections.

ARTICLE 3. Uniform Franchise

Each elector shall have one vote in electing the Riigikogu.

ARTICLE 4. Direct Franchise

Election results shall be determined on the basis of the expression of the will of those persons who directly participate in the elections.

ARTICLE 5. Secret Ballot

Voting in the Riigikogu elections shall be held by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 6. Holding of Elections

1. Regular Riigikogu elections shall be held on the first Sunday in March of every fourth year following the previous elections to the Riigikogu.
2. Pre-term Riigikogu elections shall be held in the cases established in the Constitution.

ARTICLE 7. Declaration of Elections

1. Regular and pre-term Riigikogu elections shall be declared by the President of the Republic by a Presidential resolution, in accordance with item 3 of Article 78 of the Constitution.
2. Regular elections to the Riigikogu shall be declared by the President of the Republic not less than three months prior to the day of the Riigikogu election day.
3. Pre-term Riigikogu elections shall be declared by the President of the Republic within three days counted from the date such obligation arises in the cases established in Article 89, 105 and 119 of the Constitution. Within this same period the President of the Republic may on proposal by the Government of the Republic declare special elections if a motion of non-confidence is brought against the Government of the Republic or the Prime Minister, in accordance with article 97 of the Constitution.

ARTICLE 8. Election Related Expenses

1. Expenses for the organization and holding of elections to the Riigikogu shall be deferred from the state budget.
2. The election campaigns of political parties, electoral coalitions and individual candidates shall not be financed from state or local budgets.
3. Within the period of one month after the announcement of the election results the political parties, electoral coalitions and individual candidates shall present a report to the National Electoral Committee on campaign expenditures and the origin of funds used. The reports shall be subject reviewed in accordance with the law.

CHAPTER II. ELECTORAL REGIONS AND POLLING DISTRICTS

ARTICLE 9. Formation of Electoral Regions

1. 11 multi-mandate electoral regions shall be formed for the Riigikogu elections:

1)	electoral region No. 1	Tallinn city districts of Haabersti, Northern Tallinn and Kristine;
2)	electoral region No. 2	Tallinn city districts of City Center, Lasnamae and Pirita;
3)	electoral region No. 3	Tallinn city districts of Mustamae and Nomme;
4)	electoral region No. 4	Harjumaa (except Tallinn) and Raplamaa;
5)	electoral region No. 5	Hiiumaa, Laanemaa and Saaremaa;
6)	electoral region No. 6	Laane-Virumaa and Ida-Virumaa;

7) electoral region No. 7 Jarvamaa and Viljandimaa;
8) electoral region No. 8 Jogevamaa and Tartumaa (except the city of Tartu);
9) electoral region No. 9 City of Tartu;
10) electoral region No. 10 Vorumaa, Valgamaa and Polvamaa;
11) electoral region No. 11 Parnumaa.

2. Estonian citizens entitled to vote who reside permanently on the territory of the Republic of Estonia which is not under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Estonia shall vote in either Electoral Regions No. 6 or 10, respectively.
3. Estonian citizens who permanently reside abroad shall vote in the electoral region corresponding to their parents' (grandparents') last permanent place of residence in Estonia.
4. The Government of the Republic shall inform the National Electoral Committee of the number of Estonian citizens entitled to vote who permanently reside abroad and who reside on the Estonian territory which is not under jurisdiction of the Republic of Estonia, by electoral region, by no later than 80 days prior to the regular Riigikogu election day.
5. One hundred and one (101) members shall be elected to the Riigikogu. Mandates shall be distributed between the electoral regions on the principle of proportionality in accordance with the number of citizens entitled to vote.
6. The mandates shall be distributed by the National Electoral Committee not later than 75 days before the date of elections to the Riigikogu.

ARTICLE 10. Bases for Forming Polling Districts

1. In order to organize voting each electoral region shall be divided into polling districts which shall be formed within the boundaries of each rural municipality (vald) and town, or each city district in Tallinn.
2. Polling districts may also be formed in Republic of Estonia foreign missions with the permission of the receiving state.

ARTICLE 11. Procedure for Forming Polling Districts

1. Polling districts shall be formed by the respective rural municipality or town council. The respective territorial committee shall systematically number the number of the polling districts.
2. The Polling districts shall be formed and polling stations shall be designated taking into account, where possible, the elector's place of residence, such that the elector shall vote in the polling station closest to his/her place of residence.
3. The Government of the Republic shall form polling districts within the foreign missions of the Republic of Estonia and shall advise the National Electoral Committee of their location.
4. Polling districts shall be formed no less than 50 days before the election day.

CHAPTER III. ELECTORAL COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 12. The System of Electoral Committees

1. Elections to the Riigikogu shall be organized and held by the following electoral committees:

   1) the National Electoral Committee;
   2) county and City of Tallinn and City of Tartu territorial electoral committees;
   3) polling district committees.

2. The term of office of the territorial electoral committees shall be four years.
3. Only Estonian citizens entitled to vote may be members of an electoral committee.

ARTICLE 13. Formation of the National Electoral Committee

1. The National Electoral Committee shall be formed by the Riigikogu with eighteen members. The Riigikogu shall appoint he Chairman of the National Electoral Committee and four alternate members who shall replace any members who may withdraw during the term of office of the electoral committee.
2. Candidates for the National Electoral Committee shall be nominated by the county governors and the mayors of Tallinn and Tartu.
3. The composition of the National Electoral Committee shall not be augmented in the period between the time the elections are declared and the time the election results are announced.
4. Organizational and technical services for the National Electoral Committee shall be provided by the Riigikogu Chancellery.

ARTICLE 14. The Authority of the National Electoral Committee

The National Electoral Committee shall:

1) monitor the observance of the Electoral Law and guarantee its uniform application by issuing guidelines, clarifications and regulations;
2) draft a schedule for the organization and holding of pre-term elections to the Riigikogu;
3) draft and confirm the standards for all election related documents, the regulations for their completion, storage and disposal and the standards for the ballot boxes and seals;

4) organize the printing of election-related documents and their delivery to the territorial committees;
5) distribute the mandates between the electoral regions;
6) determine, in accordance with the law, the amount of the deposit to be paid upon nomination of a candidate;
7) register electoral coalitions;
8) register all nominated candidates and candidate lists in each electoral region and shall confirm the general list of candidates in each electoral region;
9) delete registered candidates from a list of candidates in the cases established in paragraph 5, Article 28 of the present Law;
10) publish notices concerning the results of the counting of votes and shall determine the results of the elections to the Riigikogu;
11) register and publish the list of elected Riigikogu members;
12) register the alternate Riigikogu members;
13) register the delegated representatives of foreign states, international organizations and recognized non-governmental organizations and shall issue corresponding letters of authority;
14) confirm the budget for the elections and the allocation of funds for election expenses;
15) receive and make public reports from political parties, electoral coalitions and individual candidates on the campaign expenses;
16) adopt decisions on organizational and technical matters related to the elections;
17) review and adopt decisions regarding petitions and complaints regarding the decisions and activities of territorial electoral committees;
18) organize the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Riigikogu and shall resolve any submitted protests.

ARTICLE 15. Formation of the Territorial Committees

1. The territorial electoral committee in each county shall be formed and its composition shall be altered by the county governor. In Tallinn and Tartu the territorial electoral committee shall be formed and altered by the mayor.
2. Territorial committees shall be composed of up to 13 members.
3. The county governor shall appoint the members of the territorial committee from among candidates nominated by the rural municipality and town councils, and the Chairman of the committee from among such members, and up to three alternate members from among candidates not appointed to replace members who may withdraw during the term of office of the territorial committee.
4. In Tallinn and Tartu the Chairman, members and alternate members shall be appointed by the mayor.
5. The composition of the territorial committee shall not be augmented in the period between the time the elections are declared and the time the election results are announced.
6. The territorial committee shall be serviced by the County Government Office, in Tallinn and in Tartu by the City Government Office.
7. The territorial committee shall be formed no less than 75 days prior to the election day.

ARTICLE 16. Authority of the Territorial Committee

The territorial committee shall:

1) monitor the observance of the Election Law and the correctness of the organization and holding of the elections;
2) confirm the systematic numeration of the polling districts;
3) deliver the general lists of candidates and national list of candidates, ballot papers and other standards for election related documents to the polling district committees and shall clarify the regulations for their completion, storage and disposal;
4) determine the election results in the counties and in Tallinn and Tartu;
5) fulfill the guidelines and directives issued by the National Electoral Committee;
6) adopt decisions regarding organizational and technical matters within the limits of funds allocated by the National Electoral Committee;
7) review and adopt decisions regarding petitions and complaints submitted regarding the decisions and activities of polling district committees.

ARTICLE 17. Formation of Polling District Committees

1. The polling district committee shall be formed by the rural municipality or town council with up to nine members, whereby a Chairman of the committee shall be appointed from among the members and up to three alternate members shall be appointed to replace members who may withdraw during the term of office of the committee.
2. Polling district committees shall be formed no less than 20 days prior to the election day.
3. The polling district committees within Estonia's foreign missions shall be formed by the Government of the Republic no less than 20 days prior to the election day.

ARTICLE 18. Authority of Polling District Committees

The polling district committee shall:

1) notify electors about the location and office hours of the polling district committee and the time and location of voting;
2) provide the opportunity to examine the electoral roll and shall review petitions to amend the roll;
3) provide electors with the opportunity to examine the general list of candidates for the electoral region and, at the request of any elector, the national list of candidates;
4) provide for the preparation of the polling stations and ballot boxes;
5) organize voting, early voting at home;
6) determine the voting results in the given polling district;
7) review and adopt decision regarding petitions and complaints regarding the organization and holding of elections.

ARTICLE 19. Organization of the Work of Electoral Committee

1. The Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the electoral committee shall be elected by the committee from among its members.
2. The work of the committee shall be carried out at its meetings, which shall be convened by the Chairman of the Committee or, in his absence, by the Vice-Chairman. The committee shall be competent to pass resolutions with at least half of the committee's members present, including the Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Decisions of the committee shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes. Any member of the committee who disagrees with a decision adopted by the committee may have his/her dissenting opinion added to the decision adopted by the committee.
3. Decisions adopted by the National Electoral Committee shall be binding on territorial and polling district committees.
4. Complaints regarding the decisions and activity of polling district committees may be submitted to territorial committees; complaints regarding the decisions and activity of territorial electoral committees may be submitted to the National Electoral Committee. Decisions of the National Electoral Committee regarding the registration of candidates and candidate lists and election results may be contested in the court of law.
5. Members of electoral committees shall be remunerated from funds allocated for the organization of elections in accordance with procedures established by the National Electoral Committee.
6. Members of electoral committees shall have no right to campaign for or against any candidate, political party or electoral coalition. Members of electoral committees may not initiate nomination of any candidate or candidate list, act as an authorized representative of any political party or electoral coalition for the nomination of a candidate, nor be a candidate for the Riigikogu.
7. A member of an electoral committee may be released from his/her duties by the body who had formed the committee. Such decision may be based on a personal application by the member or a justified decision of the electoral committee or of a court of law.
8. Electoral committees shall inform the public of their meetings, of decisions adopted and events to be organized. Committee meetings shall be public.

ARTICLE 20. Assistance to Electoral Committees

1. National and local government agencies shall be obligated to assist the electoral committees in fulfilling their duties and to provide them data and materials necessary for their work.
2. Electoral committees shall have the right to petition national and local government agencies with matters related to the organization of elections, which shall be obligated to respond to the electoral committee within three working days as from the date such petition is received.

CHAPTER IV. ENUMERATION OF ELECTORS

ARTICLE 21. National Register Of Estonian Citizens Entitled To Vote

1. The right to vote in the elections to the Riigikogu shall be vested in the citizens of Estonia entitled to vote who have been entered in the National Register of Estonian Citizens Entitled to Vote (hereinafter the National Register) in accordance with the established order.
2. Each Estonian citizen entitled to vote shall be entered in the National Register in the rural municipality or town in which the person permanently resides as of December 1 of the year preceding the elections.
3. An Estonian citizen entitled to vote who permanently resides on the territory of the Republic of Estonia which is not under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Estonia shall be entered in the National Register in accordance with procedures established by the Government of the Republic.
4. Estonian citizens entitled to vote who permanently reside in a foreign state shall be entered in the National Register in the foreign missions of the Estonian Republic in accordance with procedures established by the Government of the Republic.
5. The National Register shall be maintained separately for each electoral region formed for the previous regular elections.
6. Procedures for making entries and maintaining the National Register shall be established by the Government of the Republic.

ARTICLE 22. Elector's Card

1. The rural municipality or town government shall send and elector's card to all persons entered in the National Register no later than twenty days prior to the election day.

2. The elector's card shall indicated the elector's given name and surname, elector number according to the electoral roll, the elector's year of birth and place of residence, the polling district in which the elector is entered in the electoral roll, the time and location of early voting, the election day and location of the polling station on the election day.
3. Any elector, who by the due date for public display the electoral roll has not received an elector's card or whose elector's card has been marked with corresponding to his/her place of residence for clarification or correction of any inaccuracy.

ARTICLE 23. Compiling the Electoral Roll

1. A standard electoral roll shall be compiled for each polling district. All citizens entered in the National Register shall be entered in an electoral roll. Each elector shall be entered in only one electoral roll.
2. The electoral roll shall be compiled by a rural municipality or town government, in Tallinn by the city district government, and shall be signed by the rural municipality or town secretary, in Tallinn by the city district administrative secretary.
3. The electoral roll shall be delivered to the polling district committee by no later than 17 days prior to the election day.
4. The electoral roll in polling districts formed within the foreign missions of the Republic of Estonia shall be compiled in accordance with procedures established by the Government of the Republic.

ARTICLE 24. Review of the Electoral Roll in the Polling District

1. Upon receipt of the electoral roll, the polling district committee shall check that all electors entered in the roll belong in the given polling district proceeding from their place of residence. The rural municipality or town government, in Tallinn the city district government, shall be immediately informed of any elector who is incorrectly entered in the roll, whereafter the elector shall be deleted from the roll. The rural municipality or town government, in Tallinn the city district government, shall make correction to the National Register and shall communicate the data regarding any elector entered into an incorrect roll to the polling district committee corresponding to the electoral roll in which the elector belongs, and shall send a new elector's card to the elector concerned.
2. Once the electoral roll has been reviewed and all the necessary corrections and amendments have been made, the Chairman of the polling district committee shall sign the roll and 15 days prior to the election day the electoral roll shall be displayed for the examination by the public in the office of the polling district committee or in the polling station.

ARTICLE 25. Examination of and Amendments and Corrections to the Electoral Roll

1. Every elector may examine the correctness of the entries in the electoral roll regarding himself/herself or other electors after the electoral roll has been displayed for public examination.
2. If an elector finds that he/she or some other elector has been omitted from the electoral roll or that a person has been entered in the electoral roll incorrectly, the elector shall be have the right to demand that the polling district committee make the corresponding amendments and corrections.
3. The polling district committee shall immediately check the accuracy of data and documents filed by the elector.
4. In case and elector has been entered in the electoral roll but has been entered in the Register the polling district committee shall enter the elector in the electoral roll.
5. In case a person who is an alleged and elector has not been entered in the National Register, or a person stated who in entered in the electoral roll is allegedly not an elector, the polling district committee shall immediately so advise the rural municipality or town government, in Tallinn the city district government, whereby it shall forward data received from the person who demands that and elector be added or deleted from the electoral roll.
6. The rural municipality or town government, in Tallinn the city district government, shall review the submitted petition and, within three working days from receipt of such petition, shall adopt a decision on the matter, which shall be made known to the petitioners and to the polling district committee. The petitioner for amendments to be made to the electoral roll may be present when the decision is adopted.
7. In case the petition to add or delete a person from an electoral roll has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the applicant, the latter may, within three working days form the time he/she is advised of the decision of the rural municipality or town government, in Tallinn of the decision of the city district government bring a petition before the corresponding court of law, which shall review the petition within three working days of its receipt.
8. Any inaccuracies in an entry regarding and elector's given name and surname, year of birth and place of residence shall be corrected immediately upon the presentation of a document attesting to the inaccuracy.
9. All amendments and corrections to the electoral roll shall be immediately entered in the National Register as well.
10. On the election day the electoral roll shall be amended in the case of the death of an elector on the basis of a death certificate.

On the election day the electoral roll shall be amended with the addition of persons entered in the National Register on the basis of data received from the registration.

CHAPTER V. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 26. Nomination of Candidates

1. Any citizen of Estonia entitled to vote who meets all the requirement established in Article 2 of the present Law may be nominated as a candidate for elections to the Riigikogu.
2. Any citizen of Estonia entitled to vote who is to be nominated as a candidate member of the Riigikogu must be entered in the National Register. Nomination shall not be restricted to the electoral region corresponding to a person.
3. Individual candidates and candidate lists may be nominated by a political party or by an electoral coalition registered

according to the provisions of Article 27 of the present Law. Individual candidates may be nominated by any citizen of Estonia entitled to vote including by a person who himself/herself expresses a wish to be a candidate in the elections to the Riigikogu.

4. Within one week after the date of the elections are declared the government agency appointed by the Government of the Republic shall send a list of political parties to the National Electoral Committee.
5. Political parties shall within two weeks from the date the elections are declared submit to the National Electoral Committee data regarding the persons who are authorized to represent them.
6. The nomination of candidates shall begin on the date following the date mandates are distributed among the electoral regions by the National Electoral Committee.
7. Candidates shall be nominated by electoral region as candidate lists or individual candidates. Any political party or an electoral coalition may only nominate one candidate list in one electoral region.
8. In case a political party or an electoral coalition nominates candidates on a candidate list of the same name in more than one electoral region, the national candidate list shall be submitted simultaneously with the electoral region candidate list when the candidates are nominated. The electoral coalition shall specify the political party represented by every candidate.
9. Any one candidate may be nominated only in one electoral region.
10. The order of candidates on the candidate list shall be determined by the nominator.
11. Data regarding candidates and candidate lists shall be submitted to the National Electoral Committee no late than 45 days prior to the election day. The data and lists shall be submitted according to a standard application established by the National Electoral Committee.
12. The standard application to nominate a candidate or candidate list must be accompanied by the following items regarding each candidate indicated on the application:

    1) a standard letter of consent personally written and signed by the candidate indicating consent to be nominated and to be a candidate in the given electoral region on the nominator's list or as an individual candidate, with confirmation that the candidate has a sufficient command of the Estonian language to participate in the work of the Riigikogu;
    2) an oath of conscience personally written, dated and signed by the candidate or a notice indicating to whom, in what context and when he/she has previously taken such oath.

13. Each candidate list shall be given a title, which must include the word "nimekin" (list). The title may neither be offensive nor misleading.
14. A political party or a registered electoral coalition may use its officially registered name in the title of its list. It shall be prohibited to use the exact official name of another political party or electoral coalition or a name which is in some way similar, in the title of a list.
15. The nominator of a candidate or candidate list shall transfer a deposit to the National Electoral Committee's bank account in an amount equal to twice the minimum monthly wage per candidate. The nominator shall submit a receipt or copy of the payment order to prove that the deposit has been transferred to the National electoral Committee's bank account when making the nominations.
16. The deposit shall be refunded in case the candidate is elected or receives a number of votes in the electoral region equal to at least one half of the simple quota or if the national list participates in the distribution of compensation mandates. Deposits which are not refunded shall be transferred into state revenue by the National Electoral Committee.

ARTICLE 27. Electoral Coalition

1. Political parties may unite into electoral coalitions. Any one political party may belong to only one electoral coalition.
2. Electoral coalitions shall be formed and submitted to the National Electoral Committee for registration no later than 55 days prior to the election day.
3. Electoral coalition must be formed before the nomination of candidates.
4. In order to register an electoral coalition the authorized representatives of the electoral coalitions shall submit an application to the National Electoral Committee which shall be supplemented with:

    1) a document attesting to their authority;
    2) the founding agreement of the electoral coalition which indicates the name of the electoral coalition and the seals and signatures of persons authorized by the political parties founding the electoral coalition.

5. The National Electoral Committee shall not register an electoral coalition in case the application and other required documents specified in paragraph 4 above are not submitted by the due date for registration of an electoral coalition.

ARTICLE 28. Registration of Candidates

1. The National Electoral Committee shall no later than 40 days prior to the election day register all individual candidates and candidate lists submitted in accordance with the requirements established in the present Law. The Committee shall check whether individual candidates and candidate lists submitted for registration are in accordance with the requirements of the present Law in the order they are submitted.
2. In case upon submission fore registration of individual candidates or lists of candidates any data are missing or incorrect the person who receives the application shall propose to the applicant that the data be completed or the inaccuracies corrected. All documents submitted shall be returned. The person who submitted an application or a candidate list shall confirm the

return of the documents with his/her signature. Upon submitting the application or the list anew it shall be considered as submitted for the first time and shall be taken into consideration as of the date of this submission.

3. In case an application or candidate list is submitted before 6:00 p.m. on the 45th day prior tot he election day and if the application or candidate list is incomplete, the application or candidate list shall be accepted. The National Electoral Committee shall adopt a justified decision in regard to any such applicant or list. If incomplete information or inaccuracies are found in data relating to one or more candidate, such candidates shall not be registered..
4. Upon registration each candidate shall be assigned a registration number. Registration numbers shall begin with 101 and shall be issued in the order of candidates are submitted for registration.
5. After candidates have been registered it shall be prohibited to make amendments to an application for the registration of ac candidate or candidate list, with the exception of:

   1) in case a candidate foregoes his/her candidature on the basis of a personal petition within 10 days after registration;
   2) in case a candidate is deceased;
   3) in case the candidate proves not to meet the requirements established in Article 2 of the present Law;
   4) in case the candidate's knowledge of the official language proves not to meet the requirements arising from the Language Law.

6. Any amendments to the body of registered candidates shall be immediately entered in the general list of candidates in the given electoral region hereby the general list of candidates in the given electoral region shall be reprinted and shall be sent via the territorial committees to al relevant polling district committees. The previous general list of candidates shall be destroyed.
7. In case a candidate on the list of candidates dies or is deleted from the list of candidates within the period of time between the commencement of early voting and the election day, or on the election day, any votes cast in his/her favor shall remain with the list. Votes cast for and individual candidate who is deceased or is deleted form the list of candidates shall not be taken into account in the determination of election results.
8. In case a candidate submitted for registration is a member of an electoral committee he shall be considered to be released from his/her duties as a committee members as of the date on which the National Electoral Committee reviews the application to register him/her as a candidate.
9. A registered candidate shall have the right to receive a certificate form the National Electoral Committee indicating the candidate's name, registration number and number of the electoral region.

ARTICLE 29. General List of Candidates

1. After the registration of candidates the National Electoral Committee shall compile a general list of candidates in the elections to the Riigikogu for each electoral region separately. The candidate lists running for election in the same electoral region shall be entered in the general list of candidates for the given electoral region in the order in which they were registered. The title of the list and the name of the political party which nominated the candidates shall be indicated before the candidate list. For the candidate list of an electoral coalition the general list of candidates shall also indicate the full name of all political parties which formed the electoral coalition in addition to the title of the candidate list. Individual candidates shall be entered in the general list of candidates after the candidate lists.
2. The National Electoral Committee shall organize the printing of a general list of candidates for each electoral region and its distribution via the territorial committees to the polling district committees.
3. Each polling district committee must no later than ten days before the election day be in possession of the general list of candidates for that electoral region, and the national list of candidates. The general list of candidates shall be displayed in the office of the polling district committee, in the polling room and in each booth for secret voting. Members of the polling district committees shall carry the lists with them when holding voting at home.

ARTICLE 30. Ballot papers

1. Ballot papers shall be printed on paper which can be folded in the middle such that four pages are formed once it has been folded. The first page shall be blank, on the second page the words "Riigikogu valimised" (Riigikogu elections) and the date of the election shall be printed. The third page shall be printed with the text "Haaletan kandidaadi nr....poolt" (I vote for candidate No....) where the elector shall enter the registration number of the candidate for whom he/she is voting. The fourth page shall be blank.
2. The ballot papers shall be standard in form and shall be prepared upon the order of the National Electoral Committee.
3. Upon receipt of the ballot papers the poling election district committee shall stamp its seal on page two of all received ballot papers.
4. The ballot shall be delivered to the polling district committees no less than 16 days prior to the election day.

CHAPTER VI. VOTING PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 31. Time and Location of Voting

1. Voting on the election day shall commence at 9:00 AM and conclude at 8:00 PM.
2. Voting shall be organized by the polling district committees in designated polling stations..
3. Early voting shall commence on the third day prior to the election day and shall take place every day in the polling station and at a time, fixed by the polling district committee.

4. All electors who are present in the polling station at the conclusion of voting shall have the right to vote.
5. In a polling district the voting may be declared to be concluded at any time in case all electors on the roll have voted. The counting of votes may not begin before 8:00 p.m..
6. Voting at home shall be held on the day prior to the election day and on the election day.

ARTICLE 32. Organization of Voting

1. The polling station must contain booths for secret voting, a place where ballot papers are issued and a ballot box. In each polling station the general list of candidates for the given electoral region and the national list of candidates must be displayed.
2. The polling district committee shall be obligated to guarantee the secrecy of voting.
3. The booths for secret voting must contain the general list of candidates for the given electoral region, a table (stand) and writing utensils. Everything written with these writing utensils must be clearly legible and indelible. The booth must have sufficient lighting.
4. The place where the ballot papers are issued shall be marked such that the elector is able to se where he/she may receive a ballot paper.
5. Prior to the commencement of voting, the Chairman of the poling district committee shall examine and seal the ballot boxes in the presence of members of the committee. A legal statement shall be signed by all members of the committee present at the sealing of the box. Before the commencement of early voting the ballot box shall be sealed in accordance with requirements established in paragraph 2 of Article 34 of the present Law.
6. The order in the poling station shall be guaranteed by the polling district committee whose instructions within the limits of its authority shall be obligatory to all persons present in the poling station.
7. Neither armed persons, with the exception of security personnel, nor intoxicated persons shall be permitted into the voting room.
8. All forms of election campaign shall be prohibited in the voting room.
9. Campaigning shall be prohibited on the election day.

ARTICLE 33. Voting

1. The elector may only vote in the polling station of the polling district corresponding to his/her permanent residence. Each elector shall vote in person. An elector who is unable to fill out the ballot paper in person shall have the right to call the person of his/her choice, except a candidate for the given electoral region, into the booth of secret voting to fill out the ballot paper for him/her.
2. Other persons shall be prohibited from making a decision whom to vote for in lieu of a person who is unable to do so.
3. In case the elector discovers a mistake on the ballot paper or spoils the ballot paper he/she shall have the right to receive anew ballot paper upon return of the first ballot paper to the polling district committee. In case the elector has already marked his/her decision on a spoiled ballot he/she shall, before returning the ballot paper, cross the mark out such that the decision is not legible.
4. The ballot papers shall be issued to the electors by the members of the polling district committee on the basis of the electoral roll and a valid photo identity document. The electors shall sign the electoral roll to confirm receipt of the ballot paper.
5. The elector shall complete the ballot paper in a booth for secret voting by writing the registration number of once candidate from among the candidates in the corresponding electoral region in the space provided. The elector shall then fold the ballot paper and present it to a member of the polling district committee who shall stamp the outside of the folded ballot paper for a second time with the seal of the polling district committee. Thereafter, the elector shall place the ballot paper in the ballot box.
6. Each elector shall place the ballot paper in the ballot box personally. At the request of an elector who due to a physical disability is unable to place the ballot paper into the ballot box himself this may be done by any other person in the presence of the elector.
7. In case a member of the polling district committee suspects that an elector has previously already voted, this should be clarified before the ballot paper is places in the ballot box.
8. The opening in the ballot box must be covered and shall be opened only to allow a ballot paper to be placed in the box.

ARTICLE 34. Early Voting

1. Early voting shall be held by the polling district committee only in a polling station designated and equipped for this purpose, for which all requirements established in paragraph 1 of Article 32 of the present Law must be observed.
2. Before the commencement of early voting one ballot box shall be sealed with the seal of the territorial committee such that it is not possible to open the ballot box without spoiling the seal. The ballot box shall be sealed by a member of the territorial committee in the presence of the members of the polling district committee. A legal statement regarding the sealing of the ballot box shall be compiled and signed by all the members of the committee present at sealing.
3. The ballot box sealed for early voting shall only be used during early voting. The ballot box must be stored in a place which is inaccessible without the assistance of member of the polling district committee. The opening of the ballot box must be covered.
4. Early voting shall be held in the presence of at least two members of the polling district committee.
5. Before the commencement of early voting the territorial committee shall check the correspondence of each polling station to the requirements established in paragraphs 1-4 of Article 32 of the present Law.
6. Early voting shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Article 33 of the present Law.

7. After voting has concluded on each day of early voting the chairman of the polling district committee or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall seal the opening of the ballot box and the doors of the polling station.
8. The ballot box containing the ballot papers of electors who vote during early voting shall be opened on the election day after the conclusion of voting in accordance with the requirements established in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 36 of the present Law. The ballot papers of electors who vote during early voting shall then be stamped for a second time with the seal of the poling district committee and the ballot papers shall be added to the ballot papers of the electors who vote on the election day.

ARTICLE 35. Voting at Home

1. Any elector who due to the state of health or for some other compelling reason is unable to vote in the polling station shall have a right to apply to vote at home.
2. Voting at home shall only be held on the basis of an application for the elector which may be submitted to the polling district committee in writing, by telephone or verbally through a third party. The polling district committee shall register all applications.
3. The provisions of Article 33 of the present Law shall be observed while holding voting in an elector's home.
4. Voting at home shall be held at least two members of the polling district committee. They shall carry a ballot box which has been sealed as required, a sufficient number of ballot papers, a list of persons who will vote at home, the general list of candidates for the relevant election region, the national list of candidates and some writing utensils.
5. Data regarding electors who apply to vote at home shall be entered on the list of electors who will vote at home on the basis of the master electoral roll, whereby the number of the elector on the general list shall be used as the number on such list, and the title page of the list shall be completed in the same manner as the title page of the general list. Upon entering an elector in the list of electors who will vote at home a remark shall be entered in the appropriate space on the general list "haaletab kodus" (will vote at home). In case an elector comes to the voting room to vote at the time persons have departed to hold voting in his/her home the elector must wait for the return of the members of the committee.
6. When voting at home the elector shall sign the list of electors who will vote at home upon receipt of the ballot paper. Secrecy of voting must be guaranteed during voting at home.
7. After the members of the polling district committee return from holding voting at home the remark "haaletas kodus" (voted at home) shall be entered on the general list of electors in the space provided for the elector's signature, and the elector shall be included in the number of electors who received a ballot paper for the determination of voting results. The remark "haaletab kodus" (will vote at home) shall be deleted from the remarks column for all persons who for some reason had not voted at home.
8. The ballot box containing the ballot papers of persons who vote at home shall be opened on the election day after the conclusion of voting in accordance with the requirement established in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 36 of the present Law. Thereafter the ballot papers of persons who voted at home shall be stamped for a second time with the seal of the polling district committee and the ballot papers shall be added to the ballot papers of persons who vote on the election day.
9. The polling district committee may hold voting in hospitals, facilities for the disabled and the elderly, sanatoriums and pre-trial detention facilities located in the given polling district in the same manner and at the same time as voting at home provided that the elector can present an elector's card and an identity document. Electors who are not on the electoral roll in the given polling district shall not be entered in the list and may not vote in that polling district.

CHAPTER VII. DETERMINATION OF VOTING AND ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 36. Determination of Voting Results in the Polling District

1. The polling district committee shall open the ballot boxes on the election day after the conclusion of voting. Over one half of the members of the polling district committee must be present at the opening.
2. Before the ballot boxes are opened the polling district committee must count and void all ballot papers which were not issued to an elector or were returned. Ballot papers shall be voided by cutting off one corner of the paper.
3. Upon opening the ballot box the seal on the ballot box shall be examined for which a legal statement shall be compiled.
4. The polling district committee shall determine the total number of the electors and the number of electors who received a ballot paper on the basis of the electoral roll, the number of the electors who participated in the voting based on the number of ballot papers in the ballot box, the number of spoiled ballot papers and the number of votes cast for each candidate and candidate list.
5. Any ballot paper which does not comply with the standard established by the National Electoral Committee, which has not been twice stamped with the seal of the polling district committee, which has not been marked with the registration number of any candidate or is marked with more than one registration number, or is marked with the registration number of a candidate who is not a candidate in the given electoral region, or which is marked with a registration number which has been corrected however is not clearly understandable, or is marked with a registration number of a candidate which is not legible, shall be voided. In case a ballot paper is not completed as required however has been clearly marked, without correction, with the choice of the elector, the ballot paper shall be considered as valid. In disputable cases the validity of the ballot paper shall be decided by the polling district committee by a vote.
6. A standard report shall be compiled regarding the determination of voting results. The report shall be signed by the Chairman and secretary of the committee. The report shall indicate the exact time and the date it is written.
7. After the voting results have been determined the valid ballot papers which were in the ballot boxes shall be placed in separate packages: by candidate, voided ballots, ballot which were not issued to an elector or were returned. The packages shall be marked with the number of the polling district, the type of ballot paper and the number of ballot papers in the package. The markings shall be signed by the Chairman of the polling district committee. The packages shall be stamped

with the seal of the polling district committee.

8. The ballot papers, electoral rolls, reports, dissenting opinions of committee members, petitions and complaints submitted to the committee and the legal statement regarding the state of the seals at the opening of the ballot boxes shall be immediately delivered to the territorial committee.
9. The determination of voting results shall be public.

ARTICLE 37. Determination of Election Results

1. On the basis of the reports received from the polling district committees the territorial committee shall determine the total number of electors, the total number of electors who participated in the elections, the total number of valid votes and voided ballot papers, and the number of votes cast for each candidate and each candidate list. These results shall be controlled through a recount of all ballot papers.
2. On the basis of data submitted by all the territorial electoral committees, the National Electoral Committee shall determine the total number of electors, the number of the electors who participated in the elections, the total number of valid votes and voided ballot papers and the number of votes cast for each candidate and list by electoral region.
3. In case the Electoral Law is violated in any polling district the National Electoral Committee may declare the elections and all votes cast in the said polling district to be void.
4. A simple quota shall be calculated for each electoral region which shall be determined by dividing the number of valid votes cast by the number of mandates.
5. Candidates who obtain a number of votes which exceeds or equals the simple quota shall be elected.
6. Candidates shall be listed in order of votes obtained on lists which are included in the distribution of national compensation mandates. The number of votes cast for all candidates on one list shall be totaled. The list shall receive as many mandates as the number of times the number of votes obtained in the electoral district exceeds the simple quota. Those candidates at the top of the list who receive a number of votes equal to at least ten percent of the simple quota shall be considered as elected. In case two candidates receive an equal number of votes the candidate who was listed higher on the national list of candidates shall have priority.
7. Election results in counties and cities of Tallinn and Tartu shall be entered into the reports of the corresponding territorial committees by polling district. The final election results shall be entered into the report of the National Electoral Committee. The report shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the corresponding committee. The dissenting opinions of committee members, petitions and complaints, received by the committee in the course of voting, counting of votes, determination of the election results or regarding violation of the Electoral Law shall be included in the report.
8. The determination of election results shall be public.

ARTICLE 38. Distribution of Compensation Mandates

1. Mandates not distributed in electoral regions on the basis of simple quota shall be distributed as compensation mandates between the national lists of those political parties and electoral coalitions whose candidates obtained at least 5% of the national vote whoever not between less than two lists.
2. In the distribution of compensation mandates, a modified d'Hondt distribution method shall be used with the distribution series of 2 to the 0.9, 3 to the 0.9, 4 to the 0.9, etc. In the calculation of the comparative figures of each list, as many first elements of the series as there are mandates distributed on the basis of simple quota to the same list in the electoral regions shall by disregarded. In the case of equal comparative figures the list which was registered first shall have priority.
3. For national lists, those candidates who appear at the top of the list shall receive compensation mandates. For the purposes of distributing mandates, the names of candidates on the list who have been elected by a simple quota in the territorial electoral district shall be disregarded.
4. No list shall receive more mandates than there are candidates on the list.

ARTICLE 39. Substitute Riigikogu Members

1. In case the term of a Riigikogu member is suspended or prematurely terminated he/she shall be replaced by a substitute member, unless it is other wise established in the law.
2. The substitute Riigikogu member shall be the first candidate who was not elected to the Riigikogu from amongst candidates on the same national list on which the member of the Riigikogu to be replaced was a candidate. In case the first not elected candidate for some reason cannot accede to the membership in the Riigikogu the substitute member shall be the next subsequent not elected candidate from the same list according to his/her order on the national list.
3. In case the Riigikogu member to be replaced was not a candidate on a list or there are no more candidates on the same list the substitute member shall be the candidate who is awarded a supplementary mandate based on distribution between national list, which has been registered by the National Electoral Committee.

CHAPTER VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 40. Registration of Members of the Riigikogu and Alternate Members and the Commencement of their Term of Office

1. The National Electoral Committee shall register the elected members of the Riigikogu and shall publish a notice of the final election results in the "Riigi Teataja" (State Gazette) together with a complete list of elected members no later than 10 days after the election day. The term of office of the Riigikogu members shall commence on the date the election results are announced.

2. The National Electoral Committee shall register the alternate Riigikogu members and shall forward the list of the names to the Board of the Riigikogu. The authority of an alternate Riigikogu member as Riigikogu member shall commence on the working day following the date a decision by the Board is adopted.

ARTICLE 41. Submission and Review of Petitions and Complaints

1. Petitions and complaints regarding the incorrectness of data entered in the electoral roll, regarding omissions from the electoral roll or regarding the entering of an elector on an electoral roll who is not in the National Register, may be submitted to the corresponding rural municipality or town government which shall review them in accordance with the procedures and due dates established in Article 25 of the present Law.
2. Petitions and complaints regarding the activities or decisions of the polling district committees shall be submitted to the corresponding territorial committee which shall review them within three working days whereby it shall make its decision known to the petitioner and the polling district committee.
3. Complaints against the activities and the decisions of the territorial committees shall be submitted to the National Electoral Committee which shall review them within seven days whereby it shall make its decision known to the complainant and the territorial committee.
4. Complaints concerning the registration or refusal to register a nominated candidate or candidate list shall be submitted to the National Electoral Committee which shall review the complaint within three working days whereby it shall make its decision known to the complainant of its decision.
5. The petitions and complaints stipulated in the present Article shall be submitted:

   1) in the cases stipulated in paragraph 4 of the present Article - within three days after the decision was adopted concerning the registration, or refusal of registration of candidates or lists of candidates;
   2) in the cases stipulated in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present Article - up until the announcement of the final results of the elections.

6. Failure to comply with the requirements for submitting petitions and complaints established in the present Article shall not deprive any person the right of petitioning the court of law directly by the due dates established in paragraph 5 of the present Article. Every person shall also have the right to petition the court of law after a petition or complaint submitted by him/her is not resolved in his/her favor by the respective rural municipality or town government or electoral committee. In such cases the due dates established in paragraph 5 of the present Article shall be calculated as of the date the decisions not to resolve a petition of complaint in the petitioner's favor is made known.

ARTICLE 42. Responsibility for Violating of Electoral Law

1. In case a polling district committee is proved to have violated the provisions of the present Law the National Electoral Committee may suspend the activities of that polling district committee and my propose to the corresponding rural municipality or town council to release those members of the polling district committee who committed the violations the law or to approve a new composition of the polling district committee.
2. In case it is determined that a polling district committee or a member of a polling district committee has violated the provisions of ht present Law, the territorial committee may propose to the corresponding rural municipality or town council to release the members of that poling district committee and to appoint a new composition of the committee, or to release the member who had violated the law form his/her duties as a member of the committee.
3. In case a territorial committee or member of a territorial committee is proved to have violated the provisions of the present Law or in the cases where a territorial committee has neither prevented nor removed the violation of the law by a third party, the National Electoral Committee shall propose to the corresponding county governor, in Tallinn and Tartu to the mayor, to release the members of that territorial committee and to approve a new composition of the territorial committee or to release the member who violated the law from his/her duties as a member of the committee.
4. Persons who violate Electoral Law shall be held liable for an administrative or criminal offense.

ARTICLE 43. Term of Office of the National Electoral Committee and the Territorial Committees

1. The term of office of the National Electoral Committee formed by the Order of the Supreme Council of the Estonian Republic of April 16, 1992 shall be in force until April 30, 1996.
2. The term of office of the county and Tallinn and Tartu territorial committees shall have force until April 30, 1996.

ARTICLE 44. Invalidation of Laws

The following shall be declared invalid:

1) Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic Law on Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic (ENSV Teataja 1978, No. 42, Article. 523);
2) Electoral Law of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic (ENSV Teataja 1989, No. 36, Article. 552);
3) Republic of Estonia Riigikogu Electoral Law (RT 1992, No. 13, Article. 201);
4) Republic of Estonia Law on Changes and Amendments to the Republic of Estonia Riigikogu Electoral Law (RT 1992, No. 28, Article. 382)

Hungary

ACT No. XXXIV OF 1989 ON THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
(As modified by Act No. III of 1994)

PART I. SUFFRAGE

ARTICLE 1.

Suffrage shall be general and equal, and voting shall be direct and secret.

ARTICLE 2.

1. Every adult Hungarian citizen except those mentioned in paragraph (2) shall have the right to vote during the election of Members of Parliament in the Republic of Hungary (hereafter referred to as voter).
2. Any person who:

   a) is under guardianship which excludes or restricts his capacity for action;
   b) has been barred by a final judicial decision from participating in public affairs;
   c) is serving a prison sentence;
   d) has been committed to compulsory medical treatment in criminal proceedings

   shall be disqualified from the franchise.

3. Every person entitled to vote and domiciled in Hungary shall have the right to be elected.
4. Any person staying abroad on the day of election and having no permanent or temporary place of residence in Hungary shall be prevented from exercising the right to vote.

ARTICLE 3.

Exercise of the right to vote shall be optional.

PART II. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

CHAPTER I. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

ARTICLE 4.

1. The number of MPs shall total 386.
2. There shall be elected 176 MPs in individual constituencies and 152 in county and metropolitan (hereafter territorial) ones. On the basis of a national aggregate of votes less than required for mandates in individual and territorial constituencies the parties may obtain an additional 58 compensatory mandates from the national list.
3. The number of individual constituencies in the counties and the capital city and that of the mandates obtainable in each territorial constituency as well as the principles governing the establishment of constituencies are determined by the Schedule hereto.
4. MPs shall have equal rights and duties.

CHAPTER II. NOMINATION

ARTICLE 5.

1. Candidates in individual constituencies may be nominated, subject to the conditions specified by paragraph (2), by voters and social organizations complying with the provisions of the Act on the Functioning and Finances of Political Parties (henceforth: party). Candidates may also be nominated jointly by two or more parties. In the event of a candidate being jointly nominated by two or more parties, the names of each nominating party must be presented on the nomination coupon.
2. To be nominated in an individual constituency, a person shall have the proposals of at least 750 electors with their signatures affixed thereto. Proposals shall not be made except on a "nomination coupon" as indicated in the Schedule affixed hereto. If a candidate has been nominated separately as an individual and also a party candidate, the nominating coupons cannot be merged. A voter may propose only one candidate in one individual constituency, and only in the individual constituency in which he/she is a resident. In the event of a vote proposing more than one candidate, each of his nominations become void.
3. Candidates in territorial constituencies may be nominated by parties on territorial lists. A territorial fist may be drawn up by the party which in a territorial constituency has, in one-fourth, of the individual constituencies but in at least two individual constituencies, presented the number of candidates specified by the Schedule hereto. The right to present a list of candidates shall not be prejudiced by a party candidate having withdrawn in an individual constituency after the first poll.
4. A national list may be presented by the party which has drawn up lists in at least seven territorial constituencies.

5. (5) Parties - in case of their joint individual constituency nomination - may jointly present territorial and national lists, furthermore they may combine their lists.
6. Three times as many candidates may be put forward on territorial and nation lists as ere are mandates obtainable on those lists. If the number of announced candidates is smaller than the number of mandates on the fist, the remaining mandates shall remain vacant.
7. One and the same person may be put forward as a candidate concurrently in one individual constituency, on one territorial list and on the national list. If a candidate has obtained a mandate in the individual constituency, his name shall be stricken from the territorial or the nationalist. If he has obtained a mandate on the territorial list, Ms name shall be stricken from the national list.
8. If a candidate is eliminated from a party list, he shall be replaced by the next succeeding candidate.
9. An elected representative of the Social Security Self-governments cannot be proposed as a candidate for a parliamentary seat.

ARTICLE 6.

1. The candidates of individual constituencies shall be presented to the electoral board of the respective constituency, those on the territorial list to the territorial electoral committee, and those on the nationalist to the National Electoral Board, not later than at 4 o'clock PM, thirty days before the election.
2. Contemporaneously with the presentation, the candidate is obliged to hand in to the respective electoral board his personal data: name, address, personal identification number. The nomination shall be accompanied by the candidate's declaration to the effect that he/she:

   a) has the franchise;
   b) accepts the nomination;
   c) holds no post incompatible with his/her mandate as MP or, if he/she holds one, shall relinquish it once elected.

3. If after the presentation of the nomination a candidate is eliminated from a territorial or national party-list, the party may put forward another candidate not later than eight days before the election.
4. The electoral boards shall enter on the register all candidates nominated in accordance with the requirements of this law.

CHAPTER III. DETERMINATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 7.

1. A candidate in an individual constituency shall become an MP after the first poll if he/she has obtained more than half the votes validly cast, provided that more than one half of voters in the constituency have cast their votes.
2. If during the first poll the turnout did not exceed half of voters in the constituency (invalid poll), during the second poll:

   a) all candidates who have done so during the first poll may stand for election;
   b) the candidate having obtained the greatest number of votes validly cast, provided that the turnout exceeded one-fourth of voters in the constituency, shall become an MP.

3. If during the first poll the turnout exceeded one half of voters in the constituency, but no candidate has obtained more than half the votes validly cast (unsuccessful poll), during the second poll:

   a) the candidates having obtained at least 15 % of the votes validly cast during the first poll may stand for election; if there are not three such candidates, the three candidates having obtained the greatest number of votes during the first poll may do so; if any one of the candidates decides to step down during this time, no other candidate may take his/her place;
   b) the candidate having obtained the greatest number of votes validly cast, provided that the turnout exceeded one-fourth of voters in the constituency, shall become an MP.

4. The parties which have put forward a common candidate with a joint nomination coupon (Art. 5 paragraph (l) - (2)) in an individual constituency shall, at least eight days before the election, notify the electoral board of the ratio in which their surplus votes are to be taken into account in the national aggregation of votes.
5. A by-election shall be conducted in an individual constituency where, for lack of candidates, it was impossible to hold the first or second poll.

ARTICLE 8.

1. The candidates on party lists in territorial constituencies shall obtain mandates in proportion to the number of votes cast, to be calculated in the manner specified by the Schedule hereto, in the order in which they are included in the lists, provided that the turnout exceeded one half of the voters.
2. If the first poll in a territorial constituency is invalid because the turnout did not exceed one half of the voters, all candidates on party lists who have done so during the first poll may stand for election during the second poll. The candidates on party lists shall obtain mandates in proportion to the number of votes cast, to be calculated in the manner specified by the

Schedule hereto, provided that the turnout exceeded one-fourth of the voters.

3. If, following the calculation in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), there remain vacant mandates in a territorial constituency, a mandate shall be obtained even by a list that received a number of votes smaller than, but exceeding two-thirds of, those required for a mandate. If there are several such lists, the mandate shall be obtained by the one that has received the next greatest number of votes. If after the calculation there still remains a vacant mandate, it shall be added to those obtainable on the national list.
4. In the case of a mandate being obtained under paragraph (3), the difference between the numbers of votes required for a mandate and actually received shall be deducted from the national aggregate of surplus votes obtained by the party putting forward a candidate.
5. If, however, a territorial party-list failed to receive more than two-thirds of the votes required for a mandate in the constituency concerned, or more than 5% of the national aggregate of the votes validly cast for the territorial party-lists, the party-list shall not obtain a mandate even in the case covered by paragraphs (1) to (3). In this respect only the validly cast votes for the same party territorial lists have to be aggregated. Parties presenting a common or combined list do not receive a mandate, if they fail to receive at least 5% per party, or in the case of more than three parties, a total of at least 15 % of the national aggregate of validly cast votes. If a party presented common candidates, or common or combined lists, with different parties, in two or more individual, or territorial constituencies, the votes must be aggregated separately for the common candidates, or common or combined lists, when aggregating surplus votes and defining the limit percentage, and also when handing out mandates.
6. The parties which indicated the combination of their lists at least 8 days before elections shall obtain mandates in proportion to the aggregate votes cast for their respective lists. The notification to the electoral board shall also indicate the order in which the candidates are to obtain a mandate. The notification shall be made public by the electoral board.
7. The parties which presented a common list, or combined their respective lists in a territorial constituency shall, at least 8 days before election, notify the electoral board of the proportion in which their surplus votes on the common list or the combined ones are to be taken into account in the national aggregation of votes.
8. If two or more parties have received equal numbers of votes and stand to obtain mandates with those quantities of votes but the number of mandates in the territorial constituency is smaller than that of the parties having received equal numbers of votes, the mandates shall be distributed in the order of the ordinal numbers of list.
9. If no party-lists are presented in a territorial constituency, the respective mandates for that territorial constituency shall go on the national list, and shall be distributed according to the surplus votes.
10. If the second round of election shall prove to be unsuccessful in a territorial constituency, because not even a quarter of the electorate cast their votes, then the votes cast in the first round of election shall be considered as surplus votes, and the vacant territorial constituency mandates shall be distributed on the national list.

ARTICLE 9.

1. Candidates on national lists shall obtain mandates in proportion to the national aggregates of surplus votes and in the order notified. To be counted as surplus votes are those:

   a) which were cast, in an individual constituency during the first valid poll, for party candidates who did not obtain a mandate during either poll;
   b) which were cast for lists, in a territorial constituency during the valid poll, in a number smaller than required for a mandate, or which exceeded the number of votes required for a mandate.

2. Votes cast during an invalid poll shall not be counted as surplus votes under paragraph (1) and hence shall not be taken into account for purposes of obtaining mandates on the national list except for the event of Article 8 paragraph (10). Similarly, the votes cast for the territorial lists of the party whose votes on those lists and whose national aggregate of votes do not exceed the percent limit, defined in article 8 paragraph (5), of the votes cast for the territorial lists of all parties. In this respect only those nationally cast valid votes may be aggregated which were cast for the same parties - or the territorial lists of same parties presenting common or combined territorial lists.
3. The parties which presented the combination of their national lists at least 8 days before election shall obtain mandates in proportion to the aggregate surplus votes for their respective lists. The notification to the National Electoral Board shall also indicate the order in which their candidates are to obtain mandates. The notification shall be mode public by the National Electoral Board.

PART III. ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 10.

1. Any voter may collect nomination coupons, disseminate electoral propaganda, popularize candidates and organize electoral meetings (hereafter electoral campaign). Non citizens except for persons in possession of a permit of settlement in Hungary shall not participate in the electoral campaign.
2. Nomination coupons may be collected anywhere, but for the provisions of paragraph (3), without undue interference with citizens.
3. Nomination coupons shall not be collected:

a) during working hours, in the course of performance of duties arising out of employment relations;
b) from persons on the staff of the armed forces, the police, and other regulatory organizations, at places of service or while on duty;
c) on mass transportation vehicles;
d) in wards of health-care institutes.

4. The nomination coupon shall bear, apart from the proposer's hand-written signature, the proposing voter's place of residence, identity number, the name, date and the name of the party posting him, or the fact of independent candidacy.
5. It shall be forbidden to offer, solicit or give a reward for nomination coupons.
6. the electoral board shall, upon request, check the authenticity of signatures. Once the number of verified signatures amounts to 750, the checking of signatures shall be discontinued. (7) Electoral meetings shall be public. It shall be forbidden to prevent the holding of electoral meetings or to disturb their conduct. The organizer of the meeting shall be responsible for keeping order in accordance with the rules laid down in the Act on the Right of Assembly.

ARTICLE 11.

1. Until the day preceding election at the latest, the Hungarian Telegraph Agency, the Hungarian Radio and Hungarian television shall carry on an equal footing the electoral calls of parties putting forward candidates at least once free of charge. This same duty shall devolve upon the local studios in their respective area of broadcast with regard to the electoral programs of candidates. Other advertisements that go toward making a party or any of its candidates more popular can only be broadcasted with a clear message declaring such publicity as "Paid Electoral Advertising".
2. During 30 days preceding the election, the Hungarian Radio and the Hungarian Television shall cover the parties presenting national lists - in their news of electoral events - on an equal footing and - in their electoral reports - in proportion to the candidates nominated.
3. On the last day of the electoral campaign the Hungarian Radio and the Hungarian Television shall - under equal program conditions for parties, for equal lengths of time and without comments - broadcast the electoral summary reports prepared by parties presenting national fists.

ARTICLE 12.

1. Public opinions poll results regarding the election shall not be made public after the eighth day preceding the election.
2. No electoral campaigning shall conducted from zero hour (12: 00 AM) of the day preceding election. Only the handing out of information regarding election procedures or the impartial calls for the electorate to participate, by election work groups, may not be considered a violation of the above defined campaign silence.

ARTICLE 13.

1. From the calling of elections to the end of electoral campaigns, parties and candidates may without a pen-nit design electoral bills, advertisements, inscriptions, handbills or projections (hereafter posters). A poster shall be considered to be printed matter not subject to permission. In other aspects, posters shall be governed by legislation on the press.
2. Posters may be displayed, but for paragraphs (3) to (5), without any restriction.
3. Posters shall not be displayed on walls of buildings and on fences except with the permission of the owner or trustee.
4. Local government may, by decree, prohibit the display of posters on certain public buildings or in specified parts of public areas for reasons of protecting historic monuments, the environment, or on grounds of townscape and tourism. The display of posters on or within buildings housing state or local government authorities is forbidden.
5. The installation of independent advertising devices serving electoral campaign purposes shall be subject to the provisions of law on the utilization of public places.
6. Posters shall be displayed in such a way as to be removable without causing damage.
7. Posters prejudicing life, physical integrity, the safety of property or the order of traffic shall be removed by the police. The costs of such action shall burden the persons placing, or the persons responsible for placing these posters.

CHAPTER V. POLLING

ARTICLE 14.

1. Voting shall be personal only, and subject to the exceptions stated in this Act, it shall take only in the polling station designated for the voter's place of residence.
2. A handicapped voter at his/her request shall be visited by at least two members of his/her respective electoral committee in order to allow the voter to cast his/her vote.

ARTICLE 15.

1. Votes may be cast from 6 AM on polling day. Where justified by local circumstances, the electoral board may direct that voting shall begin at 5 AM. The casting of votes shall be possible until 7 PM on official holidays and until 8 PM on workdays.
2. During the period of voting the polling room shall not be closed and voting shall not be suspended. In the case of the number of the electoral committee's members being reduced to less than three on the day of election, those present at the polling station are required to suspend voting immediately, seal the ballot boxes and files, and to inform the individual

constituency electoral board, through the leader of the electoral election work group, about the suspension of voting, in order to ensure the valid resumption of voting.

ARTICLE 16.

1. No polling station shall be set up in a building utilized by any party.
2. With a view to ensuring the secrecy of the ballot, at least two polling booths shall be set up in a polling room. The secrecy of the ballot shall be guaranteed even in case of voting covered by Art. 14. (2).
3. There shall be two or more ballot boxes in every polling room. In the presence of the first voter, the ballot boxes shall be secured in such a way as to prevent the removal of ballot papers without opening the lock, breaking the seal or dismantling the box.
4. A pen shall be provided in the polling booth for purposes of voting.

ARTICLE 17.

1. No one except the members of the electoral committee shall stay in the polling room from the putting out of election material to the beginning of voting.
2. The state of ballot boxes shall be checked by the electoral committee in the presence of the first voter, who shall not be a member thereof, before voting begins, with the findings to be stated in the polling records.
3. After locking the ballot box the electoral committee shall place a check-sheet in the box, the check-sheet to bear the signatures of the members of the electoral committee present as well as of the first voter and the point of time it was so placed.

ARTICLE 18.

1. The chairman of the electoral committee shall be responsible for keeping order in the polling station and its vicinity on polling day. His directives to this effect shall be binding on all.
2. The policeman on duty shall not enter the polling room except with permission from the chairman of the electoral committee.
3. Voters shall not remain in the polling room for a longer time than is necessary for casting a vote.

ARTICLE 19.

1. Separate ballot papers shall be used for voting for candidates in individual constituencies and on territorial lists.
2. Nothing but official ballot papers shall be used for voting.
3. The ballot paper of individual constituencies shall indicate in alphabetical order the officially used names of the candidates and the names of the parties nominating them, or the fact of independent nomination. In the case of more than one candidate bearing the same name, the one whose notification reached the competent electoral board later has to distinguish him/herself.
4. The ballot paper for territorial lists shall contain, in the order drawn by the territorial electoral board, the designations of territorial lists and, in the order notified by the party concerned, the names of its first twenty candidates, or the fact of an eventual combination of lists.
5. All ballot papers have to display apart from the court registered name of the party or designation, if requested by the party concerned, its abbreviation and/or the black-and-white print of its symbol or badge.

ARTICLE 20.

1. Valid votes can only be cast by writing two intersecting lies in ink in the circle printed above the party name, and next to the name of individual candidates on the ballot paper.
2. If it otherwise meets the conditions specified by para (1), a vote shall not be invalidated by the voter changing the order of candidates on the list on the ballot paper, striking the name of a candidate from the list or adding a name to the list.
3. A vote shall be invalid if:

   a) it was cast on other than the official ballot paper;
   b) it does not pen-nit the identification of the candidate/party for whom/which it was cast;
   c) the ballot paper has not been stamped with the seal of the concerned mayor's office, or the stamp of the polling ward;
   d) it was cast using a pencil.

ARTICLE 21.

1. In the polling room votes may be cast by voters who are, or were later, entered on the electoral register.
2. The electoral committee shall check the identity of voters and their inclusion in the electoral register.
3. The electoral committee shall refuse to admit to the polling room any person who is unable to prove his identity to the committee's satisfaction or who, for lack of a certificate (Art. 40), cannot be entered on the electoral register. The election committee shall draw up a list of such persons. A voter who was denied admission may also cast his vote later on if he is able to prove his identity or to present a certificate as mentioned to the electoral committee before the expiry of polling time.
4. If there is no impediment to voting, a member of the electoral committee shall hand to the voter the ballot papers bearing the seal of the mayor's office or the polling ward. If need be, it shall explain the manner in which the vote is to be cast, such

explanation is not to include any canvassing for or against any candidate or list. In the case of a candidate or list being withdrawn from the election after the ballot papers have been printed, the electoral committee is required to notify the voters of the fact, by posting notification in the polling room, and if necessary, verbally as well.

ARTICLE 22.

1. The voter can cast his vote in the polling booth, put the ballot papers into an envelope and drop it into the ballot box in full view of the electoral committee.
2. No one except the voter shall be present in the polling booth while the vote is cast, but a voter who is handicapped by illiteracy, bodily infirmity or some other disability may be assisted by another voter or, failing one, concurrently by two members of the electoral committee.
3. The fact of voting shall be indicated by the electoral committee in the electoral register.
4. If the voter indicates that he/she has made a mistake during the course of filling out the ballot paper, before placing it in the ballot box, the electoral committee shall withdraw it and hand out a new one, while registering this fact in its record. The electoral committee may replace the incorrect ballot paper only once.

ARTICLE 23.

1. At 18 hours or, if polling time was prolonged, at 20 hours, the chairman of the electoral committee shall have the polling room closed, with voters still staying there or in the hall to be allowed to cast their votes. This done, the electoral committee shall end the voting process.
2. No votes shall be accepted after the voting has ended.

ARTICLE 24.

1. After the voting has ended the electoral committee shall first bundle the unused, then the incorrect ballot papers, and then seal up the bundles.
2. Before being dismantled, the ballot box shall be checked for intactness, then be dismantled and be checked for the presence of the check-sheet.
3. The numbers of the ballot papers in the box for individual constituencies and for lists shall then be compared separately with the number of voters in the polling ward.
4. As a next step, invalid votes shall be grouped separately and counted, with the ground for invalidity to be indicated on the back of the ballot paper. The invalid votes shall be bundled separately, and the bundle shall be sealed up in such a way as to prevent any ballot paper being taken out of, or put into, the bundle without damaging the seal. The ordinal number of the polling ward and the number of ballot papers in the bundle shall be marked on the bundle.
5. The valid votes shall be grouped separately by candidate and list and be counted, the bundling to be done afterwards in accordance with paragraph (4).

ARTICLE 25.

1. The electoral committee shall prepare records, separately for every type of ballot paper, about the counting of the votes. At least one original must be drawn up, which shall be signed by the present members of the committee. The necessary copies of the original records may be made by making photocopies. The copies have to be authenticated by the chairman or the secretary of the electoral committee.
2. The records shall be drawn up in at least three more copies than the number of candidates -running for election in the constituency, and the number of parties presenting territorial lists therein.
3. The chairman of the electoral committee shall, without delay, forward the original records and one copy of them to the electoral board of the individual and territorial constituency. The third copy of the records shall be sent to the competent archive after 30 days of the date of election. The remaining copies shall be presented to the representatives of the candidates of individual constituencies and of the parties having presented lists. Election documents, prints and ballot papers shall, together with the ballot boxes, be sent to the local mayor's office for safekeeping. In case of objections to the election documents and ballot papers, those concerned shall be transmitted to the competent electoral board.
4. On the basis of the records of the electoral committee, the electoral boards of individual and territorial constituencies shall aggregate the votes and establish the election results in the respective constituencies. A record of this procedure shall be drawn up by the electoral boards in two more copies than the number of lists or candidates presented for election. The record shall be signed by the members of the electoral board. The original, along with the original records of the electoral committee, has to be forwarded without delay to the National Electoral Board, a second copy to the archives, not later than thirty days after election, the remaining ones promptly to the representatives of the parties or to the candidates.
5. On the basis of the records of the electoral boards in individual and territorial constituencies, the National Electoral Board shall aggregate the surplus votes cast for party candidates in individual constituencies and for lists, shall establish the limit percentage defined in Article 8 paragraph (5), and shall decide which candidates have obtained mandates on the national list. It shall draw up a record thereof in one more copy than the number of parties having presented national lists. The record shall be signed by the members of the Board. The first of these records shall be forwarded, no later than thirty days after election, to the archives, the remaining copies shall be handled over promptly to the representatives of parties.
6. Within three workdays following the date of election, candidates or their representatives may inspect the voting documents on the official premises of the electoral board or the local government in the presence of two members of the electoral board. The right to inspect election documents does not include the electorate register used by the electoral committee on the day of election' nor the list of voters refused the chance to vote, or who have voted in the possession of a certificate, from all of which it is possible to establish the names of voters having participated in the election.

7. The ballot papers shall be filed in the presence of the members of the competent electoral body and be kept in safety for 90 days. In case objections concerning election results the ballot papers involved shall be kept in safety until a final ruling thereon has been handed down.
8. The National Electoral Board shall be responsible to ensure that the computerized election data are kept in safety for 90 days.
9. The Minister of Interior may, by decree, regulate the number of additional copies, over the numbers set in paragraph (3) - (6) of this Act, of election records and registers and order their forwarding.

CHAPTER VI. ELECTORAL BODIES

ARTICLE 26.

Electoral bodies are independent organizations of citizens, subject only to the law and primarily established to guarantee the purity of elections, to secure impartiality, to supervise legality and, where necessary, to restore the lawful conduct of elections.

ARTICLE 27.

The electoral bodies shall include electoral committees, electoral boards in individual and territorial constituencies, and the National Electoral Board.

ARTICLE 28.

1. Only voters having residence in a given constituency may serve on electoral bodies.
2. The chairman and secretary of electoral bodies may not be a member of any party presenting a candidate in the constituency, nor a representative of an independent candidate.
3. A candidate, a relative of the candidate defined according to the Act on the General Regulations of Administration Procedures, the President of the Republic, the Speaker of Parliament, the Prime Minister, ministers, secretaries of state, deputy secretaries of state, trustees of the Republic, Lord Mayor, mayors, head notaries, notaries, Speakers of County Assemblies, and members of the work-group functioning alongside the electoral body shall not serve on the electoral body. Persons being in a relationship with each other may not be members of those electoral bodies which may become involved in decision making, or decision overruling procedures between each other during the course of the legal redress process.
4. During its period of functioning the electoral body shall quality as a public authority and its members as official persons.

ARTICLE 29.

1. An electoral body shall function as a collegiate one. In order to be valid, its decision shall require the presence of the majority of its members and the votes of the majority of the members present. In the event of an equality of votes the chairman of the electoral body shall have a casting vote. Minority views, together with the arguments, shall also be put on records.
2. The electoral body shall be represented by its chairman. If there is no chairman or the chairman is unable to perform Ms duties, the secretary shall act as chairman.

ARTICLE 30.

1. The secretary and two members of the electoral committee plus at least one additional member for each polling ward shall be elected by the local government assembly; on motion of the notary ., taking into account the proposals of the parties as well. The party putting forward candidates in the constituency and the independent candidates shall designate an additional member each. Members may also be designated jointly by parties and independent candidates. If after the nomination the number of designated members falls short of two, the additional member shall be elected by the local government, or its designated committee having its authorization.
2. The secretary and two members of local and territorial electoral boards shall be elected by the metropolitan and county assemblies; on motion by the head-notary, taking into account the proposals of the parties as well. The party putting forward candidates in the individual and territorial constituencies and the independent candidates shall designate an additional member each, after the nomination. If after the nomination the number of designated members falls short of two, then the metropolitan or county assemblies shall amend the electoral board to five persons by electing additional members. The assembly may authorize one of its committees to perform this task.
3. The secretary and four members of the National Electoral Board shall be elected by Parliament on motion by the Minister of the Interior, taking into account the proposals of parties as well. The parties putting forward candidates on the national fists shall designate an additional member each. If after the nomination the number of designated members of the National Electoral Board falls short of four, the Constitutional, Legislation-preparation and Judicial Committee of Parliament shall elect additional members, to raise the number of the members of the National Electoral Committee to nine.
4. The elective members of electoral boards shall be elected within 10 days of the calling of elections and those of electoral committees at least 30 days before election. The designated members of electoral bodies shall be notified concurrently with the presentation of nominations (Art. 6).
5. The electoral body shall elect a chairman from among its own members. On the thirtieth day preceding election the electoral body shall either confirm the chairman or elect a new one.
6. Before taking up their duties the chairmen and members of electoral bodies shall swear an oath or pledge a vow before the competent mayor, Lord Mayor, Speaker of County Assembly, or the Speaker of Parliament, as the case may be.

7. The names of the chairmen and members of electoral bodies as well as the addresses of the official premises of the electoral bodies shall be publicly displayed in the customary manner in each locality, and the names of the members of the individual and territorial electoral boards shall be published in the official gazettes of the metropolitan and county assemblies, while the data of the National Electoral Board shall be published in Magyar Kzlny (Hungarian Gazette).
8. The mandates of the elective members of electoral bodies as well as of the members delegated to the National Electoral Board by the parties having obtained representation in Parliament shall last until the day when the next general elections are called.
9. The mandates of the Chairman, secretary and members of an electoral body shall cease upon

   a) discontinuance of the legal conditions therefore (paragraphs (1) to (3) of Art. 28);
   b) resignation;
   c) revocation of the mandate or removal from office;
   d) death.

10. The mandate of a designated member of an electoral body shall terminate also at the time of the publication of final election results, except for para (8). No fees shall be paid.
11. The National Electoral Board may publish an opinion in order to ensure the uniform execution of this Act.

ARTICLE 31.

The electoral boards in individual and territorial constituencies and the National Electoral Board shall be legal entities.

ARTICLE 32.

1. The electoral committee shall consist of at least three members.
2. 'The electoral committee shall:

   a) control the preparation of polling rooms, conduct the poll and ensure the legality of voting;
   b) decide contentious issues arising during the voting;
   c) establish the voting results in the polling ward.

ARTICLE 33.

1. Electoral boards in individual and territorial constituencies shall consist of at least 5 members each.
2. The electoral board of an individual constituency shall

   a) issue a call for the nomination of candidates;
   b) keep records of the candidates and refuse to, accept any nomination failing to satisfy the legal requirements;
   c) decide on objections to nomination coupons and to voting in possession of a certificate;
   d) publish the names of candidates in the constituency and of the sponsoring parties as well as the fact of independent nomination;
   e) ensure the legal conditions for the functioning of electoral committees and check on physical facilities;
   f) establish the voting results in the constituency;
   g) decide on objections raised to measures of electoral committees;
   h) issue credential to MPs;
   i) organize by-elections and publish the results thereof.

3. The electoral board of a territorial constituency shah, in connection with election on territorial lists,

   a) attend to the tasks specified by paragraph (2) except for those mentioned in paragraph 2 (c) and (e);
   b) draw lots for the ordinal numbers of party lists.

ARTICLE 34.

1. The National Electoral Board shall consist of at least 9 members.
2. The National Electoral Board shall

   a) ensure the legal conditions for the functioning of electoral bodies;
   b) issue a call for the notification of nominations;
   c) keep records of the candidates on national lists and refuse to accept nominations failing to satisfy legal requirements;
   d) publish the names of candidates on national lists and draw lots for the ordinal numbers of lists;
   e) decide which of the candidates on national lists have obtained mandates on the basis of the national aggregate of surplus votes;
   f) issue credentials to MPs having obtained mandates on national lists;

g) publish the preliminary and final results of parliamentary elections;
h) fix the dates of a second poll and by-election;
i) decide on objections raised to decisions of electoral boards;
j) report on the election of MPs to the Parliament.

ARTICLE 35.

1. There shall be assigned work groups to electoral bodies to take care of the organizational, administrative and technical preparations as well as of the conduct of elections.
2. Members of the workgroup to the electoral committee shall be appointed by the village, town or metropolitan district notaries (notary henceforth), members of the workgroup functioning to the electoral boards of individual and territorial constituencies will be appointed by the head-notary of the metropolitan and county assemblies, the chairman and members of the workgroup functioning beside the National Electoral Board shall be appointed by the Minister of the Interior. The chairman of the work group functioning beside electoral boards in individual constituencies shall be the district notary of the seat of the respective constituency, the chairman of the work group functioning to the electoral boards in territorial constituencies shall be the head notary of the metropolitan or county assembly.
3. On their appointment the members of work groups shall swear an oath/pledge a vow before the appointee.

CHAPTER VII. POLLING WARDS

ARTICLE 36.

1. Polling wards shall be set up within 10 days of the calling of elections.
2. The number and territorial pattern of polling wards shall be determined by the notary in a way that shall ensure that a polling ward is created for 600 to a maximum of 1200 voters, but there shall be at least one polling ward in each settlement. More polling wards than one in a settlement shall be distinguished by ordinal numbers. A polling ward may also be created in an institute to ensure that persons committed to permanent care or receiving medical treatment as well as rank-and-file soldiers and persons detained without a final judgment may, at their request, cast their votes in possession of a certificate (Art. 40).

CHAPTER VIII. REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

ARTICLE 37.

1. The registry of voters (registry henceforth) shah, according to villages, towns and constituencies, and polling wards there in, be compiled by the village, town and metropolitan notaries, by the 15th December each year at the latest. The registry shall be notified of any changes before the first and second rounds of election.
2. Citizens of Hungary who are resident, or temporarily resident (have place of residence hence forth) in a village, town or a district of the capital (settlement hence forth), or in an individual constituency, and will reach their majority or will be majored by marriage on the day of election at the latest, shall be entered in the register.
3. The notary shall prepare, within 27 days the written notification of voter's inclusion in the register, as well as compile a list of adults who do not have the franchise after the setting of the date of election. The electoral register shall be such as to allow the identification of the settlement, the individual and territorial the polling ward of the elector. The electoral register, with the limitations specified in paragraph (9), the voter's name, address and identification number. The register authenticated by the notary.
4. Sixty days before election the local electoral board shall issue a public notification of the date of election and the electoral register.
5. The register, after its compilation, shall be displayed on the official premises of the mayor's office of the local government for the purpose of the ensuring of franchise being controllable, for ten days and the date of display shall be made public in the manner customary in the locality.
6. Concurrent with the public display, preceding the first round of election, electors shall be notified in writing of their inclusion in the register, the notification shall indicate the settlement, the constituent the polling ward, the address of the polling station, and the day of election. The mailing of the notification is a responsibility of the notary. Notification of the second round shall not be mailed.
7. The notary shall compile the electoral register on the basis of the citizens' personal data and address register. The compilation of the electoral register and the technical preparation of notifications may be transferred by the notary to another local government's notary, to the territorial or central body maintaining the register of the citizens personal data and address, or to the office. The notifications maybe sent to the voters through the employees of the mayor's office, or of notifications shall not be entrusted to party leaders, or members of any parties.
8. The register of the persons without the franchise is confidential, no one, save the person in question, a court-of-law, and members of the electoral body and work group, may look into them.
9. The electoral register that has been put on display and the notifications may not display The electors' identification number.
10. The National Bureau of Registry of Personal Data and Address shall, thirty days prior to election, upon the request of parties, on an equal footing, and for a charge, hand over the electoral registry. In the case of individual candidates, with the same conditions as above, the notary may hand over the electoral register. All interested parties who have the potential to view the electoral register during the election process shall only utilize its contents for their election campaigns.

ARTICLE 37A.

For the compilation of the electoral register, within six days after the setting of the date of election, the bodies indicated in subparas a) to c) shall hand over the data according to paragraph (2) about persons who do not have the franchise, to the local government of the constituencies taking part in the election and its notary, through the bodies maintaining citizens' registers, according to the following:

ARTICLE 38.

1. During public display of the electoral register, objections may be raised before the notary in case of the voter's exclusion or inclusion in the electoral register.
2. Rejection of the objection may be referred to the district court, in Budapest the Central District Court, within three days of its receipt.
3. The court shall decide the issue with the participation of people's assessors within three days of receiving it, through extra judicial proceedings. Before handing down its decision, the court shall, upon request, grant audience to every interested party. If unfounded the objection shall be rejected, or, if founded, the correction of the register shall be ordered by the court. No further appeal shall he against the court's decision.
4. The court shall notify its decision, on the day it is handed down, to the notary, and to the person who has raised the objection. If the court orders the name of a person to be stricken off the register, the decision shall be notified to that person as well.

ARTICLE 39.

1. Voters omitted from the register shall be entered on it ex post by the notary, a notification shall be sent to the voter concerned.
2. The notary shall strike off the register the name of voter who has died in the meantime, has lost his/her franchise, has been included in the register of another constituency or is to vote in possession of a certificate in another constituency.
3. The register thus modified shall be displayed publicly in the official premises of the electoral body until 4 PM on the day preceding the date of election.

ARTICLE 40.

1. If after the compilation of the register a voter changes his/her domicile, he may apply to the notary o f the competent local government in his new place of residence, or, on election day, to the electoral committee for his inclusion in the electoral register. The application shall be accompanied by a certificate of the applicant's inclusion in the electoral register of his former place of residence from the notary of the competent local government.
2. A voter, on election day, is absent from his permanent place of residence may, in possession of a franchise certificate from the notary of the focal government in his/her domicile, apply to the notary of the local government his temporary place of residence, or, on election day, to the electoral committee for his inclusion in the electoral register of that area.
3. In possession of a certificate under paragraph (2) a voter may vote for a candidate in an individual, as well as a territorial constituency.
4. When issuing a certificate under paragraph (l) and (2) the notary of the competent local government shall strike the voter's name from the register. On the basis of the voter's declaration the certificate shall show the place of residence or sojourn, where the voter intends to vote, and that place shall also be indicated in the register. On the basis of the certificate and of his/her identity card, the voter shall be entered on a separate register by the notary of the local government, or by the electoral committee in his/her new place of residence or sojourn. The certificate shall be kept among the electoral documents.
5. A certificate may be applied for by, and issued to the applicant or his/her representative, until 4 PM on the day preceding the date of election. The certificate may be requested through Registered Mail, providing that this shall arrive on the fifth day preceding election at the latest. The new place of residence or place of sojourn where the elector proposes to cast votes has to be declared in this letter. A certificate applied for in the mail has to be posted to the applicant C. O. D. in a manner so the applicant shall receive it on the day preceding the date of election at the latest.
6. The National Electoral Board shall control the data of the electors taken into separate registration on the basis of their certificate, in order to preclude the chance of multiple balloting. (7) The applicant for certificate shall be obliged to reveal his personal identification number.

CHAPTER IX. PUBLICITY OF ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 41.

1. The functioning and activity of electoral bodies shall be public. The facts and figures available to electoral bodies shall not be classified material. Publicity of the election process shall not violate the confidentiality of the ballot, nor personal and personal data rights. The computerized figures for election results shall be made available, on an equal footing, to independent candidates and to the parties having put forward candidates for election.
2. The electoral board shall release information about the calling of election, the names of candidates, the public display of the electoral register, the pattern of constituencies and polling wards, the members of electoral bodies, the day and manner of voting, the election results or the eventual cancellation thereof for the press in the constituency concerned and for the local broadcasting studio.
3. The electoral bodies shall be responsible to ensure that voters receive general information on the provisions of electoral law and the manner of voting as well as answers to their relevant questions.

4. Representatives of the press may, without a special permit, attend the work of electoral bodies, but shall not disturb them in carrying out their activities, especially the counting of votes.
5. No partial figures of election results shall be released before the closing of voting on the day of election. The publication of the number and ratio of voters does not constitute partial figures.
6. The amount and utilization of state-provided and other financial resources and contributions shall, also in national aggregate figures, be published in the national press by each candidate and party.

CHAPTER X. LEGAL REMEDIES

ARTICLE 42.

1. The voters, candidates and parties may raise objections to violations of the electoral law, or to the activity, measures, decisions or omissions of electoral bodies. Objections may be raised before the competent electoral committee either verbally or in written form, by the third day, at the latest, following the incident (event) in question. Concurrent with the raising of the objection, an appeal of proof must be initiated. An objection that was raised without the initiation of an appeal of proof shall be rejected without due examination.
2. Objections to decisions of electoral committees (Art. 32 paragraph (2)) shall be decided by the competent electoral board, within three days. Objections to decisions of the electoral board, except for those mentioned in paragraph (2) subparagraph f) of Art. 33 may be appealed to the metropolitan and county courts of law.

ARTICLE 43.

1. An objection raised against the decision of the electoral board concerning election results (Art 33, paragraph (2), subparagraph f)) shall be judged by the national Electoral Board within three days.
2. An appeal against a decision of the National Electoral Board may be made to the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE 44.

1. An application for legal remedy against a negative decision of an electoral board may be submitted, not later than 3 days from receipt of the notification, to the electoral board, which shall, shall, not later than the day following its submission, refer it, together with the documents and its views, to the competent court. The court, to form a panel of three professional judges, shall hand down a ruling in extra-judicial proceedings within 3 days. The person concerned shall be heard if he so requests.
2. If it deems the application for a legal remedy to be founded, the court shall establish the fact of violation of law and:

   a) inform the parties concerned and the Hungarian Telegraphic Agency; or
   b) alter the decision breaking the law; or
   c) annul completely or in part the decision, and order the election process or a part of it to be repeated.

3. The court shall reject an application if deemed unfounded.
4. The court shall notify its decision on the day it is handed down, to the electoral board, the person concerned, and the applicant for legal remedy. No further appeal shall lie against the decision of the court.

ARTICLE 45.

A proceeding conducted under this Chapter shall not affect the proceedings instituted under Art. 38 and on grounds of an offense against the orderly conduct of elections (Art. 211 of the Penal Code).

CHAPTER XI. BY-ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 46.

1. A by-election shall be held in an individual constituency if the second poll were to be invalid, or the mandate of an MP in an individual constituency has been ceased.
2. By-elections may not be held in the year of general elections. By-election shall be posted by the National Electoral Board at least 90 days preceding the date of it, once every year, m the month of April. Notification of the necessity of by-election to the National Electoral Board shall be given by the competent electoral board, or the Speaker of Parliament.
3. The rules of general elections shall, with the differences made in this Chapter, the necessary changes having been made, apply to by-elections.
4. The results of a by-elections shall not affect the mandates on the national lists.
5. In cases where the mandate of an MP on a territorial or a national list has ceased, it shall be obtained, among the party candidates originally included on the lists by the persons named by the party concerned. Within 30 days of the emergence of the reason therefore, the party shall notify the name of the new MP to the competent electoral board.

CHAPTER XII. FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 47.

1. Following the registration (Art. 6 (4), candidates shall not be called up for military service regular or reserve, or their service shall be interrupted until the day following election. Elected MPs shall be exempted from service for the period of their mandate.
2. In the course of the employment of this Act, place of residence shall mean the terms defined in Art. 5. Act LXVI. 1992 on the Registering of Citizens' Personal Data and Address.

ARTICLE 48.

1. Within 24 hours of the end of voting, the National Electoral Board shall make the preliminary election results public through the Hungarian Radio, the Hungarian Television and the Hungarian Telegraphic Agency, and on that basis the preliminary results shall be carried by the political dailies of nationwide circulation in their next issues.
2. The final election results shall be published in Magyar Kozlony.

ARTICLE 49.

Elections shall be called no later than 90 days before polling day.

ARTICLE 50.

1. The expenses incurred in connection with state tasks concerning the preparation and conduct of elections (personnel, physical facilities, functioning of electoral bodies, electoral registers, prints, transport, telecommunication, etc.) shall be covered from the state budget to the extent determined by the Parliament. The State Audit Office shall inform the Parliament of the utilization of such funds.
2. The Council of Ministers shall be empowered to determine the ordinal numbers, seats and boundaries of individual and territorial constituencies.

ARTICLE 51.

1. The parties may spend funds for elections in accordance with the Act on the Functioning and Finances of Political Parties, subject to the additional provisions of paragraph (2) hereof.
2. Each party putting forward candidates for election shall be entitled to support from the state budget in proportion to the number of candidates presented. Independent candidates shall be entitled to an amount of budgetary support equal to that received by party candidates. The national aggregate of funds destined for budgetary support shall be determined by the Parliament.
3. The number of candidates in individual constituencies, the number of candidates presented by each party on territorial lists but not greater than that of the mandates obtainable, and the actual number of candidates on national lists but not more than 58 candidates of each party shall be taken as a basis for determining the amount of support per candidate. Persons nominated at several places under art. 5 (7) shall be taken into account with the number of nominations.
4. The budgetary support for election purposes shall be paid in one amount to parties, and personally to independent candidates, by the Ministry of Finance or the bank designated by it under the authorization of the National Electoral Board.
5. Budgetary support under paragraph (2) shall be used to cover material expenses only. Accounts of the utilization of support shall be made by parties and independent candidates to the payoffice within 30 days after election.
6. Budget-dependent state and local government organs may make premises and equipment available on an equal footing for purposes of electoral campaign. It is prohibited to conduct electoral campaigning or campaign meetings in buildings housing state or local government bodies, except in settlements with less than 500 inhabitants where there are not any other community buildings available.

ARTICLE 52.

The Schedules to this Act shall determine:

a) the principles governing the establishment of constituencies;
b) the number of individual constituencies in the counties and the capital city as well as the number of mandates obtainable in each territorial constituency;
c) the number of candidates in individual constituencies required for the presentation of a territorial list;
d) the procedures for the aggregation of votes and the establishment-of election results;
e) the form of ballot papers;
f) the form of nomination coupons, certificates and check-sheets;
g) the contents of records of election results in polling wards as well as in individual and territorial constituencies;
h) the contents of records showing the national aggregate surplus votes;
i) the contents of records showing the national preliminary results of elections;
j) the text of the oath to be sworn (or vow to be pledged) by electoral bodies and members of electoral work groups.
k) the organizing and operating principles of computer and information services cooperating in the conduct of elections.

ARTICLE 53.

1. The Minister of the Interior shall determine by decree on the basis of this Act:

   a) the calendar time-limits and deadlines of the election procedure;
   b) the tasks of the work groups functioning beside electoral bodies and the training of their members;
   c) the state tasks relating to the election, the organization and the technical realization of computer-assisted aggregation of votes, the order of its effectuating, the order of aggregation and transportation of the records containing final election results;
   d) the form of registers of candidates and voters and their notification; the form of election documents and printed matter; the form of printed matter to contain the data of partial results and national final results of election;
   e) the norms, rates and order of accounting of election costs.

2. The Minister of the Interior shall report to the Parliament on the performance of these tasks.
3. The deadlines determined in this Act for legal remedying, furthermore the announcement of individual candidates, territorial and national lists, and also the ratio of the division of surplus votes shall be forfeit of law.
4. The Minister of the Interior is hereby authorized to set a deadline on the first workday preceding or following a weekend, in case of a deadline or time-limit falling on a weekend.
5. Fulfillment of deadlines determined by this Act shall be at 4 PM on the specified day, unless otherwise decreed in this Act.

ARTICLE 54.

Electoral, administrative and judicial proceedings connected with elections and the franchise shall be free of charge.

ARTICLE 55.

1. The professional activity of work groups f functioning beside electoral bodies shall be controlled by the Minister of the Interior through the head of national or territorial electoral work group.
2. The head of national, territorial and local electoral work groups is authorized to hand out informative data about the election on its day, and the day after.

ARTICLE 56.

1. This act shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation.
2. The provisions of Act III of 1983 concerning MPs, as amended by Act XI of 1989 on the Election of MPs and Councilors shall cease to have effect upon the entry into force of this Act.
3. The pattern of constituencies for by-elections to be held for MPs shall be governed by Decision No. 1/1985 of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic on the Election of MPs and Councilors in 1985.

ANNEXE 1. /to point a) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Principles of Governing the Establishment of Constituencies

1. The individual constituency shall be within the territory of the capital city or the county concerned.
2. An individual constituency shall comprise about 60,000 inhabitants.
3. The entire area of competence of a local council shall be within the individual constituency. An individual constituency in the capital city may embrace two or more individual constituencies. A town of county rank may be divided also into two or more individual constituencies.
4. The seat of an individual constituency shall possibly be in a town.
5. A town and its surrounding area may constitute one constituency.
6. In establishing constituencies account shall also be taken, so far as possible, of ethnic, religious, historical and other local characteristics.
7. The boundaries of a territorial constituency shall be indicated with those of the capital city or county concerned.

ANNEXE 2. /to point b) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

1	CAPITAL CITY COUNTY	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENCIES	NUMBER OF MANDATES PER REGIONAL CONSTITUENCY, OBTAINABLE ON LIST
1.	Budapest	32	28
2.	Baranya	7	6
3.	Bacs-Kiskun	10	8
4.	Bekes	7	6
5.	Borsod-Abauj-Zemple	13	11
6.	Csongrad	7	6
7.	Fejer	7	6
8.	Gyor-Sopron	7	6
9.	Hajdu-Bihar	9	8
10.	Heves	6	5
11.	Komarom	5	5
12.	Nograd	4	4
13.	Pest	16	14
14.	Somogy	6	5
15.	Szabolcs-Szatmar	10	9
16.	Szolnok	8	6
17.	Tolna	5	4
18.	Vas	5	4
19.	Veszprem	7	6
20.	Zala	5	5
TOTAL:		176	152

ANNEXE 3 /to point c) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

No.	CAPITAL CITY COUNTY	Number of individual constituencies per regional constituencies, where the setting up of an individual candidate is the condition of setting up a regional list
1.	Budapest	8
2.	Baranya	2
3.	Bacs-Kiskun	2
4.	Bekes	2
5.	Borsod-Abauj-Zemple	3
6.	Csongrad	2
7.	Fejer	2
8.	Gyor-Sopron	2
9.	Hajdu-Biha	2
10.	Heves	2
11.	Komarom	2
12.	Nograd	2
13.	Pest	2
14.	Somogy	2
15.	Szabolcs-Szatmar	2
16.	Szolnok	2
17.	Tolna	2
18.	Vas	2
19.	Veszprem	2
20.	Zala	2

ANNEXE 4. /to point d) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Manner of Calculating the Aggregate of Votes and Establishing Election Results

I. Individual Constituency

1. Valid and invalid poll

a) Valid first poll
The first poll shall be valid if the turnout exceeded one half of voters
b) Invalid first poll
A first poll shall be invalid if the turnout was equal to or short of one half of voters
c) Valid second poll.
A second poll following an invalid or unsuccessful first poll (1/b) and 2/b) shall be valid if the turnout exceeded one-fourth of voters.
d) Invalid second poll

A second poll following an invalid or unsuccessful first poll (1/b) or 2/b) shall be invalid if the turnout did not exceed one fourth of voters.

2. Successful and unsuccessful poll

a) Successful first poll
A valid first poll (1(a)) shall be successful if one of the candidates received more than half the votes cast.
b) Unsuccessful first poll
A valid first poll (1(a)) shall be unsuccessful if none of the candidates received more than half the votes cast.
c) Successful second poll
A valid second poll following a valid (1/a) or an invalid (1/b) first poll shall be successful if the candidates received different quantities of the votes cast.
d) Unsuccessful second poll
A valid second poll (1(c)) shall be unsuccessful if the candidates received equal quantities of the votes cast.
The candidate who during a valid second poll received the number of votes specified in 2(a) or 2(c) shall become an MP in an individual constituency.

II. Territorial Constituency

1. Valid and invalid poll

a) Valid poll
A first poll shall be valid if the turnout exceeded one half of voters.
b) Invalid poll
A first poll shall be invalid if the turnout was equal to or short of the one half of voters.
c) Valid second poll
A second poll following an invalid first poll (1/b) shall be valid if the turnout exceeded one-fourth of voters.
d) Invalid second poll.
A second poll following an invalid first poll (1/b) shall be invalid if the turnout was equal to or short of the one-fourth of voters.

2. Preconditions for calculating election results on territorial lists

a) The national aggregates of votes validly cast for territorial lists shall be established for each party separately.
b) It shall be required to identify the parties whose national aggregates of votes did not exceed the limit of the per cent fixed by Article 8(5) of this Act.

3. Calculating the results of a valid poll in territorial constituencies:

a) The votes validly cast for the electoral lists of parties shall be totaled (hereafter aggregate of valid votes).
b) One mandate shall be added to the number of mandates obtainable in a constituency (hereafter divisor).
c) The total of valid votes shall be divided by the divisor. The resultant quotient shall be the number of votes required for obtaining a mandate.
d) It shall be required to establish two-thirds of the votes necessary for obtaining a mandate (hereafter two-thirds limit).
e) The number of votes cast for the electoral list of a party shall be divided by the number of votes required for a mandate. The whole number resultant from the division shall be the number of mandates obtained by the party, subject also to Art. 8 (8) of this Act. The remainder of division plus the number of votes insufficient for a mandate shall be surplus votes.
f) In cases where there remains a vacant mandate after the division of mandates under paragraph (c), the parties shall obtain mandates in a declining order of surplus votes down to the two-third limit. If all mandates in a constituency have been filled, no more mandates shall be distributed, regardless of the two-third limit. The surplus votes insufficient for a mandate shall, with the exception of surplus votes determined by Art. 8(4) of this Act, be added to the national list.
g) Any vacant mandates remaining in a constituency after the calculation under paragraph (f) shall be added to the national list.

III. Distribution of Mandates Obtainable on the National List on the Basis of Surplus Votes

1. The national aggregates of surplus votes cast in individual and territorial constituencies (paragraph (1) of Art. 9.) shall be established for each party separately, subject also to Art. 8 (4) of this Act (hereafter surplus votes for parties).

2. It shall be required to establish the national aggregates of surplus votes for parties (hereafter national surplus votes).
3. The number of vacant mandates on the territorial list (II/3/g) shall be added to the number of mandates (58) obtained on the national list.
4. Mandates obtainable on the National List shall be distributed according to surplus votes, in the following manner: we shall compile a table, the first row of which shall consist of the surplus votes for each party. Under each of the parties' surplus votes we shall draw up a column of numbers, the first number of which shall be the half of all surplus votes cast for the party in question, the second number the third of all surplus votes cast, etc.
5. We shall distribute the mandates with the aid of this table. After looking for and finding the largest number in the table, we shall check which party's column it is in. That party shall receive a mandate. Next the second largest number will have to be found, and the party whose column it is in shall receive the second mandate. This process shall be repeated until all mandates on the National List have been distributed.

   If during the process we encounter equal numbers, then the provisions defined in Art. 8 para (8) of this Act shall decide which party shall receive the mandate.

IV. Correlation of the Per Cent Limit and the Obtainable Mandates on the Territorial List

1. Votes cast for territorial lists shall be aggregated nationally, separated for each party (henceforth: number of list votes cast for the party).
2. Votes cast for party lists shall be aggregated (henceforth: number of votes for lists).
3. The percentage of party list votes shall be calculated according to Art. 8 paragraph (5).
4. The party which received more votes based on the number of list votes cast for the party, than the percentage limit defined in Art. 8 paragraph (5), shall obtain mandates from territorial constituencies and, based on surplus votes, from the National List.
5. The party that, based on the number of list votes cast for the party, does not reach the percentage limit defined in Art. 8 paragraph (5)

   a) shall forfeit its surplus votes obtained in individual constituencies,
   b) shall not receive mandate in a territorial constituency,
   c) shall not receive mandate on the National List.

ANNEXE 5 /to point e) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

BALLOT PAPER

(Form of the Ballot Paper for Individual Constituencies)

Election of Members of Parliament
Day___Month___Year____
Constituency No___

1. _____(name)_____(name of party)
2. _____(name)_____(name of party)
3. _____(name)_____(independent candidate)
4. _____(name)_____
   _____(name)_____
   _____(name)_____
X. _____(name)_____

You can vote for a candidate by placing the mark "x" in the circle beside his/her name.

The vote shall be valid if cast only for one candidate.

In addition to the party's name registered by a court, or its indication at the party's request its abbreviation, or the black and white imprint of its symbol or emblem, must be displayed on every ballot paper.

ANNEXE 6. /to point e) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

BALLOT PAPER

(Form of the Ballot paper of Territorial Constituencies)
Election of Members of Parliament
Day____Month____Year____
County Constituencies

1.	2.	3.
(name of party)	(name of party)	(name of party)
_____	_____	_____
(name of candidate)	(name of candidate)	(name of candidate)
_____	_____	_____
(name of candidate)	(name of candidate)	(name of candidate)

You can vote for a list by placing the mark "x" in the circle above the name of the party

The vote will be valid if cast only for one candidate.

In addition to the party's name registered by a court, or its indication, at the party's request its abbreviation or the black and white imprint of its symbols or emblem, must be displayed on every ballot paper.

ANNEXE 7 /to point f) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Information on the Nomination of Candidates

You may propose a candidate by filling up and handing over a "Nomination Coupon".

The nomination of candidates is based on voters' free will with no one to be compelled to nominate a candidate. Under the Electoral Law , a voter may nominate one independent candidate or support one party candidate exclusively in the individual constituency where the voter is domiciled.

The name of the candidate and the party/social organization you wish to support shall be written on the dotted lines. If you wish to support an independent candidate, it will suffice to write there the words "Independent Candidate".

After filling up the "Nomination Coupon", it can be handed over to the representative of the candidate you wish to support.

NOMINATION COUPON

Name of voter nominating a candidate:_____
Identity number:_____
Domicile:_____

I propose

_____
(name of candidate)

(name of party/social organization) or its abbreviation,
or the words "Independent Candidate"

as a candidate for election on (date)_____

_____
(proper signature of voter nominating the candidate)

ANNEXE 8. /to point f) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

_____
(Mayor's Office)

CERTIFICATE
of striking off from and entry into the electoral register on account of change in domicile

Voter's name: _____
Identity number: _____
Former address: _____

I have stricken off his/her name from the electoral register because of change in domicile. Therefore he/she may not vote during the election set for (date)_____
except in his/her new domicile.

Date _____
Notary _____

II

The voter's new address: _____
I have entered the voter _____
on the electoral register under Ordinal Number _____

Date _____
Notary or Chairman of the Electoral Committee _____

ANNEXE 9 /to point f) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Mayor's Office

CERTIFICATE
of striking off from and entry into the electoral register for purposes of voting at a place of sojourn different from the place of residence

Voter's name:_____
Identity number:_____
Address:_____

The voter has hereby declared his/her intention to cast his/her vote at (name of locality) during the election set for (date) On the basis of this declaration I have stricken his/her name off from the electoral register.

Date _____
Notary _____

II

Address at the place of sojourn: _____
Address of Mayor's Office: _____
Ordinal number and address of polling ward: _____

I have entered the voter on the electoral register under Ordinal Number: _____

Date _____
Notary or Chairman of the Electoral Committee _____

ANNEXE 10 /to point f) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

CHECK-SHEET

Day/month/year of election: _____
Ordinal number of constituency: _____
Ordinal number of polling ward: _____

We attest by our signatures that we have checked the ballot box, have found it empty and have sealed it. The ballot box meets the legal requirements. We placed this check-sheet in the ballot box at _____hours____minutes.

Signatures of the members of the electoral committee:

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

Signature of first voter: _____
His/her ordinal number in the voter's register: _____

ANNEXE 11 /to point g) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Contents of the Records Drawn up by the Polling Wards of Election Results

The records of election results drawn up by polling wards separately for individual and territorial constituencies shall indicate:

a) the place and day of voting;
b) the ordinal number of the individual constituency and the names of the members of the electoral committee;
c) the ordinal number and the address of the polling station;
d) the fact and time of locking the ballot box, placing the check-sheet in it, opening the ballot box, and the presence of the check-sheet;
e) the time of beginning and ending the voting;
f) the number of voters entered on the electoral register until the preceding day;
g) the number of voters in possession of a certificate;
h) the total number of voters entered on the electoral register;
i) the total number of actual voters among the voters entered on the electoral register;
j) the number of voters not admitted to voting;
k) the difference between the number of actual voters among the voters entered on the electoral register and that of the ballot papers;
l) the total number of ballot papers;
m) the number of invalid votes;
n) the total number of valid votes;
o) the number of votes and parties cast for each candidate and party separately;

p) irregularities, if any, found during the count of votes: number of empty envelopes, unofficial envelopes, votes without an envelope, etc.
q) enumeration of persons who received a copy of each of the record.

ANNEXE 12 /to point g) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Contents of the Records drawn up by electoral Boards in individual constituencies.
The record shall indicate:

a) the day of election, and the ordinal number and the seat of the constituency;
b) the names of the members of the electoral board;
c) the number of voters entered on the electoral register until the preceding day;
d) the number of voters in possession of a certificate;
e) the total number of voters entered on the electoral register;
f) the number of voters among the voters entered on the electoral register;
g) the difference between the number of actual voters among the voters entered on the electoral register and that of the ballot papers;
h) the total number of ballot papers;
i) the number of invalid votes;
j) the total number of valid votes;
k) the number of votes cast for each candidate separately;
l) the number of. voters not admitted to voting;
m) the names and addresses of the candidates elected;
n) the reasons for holding a second poll, repeating the election or calling by-elections;
o) the decisions of the electoral board concerning the conduct of voting;
p) the enumeration of persons who received a copy each of the record.

ANNEXE 13 /to point g) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Contents of the Record of the Territorial electoral Board
The record shall indicate:

a) the day of the poll;
b) the name and the ordinal number of the territorial constituency;
c) the names of the members of the electoral board;
d) the total number of voters entered on the electoral register until the preceding day;
e) the total number of voters in possession of a certificate;
f) the total number of voters entered on the electoral register;
g) the difference between the actual number of voters among the voters entered on the electoral register and that on the ballot papers;
h) the number of valid votes;
i) the number of invalid votes;
j) the number of votes validly cast for territorial lists separately;
k) the number of votes required for a mandate and the two-third part thereof;
l) the names of the MPs elected on the territorial lists;
m) the number of surplus votes for each party;
n) the number of mandates remaining vacant as a result of voting and the number of mandates to be added to those on the national list;
o) the reasons for holding a second poll;
p) the decisions of the electoral board concerning the conduct of voting;
q) the enumeration of persons who received a copy each of the record.

ANNEXE 14 /to point h) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Contents of the Record Showing the National Aggregate Surplus Votes
The record shall indicate:

a) the day of voting;
b) the names of the members of the National Electoral Board;
c) the total number of voters entered on the electoral register until the preceding day;
d) the total number of voters in possession of a certificate;
e) the total number of voters entered in the electoral register;
f) the difference between the actual number of voters among the voters entered on the electoral register and that of the ballot papers;
g) the number of valid votes;
h) the number of invalid votes;
i) the number of votes validly cast for the territorial lists according to parties separately and in the aggregate as well as the per cent limit defined by 8(5);
j) the number of surplus votes for each party;
k) the names of MPs elected on the national lists;
l) the decisions of the electoral board concerning the conduct of voting;
m) the enumeration of persons who received a copy each of the record.

ANNEXE 15 /to point i) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

The national preliminary results of election shall show:

a) the percentage ratio of voters in the individual and territorial constituencies;
b) the name of the MP elected, the name of the nominating party, or the fact of independent nomination;
c) the percentage of votes validly cast for the MP elected;
d) the national aggregate ratio of voters during the election;
e) the national aggregate ratios of votes cast for each party separately;
f) the enumeration of individual constituencies in which a second poll or by-elections are to be held;
g) the enumeration of territorial constituencies where a second poll will be held, as well as the number of mandates to be added to those on the national list.

ANNEXE 16 /to point j) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Text of the Oath by Members of Electoral Bodies and Working Groups

"I, ... swear that I will observe, and will have others observe, the provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Law. I will perform my office and fulfill my mandate conscientiously, to the best of my ability, for the benefit of my homeland. So help me God!"

Text of the Pledge by Members of Electoral Bodies and Working Groups

"I, ... pledge that I will observe, and will have others observe, the provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Law. I will perform my office and fulfill my mandate conscientiously, to the best of my ability, for the benefit of my homeland."

ANNEXE 17 /to point k) of § 52/ of the Franchise Act

Notice of entry into the electoral register

Honored Voter,

In accordance with the electoral law we inform you that you have been entered on the Electoral Register No ..... in Polling Ward No..... in (capital/country) ..... (community).

Address of polling ward: .....

Day of election: .....

You can cast your vote on production of your identity card. You are kindly requested to bring this Notice with your for the voting.

You may cast your vote by placing the mark "x" in the circle beside the name of the party, social organization, individual candidate on the ballot paper.

Please notify by mail, telephone, or personally the mayor's office of any error or misprint in your particulars.

Notary.

Kazakhstan

LAW
ON ELECTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

People of Kazakhstan are the only source of state power.

Every citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan has a right to participate in state management either directly or through legally elected representatives.

1. GENERAL PART

CHAPTER I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 1. Goals and Objectives of the Code on Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The goal of this Code is to implement the Constitutional regulations on elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The objective of this Code is the legislative regulation of relationships, which occur during the preparation and holding of the election of the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as the creation of guarantees which provide the freedom for expressing the will by citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 2. Freedom of Elections.

Elections of the Republic of Kazakhstan are based on free implementation by the citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan of his right to elect and to be elected. This right is guaranteed by the constitutional principles of the election process, responsibility of officials and others, hindering the expression of the will by citizens during preparation and holding of the elections, and other measures identified by this Code and other laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which provide for the free expression of citizens' will in electoral process.

ARTICLE 3. Principles of Electoral Right.

The elections of the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies are carried out on the basis of universal, equal, direct electoral right by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 4. Universal Electoral Right.

Universal electoral right is the participation in elections of all citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan who have electoral rights, that is those who have reached 18 years of age, irrespective of their social and property status, race, nationality, gender, settled way of life, education, language, religion, occupation.

Citizens, who have been declared legally incompetent by the court, as well as individuals kept in places of imprisonment may not participate in the elections.

ARTICLE 5. Equal Electoral Rights.

Voters participate in the elections on an equal basis and each of them has one vote, which he can give to candidates for Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 6. Direct Voting.

The President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan are elected by the citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan directly.

ARTICLE 7. Secret Ballot

Voting during the elections of the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan is secret, excluding possibility of any control over the will of voters.

CHAPTER II. ELECTORAL BODIES

ARTICLE 8. Electoral Bodies, their System and Terms of Office.

Electoral bodies which organize and hold elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan are electoral commissions composed by corresponding representative and executive bodies.

The system of electoral commissions consists of:

1) Central Electoral Commission;
2) territorial (territorialny) electoral commissions;
3) area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions;
4) district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions.

Term of authority of territorial (territorialny) and area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions for the Supreme Soviet is 5 years.

Authority of area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions and district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions on elections for the local representative bodies expires by the moment of registration of the elected President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 9. Central Electoral Commissions of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan is a permanently functioning body of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Central Electoral Commission consists of the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and four members of the commission. Members of the Central Electoral Commission are elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan based on the suggestion of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Changes into the composition of the Central Electoral Commission are made at the suggestion of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Central Electoral Commission has its own administration and staff.

Expenditures for the Central Electoral Commission and its staff are funded by the state budget of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 10. Authority of the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

1) carries out on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan the control (monitoring) over the implementation of the regulations of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the elections and present Code, provides their explanation (interpretation) and uniform application: when necessary, addresses the Supreme Soviet of the Republic with the suggestion to interpret the regulations of the Code on Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan;
2) organizes and holds the elections of the President and deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
3) forms and publishes in the media the list of constituencies to elect the President and deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
4) makes up and presents a tentative budget of the election campaign to the Supreme Soviet for confirmation;
5) directs the activities of electoral commissions; distributes among them the republican budget; controls the creation of logistics for the activities of the electoral commissions; considers the applications and complaints regarding the activities of the electoral commissions;
6) establishes the form and text of election ballots, lists of voters, lists for collection of voters signatures in support of candidates and other election-related documents, samples of ballot boxes and seals of the electoral commissions, order of keeping the election documents;
7) is eligible to hear the reports of state institutions on issues related to the preparation and holding elections, as well as the information of bodies of public associations regarding the observance of the legislation on elections;
8) registers candidates for President and Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as candidates for deputies of the Supreme Soviet according to the state list, their accredited representatives and support groups, provides them with appropriate certificates;
9) informs the voters on the election campaign;
10) draws the results of the elections throughout the Republic, registers elected President and Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, deputies of the Supreme Soviet, provides for the spread of the information through print press and other mass media;
11) holds repeated voting, repeated elections, and elections in lieu of those who dropped out;
12) carries out other authorities in accordance with this Code and laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 11. Territorial (territorialny) Electoral Commissions and the Order of their Formation.

Territorial electoral commissions - oblast, rayon, city - are formed by a joint decision of corresponding local representative and executive bodies and organize and conduct the elections of the deputies to local representative bodies.

Territorial electoral commissions are formed not later than 80 days before the regular elections of 9-15 members, unless specified otherwise when appointing the elections.

Suggestions regarding the composition of the commission can be made by local representative and executive bodies.

ARTICLE 12. Authorities of the Territorial Electoral Commission

Territorial Electoral Commission:

1) carries out on the territory of respective administrative-territorial units the control (monitoring) over the implementation of the regulations of this Code regarding the elections, and provides their uniform application;
2) organizes and holds the elections of the President and deputies to the local representative bodies;
3) forms constituencies to elect deputies to the corresponding local representative bodies and publishes the list, informs the voters regarding the location of the election commissions;
4) directs the activities of the area (okruzhnoi) and district (territorialny) electoral commissions; distributes among them the state financial resources, allocated to hold the elections, controls the creation of logistics for the activities of area and district electoral commissions;
5) is eligible to hear the reports of area (okruzhnoi) and district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions, state bodies on issues related to the preparation and holding of the elections, as well as the information of bodies public associations regarding the observance of the legislation on elections;
6) provides for the preparation of the electoral ballots for the elections of deputies to corresponding local representative bodies;

7) receives from the area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions protocols on registration on candidates to deputies and provides for the publication of the list of registered candidates;
8) draws the results of the elections, registers deputies elected to corresponding local representative body, provides for the spread of information through print press and other mass media;
9) organizes and holds repeated voting, repeated elections, and elections in lieu of those who dropped out;
10) carries out other authorities in accordance with this Code and laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 13. Area (okruzhnoi) Electoral Commissions and the Order of their Formation.

Area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions are formed by a joint decision of respective local representative and executive bodies and provide for the organization and conducting of elections of the deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies at constituencies.

Area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions to elect the deputies of the Supreme Soviet are formed not later than 100 days before the elections of 9-15 members, unless specified otherwise when appointing the elections.

Area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions to elect the deputies of the local representative bodies are formed not later than 70 days before the elections of 9-11 members, unless specified otherwise when appointing the elections.

Suggestions regarding the composition of the commission can be made by local representative and executive bodies.

ARTICLE 14. Authority of the Area (okruzhnoi) Electoral Commissions.

Area (okruzhnoi) Electoral Commission:

1) carries out on the territory of corresponding area control (monitoring) over the implementation of the regulations of this Code regarding the elections of deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies, and provides their standard application;
2) organizes and coordinates the activities of district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions, controls the creation of logistics necessary for the activities of the district electoral commissions; considers the applications and complaints regarding the activities of the district electoral commissions;
3) establishes uniform numbering of the voting districts in the area;
4) registers candidates for deputies, their accredited representatives and support groups and provides them with appropriate certificates;
5) encourages the publication (issuance) of programs and posters with Biographies of candidates for deputies, as well as active election campaigning in the print press and other mass media means;
6) controls the timeliness and correctness of voters lists and their presentation for general review;
7) Approves the text of the ballot, provides for printing of the election ballots and supplies district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions with these forms;
8) is eligible to hear the information from district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions, and state bodies located on the territory of the area (okrug) on issues related to holding elections, as well as the information of public associations regarding the observance of the legislation on elections;
9) receives from the district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions protocols on the elections results, draws the result of the elections on their basis, and provides for the spread of information through the print press and other mass media means;
10) organizes and holds repeated elections and elections in lieu of the deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies who withdrew their candidacies;
11) carries out other authorities in accordance with this Code and laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 15. District (uchastkovy) Electoral Commissions and Order of their Formation.

District (uchastkovy) electoral commissions are formed by a joint decision of rayon, city representative and executive bodies and provide for organizing and conducting elections of the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies at corresponding constituencies.

District (uchastkovy) electoral commissions are formed of 5-19 members not later than 30 days before the elections, unless specified otherwise when appointing the elections.

Suggestions regarding the composition of the commission can be made by local representative and executive bodies and voters.

ARTICLE 16. Authority of District (uchastkovy) Electoral Commissions.

District (uchastkovy) Electoral Commission:

1) makes the list of voters at the respective district (uchastok);
2) familiarizes citizens with the list of voters, considers the applications regarding the mistakes and inaccuracies in the lists and solves issues regarding the making of certain changes to the list;
3) informs the voters about registered candidates for deputies, about the location of the district commission, as well as the date and place of voting;
4) prepares the space (building), provides preparation of cabins and boxes;
5) on the day of elections organizes the vote at the polling site;
6) organizes vote tabulation and posts the results of the voting at the district (uchastok);

7) considers applications and complaints related to the voting process and makes decision on these issues;
8) carries out other authorities in accordance with this Code and laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 17. Organization of the Activities of Electoral Commissions.

First session of the Central Electoral Commission is convened within 14 days after the formation of the commission.

First meetings of the lower-ranking electoral commissions are convened not later than seven days after their formation. The decision on the formation of electoral commissions, their composition and location are announced in the print press and other mass media means.

During the preparation and conduct of the election campaign, the meetings of the Central Electoral Commission are held at least once a month, of other commissions at least once every two weeks. At other times the sessions of the Commission are held when necessary, on the initiative of the chairman, or of not less than 1/3 of the commission members.

The sessions of the electoral commissions are valid, if at least 2/3 of the total number of members participate in them. The decisions of the commission are made by open voting by majority from the total number of the commission members. Members of the commission who disagree with its decision, are entitled to express a dissenting opinion, which is attached in written form to the protocol of the session

Decisions of the electoral commissions made within their authorities, are obligatory for the implementation by all state bodies and officials, enterprises, organizations, institutions, public associations.

Decisions and actions of the electoral commissions can be appealed to the higher-ranking electoral commissions or through the courts.

State bodies and officials, enterprises, organizations, institutions and public associations shall assist electoral commissions in carrying out their authorities and provide necessary information and materials.

Chairman, deputy chairman, secretary of the territorial, area, district electoral commissions are elected by the members of the corresponding commissions from its composition by the majority.

Members of the territorial, area, district electoral commission, upon request, can be released from their regular employment with preserving their regular salary at the account of the state budget allocated for the elections.

CHAPTER III. ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

ARTICLE 18. Electoral Systems used in Voting.

During the elections of the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the following electoral systems are used:

1) majority system of absolute majority;
2) majority system of relative (comparative) majority.

ARTICLE 19. Majority System of Absolute Majority.

Majority system of absolute majority is used in accordance with the following rules:

1. Elections are considered as held if 50% of citizens from the voters list participated in the elections.
2. A candidate is considered elected if the number of votes given for his candidacy makes up more than 50% of the number of citizens who participated in the elections.
3. In the event that two or more candidates are listed on the ballot, and none of them has collected the required number of votes, the two candidates who have collected most of votes in comparison to the others will participate in the repeat voting.

ARTICLE 20. The Usage of the Majority System of Absolute Majority.

Majority system of absolute majority is used in electing the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 21. Majority System of the Relative Majority.

Majority system of the relative majority is used in accordance with the following rules:

1. The elections are considered held if not less than 50% of citizens from the voters list participated in the elections.
2. A candidate is considered elected, if the majority of the voters participating in the elections have voted for him in comparison with other candidates.
3. If only one candidate is on the ballot in the constituency, he is considered elected if the number of votes for him exceeds the number of votes against him.
4. In voting according to the State list of candidates for deputies of the Supreme Soviet, candidates who have collected the majority of votes in comparison to other candidates from the State list are considered elected.

ARTICLE 22. The Usage of the Majority System of Relative Majority.

Majority system of relative majority is used in electing the deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES

ARTICLE 23. Electoral Constituencies and their System.

A system of territorial constituencies area is created and used in the Republic of Kazakhstan when electing the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

As a rule, constituencies for the elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan are formed with equal number of voters and taking into consideration the administrative-territorial formation of the republic.

Deputies of the Supreme Soviet who are candidates on the State list, are elected according to territorial constituencies, which cover the territory of the corresponding oblast and cities of republican subordination.

ARTICLE 24. Constituency Boubdaries and their Reconsideration.

Constituencies are formed by the Central and territorial electoral commissions.

The list of constituencies with their borders and location of area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions is published by the Central Electoral Commission not later than 110 days before, and by territorial electoral commissions not later than 75 days before the day of the elections if not otherwise decided during the appointing of elections.

Changes into the list of constituencies, their borders and location of electoral commissions are made by the corresponding commission.

ARTICLE 25. Formation of Constituencies.

Constituencies are formed by the joint decision of respective local representative and executive bodies with agreement of electoral commissions to conduct voting and vote tabulation for elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

At military units, ships which are at sea, resort houses, in-patient clinics, at remote and not easily accessible areas of residence, at districts of far-off cattle breeding, electoral districts are formed as well, which are included into constituencies according to their location, or the port of the ship's registration.

Electoral districts formed at representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan in foreign states refer to one of the constituencies of the capital, which is identified by the Central Electoral Commission.

On ships which are at sea the day of elections, electoral districts are formed by the joint decision of respective local representative and executive bodies based on agreement with constituencies according to the port of the ship's registration, and at military units according to the suggestions of the commanders of military units.

Electoral districts are formed no later than 30 days before the elections, if not otherwise decided when appointing the elections.

At military units, ships which are on voyage, resort houses, in-patient clinics, at remote and not easily accessible areas of residence, at districts of far-off cattle breeding, at representations of the Republic of Kazakhstan in foreign states, electoral districts are formed at the same terms, in exceptional cases - 5 days before the elections.

Electoral districts are formed with the number of voters not less than 3000. The body which formed the electoral districts, informs the voters regarding the borders of each electoral district and the location of the district (uchastkovy) electoral commission and the polling site.

CHAPTER V. LIST OF VOTERS

ARTICLE 26. List of Voters and Order of Formation.

Lists of voters are made by the district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions for each electoral district (uchastok) and signed by the chairman and the secretary of the commission.

Lists of voters according to their residence, are made on the basis of data on voters, provided by the local executive bodies.

Lists of military voters who are at military posts, as well as members of their families and other voters, are made on the basis of the information provided by the commander of the unit.

Military personnel who live at military locations are included into the list of voters according to their residence.

Lists of voters of electoral districts located at sanatoriums, medical institutions, resort houses, hospital and other in-patient clinics, as well as at representations of the Republic of Kazakhstan in foreign states, on ships belonging to the Republic of Kazakhstan which are on voyage the day of elections, are made on the basis of data provided by the heads of these institutions and ship captains.

Lists of voters are made in a form suitable for the organization of elections.

ARTICLE 27. Including Citizens into the List of Voters.

Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan who reach the age of 18 by the day of the elections and have the right to vote are included into the list of voters.

Citizens, residing permanently or temporarily at the territories of corresponding electoral districts by the day of forming the list are included into the list of voters.

All citizens who stay at sanatoriums, resort houses, hospitals and other in-patient medical institutions, on ships belonging to the Republic of Kazakhstan which are on voyage the day of the elections, will be included into the list of voters at election districts of the above mentioned rayons, institutions or on board.

All citizens who are in foreign states the day of the elections and who have valid foreign passports of the citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan are included into the list of voters at electoral districts within corresponding foreign representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan can be included only on one list of voters.

Citizen who arrive at the electoral district after the presentation the list of voters to the public are included into an additional list.

ARTICLE 28. Familiarization of the Public with the List of Voters.

The list of voters according to electoral districts which are formed on the residence basis are made available to the public 15 days before, at other electoral districts - 5 days before the voting.

Citizens are given an opportunity to become familiarized with the list of voters, as well as to check the accuracy of data on voters in the offices of corresponding voting districts.

Every citizen is entitled to appeal against the non-inclusion, incorrect inclusion into the list or exclusion from the list, as well as inaccuracies made regarding the information on voters.

Applications on the need to make corrections in the list are taken into consideration by the district (uchastkovy) electoral commission not later than within 3 days, the day before and the day of the elections - immediately. In case of the denial of the application, the district electoral commission provides the applicant with the copy of the motivated decision on denying his application. The decision can be appealed to the rayon (city) court which takes into consideration the application within three days, and the day before or the day of the elections - immediately, and makes the final decision. In case of positive decision for the applicant, the correction into the list of voters is made by the district electoral commission immediately.

ARTICLE 29. Certificate Giving the Right to Vote.

In case of a voter changes residence the presentation of the voters' list to the public and the day of elections, the district electoral commission, at the request of the voter and presentation of his ID, provides him with a certificate giving him the right to vote. In this case an appropriate note is made into the voters' list.

On the day of the elections, after presenting the certificate giving the right to vote, the electoral commission includes the voter into an additional list of voters at the electoral district according to his residence.

CHAPTER VI. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 30. The Right to Nominate Candidates.

The right to nominate candidates for the Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet according to territorial constituencies, deputies of the local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan belongs to public associations, as well as citizens - by means of self-nomination. The right to nominate candidates for deputies of the Supreme Soviet, elected according to the state list, belongs to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 31. Order of Nominating Candidates.

Nomination of candidates for the Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies is made by public associations, as well as citizens - by means of self-nomination, with support on the part of voters living on the territory of the respective constituency. The support is certified by collecting signatures at signature lists, provided by the area (okruzhnoi) electoral commission.

The Central, and respectively the territorial and area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions must provide the support groups of accredited representatives and candidates for the Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies with the necessary number of signature lists.

Every signature list should include columns, providing the following information: numbers, last name, first name and middle name of the signing person; number and series of the identity card; date, month and year of birth; personal signature. Each signature list should have first, middle and last name of the candidate; first, last and middle name of a person collecting signatures, number and series of his identity card, personal signature, and also the name of the populated area where the collection of signatures is taking place.

The form of the signature list is approved by the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 32. Registration of Candidates.

Registration of candidates for the Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan is carried out by the electoral commissions based upon the suggestions of bodies of corresponding non-governmental organizations, and also at the suggestions of self-nominating candidates.

Any number of candidates for the Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan may be presented for registration.

A candidate for the Presidency, deputy of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies cannot be a member of the Central Electoral Commission, or lower-ranking electoral commissions. An individual nominated as a candidate who is a member of one the above mentioned electoral commissions, is considered to be released from his membership from the moment of his registration as a candidate.

Respective electoral commissions, not later than on the seventh day after the registration of a candidate for deputies publish the information on the registration in the press indicating first, middle and last name, date of birth, position held, party affiliation, place of work and residence of each candidate.

within two days after the registration of a candidate for deputy, the election commission provides him with an appropriate certificate.

ARTICLE 33. Pre-election Program of the Candidate.

a candidate for the Presidency, deputy of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies presents a program of his future activities. The program of a candidate should not promote the ideas of racial, national, religious, social, including class or group (estate), exceptionality or hostility, have appeals (slogans) to the violent change of the existing constitutional system, violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Kazakhstan, human rights and freedom, or taking other actions contradicting the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In case of the violation of the above mentioned requirements, the corresponding electoral commission is entitled to deny the candidate's registration, in case of presenting such a program after the registration of the candidate, to cancel the registration.

ARTICLE 34. Ballot.

The form and the text of the ballot to elect the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan elected according to the state list is established by the Central Electoral Commission.

The form of the ballots to elect deputies of the Supreme Soviet elected according to territorial constituencies, as well as deputies of local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan, is established correspondingly by the Central and territorial electoral commissions.

The text of the ballots to elect deputies of the Supreme Soviet elected according to territorial constituencies, and deputies of local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan is established by area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions.

All registered candidates with the indication of their first, middle and last names, profession, occupation, administrative-territorial unit of candidates' residence, their party affiliation and information on their nomination are included on the ballot.

Ballots are printed in the state language and the language of international communication used by the population of the constituency.

Ballots are provided to the district (uchastkovy) electoral commissions three days before the elections.

The office where the ballots are kept is sealed and passed over under the guard of the internal affairs bodies.

CHAPTER VII. PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 35. The Right to Pre-election Campaign.

The pre-election campaign is carried out with the help of print press and other means of mass media, oral presentations of candidates for deputies and their accredited representatives before the voters, and with the help of campaign posters.

The State guarantees to citizens who have the right to vote and to non-government organizations the right to campaign for or against this or that candidate for Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Central Electoral Commission provides candidates with equal amount of financial resources to carry out the pre-election campaign.

ARTICLE 36. Pre-election Campaign through Print Press and other Means of Mass Media.

From the moment of registration at the area (okruzhnoy) constituency and until the end of the pre-election campaign candidates for deputies on equal terms have a right to campaign and promote their election program in print press and other means of mass media.

All campaign print materials should have information about organizations and individuals responsible for their issuance. The distribution of anonymous campaign materials is prohibited.

When conducting the pre-election campaign, candidates on equal terms have the right to make presentations of their programs in print press and other means of mass media of corresponding oblasts and rayons. The time frame for the presentations at the radio and television is 19:00-23:00 local time. Every candidate has a right to make one presentation on TV free of charge.

Presentations and advertisements supporting a candidate can be transmitted through radio and television programs or published in print press only under the condition of being paid for out of the resources allocated for the election campaign of this or that candidate.

Official print press of the highest bodies of the executive power of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and press of local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan must publish the information of the electoral commissions, information on candidates participating in the elections in order and amount defined by the Central Electoral Commission.

ARTICLE 37. Support Groups.

Citizens' support groups are organized by candidates themselves and are registered in respective electoral commissions.

Candidate independently defines the composition and the number of members of the support group.

Members of the registered support group are provided with the certificate by the electoral commission.

The refusal to register a support group is appealed to the court.

Support groups are formed:

- to organize the collection of voters' signatures to support the nominated candidate;
- campaign activities for or against this or that candidate.

Members of the support group lose their status at the completion of the election campaign, on personal initiative or at the candidate's decision.

ARTICLE 38. Candidate's Accredited Representatives.

Candidates for deputies are entitled to have their accredited representatives who help them in carrying out election campaign, lead the campaign, represent the candidate's interests with respect to state and public associations, electoral commissions.

Candidates for the Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan define the accredited representatives according on their own decision and pass information about them to respective electoral commission for their registration.

Electoral Commission after the registration of accredited representatives provides them with an appropriate certificate.

An accredited representative cannot be a member of any electoral commission.

Accredited representatives act within the authority given to them by the candidate. Actions of accredited representatives violating the regulations of their Code lead to the candidates' responsibility in accordance with Article 56 of this Code.

Accredited representatives lose their status at the completion of the election campaign or on personal initiative or on the candidate's decision.

ARTICLE 39. Cessation of Pre-election Campaign.

Campaigning is prohibited the day before and the day of elections.

Print materials, posters hung out previously outside the elections building can be kept at these places.

CHAPTER VIII. FINANCING OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 40. General Conditions of Financing the Elections.

Elections of the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan are financed by resources of the Republican budget.

State financing of elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan is aimed at provision of equal opportunities for candidates for the Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the pre-election campaign.

Non state financing of the elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as any direct or indirect participation of foreign institutions, legal entities, foreign citizens or individuals with no citizenship in financing of elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan is prohibited.

ARTICLE 41. Financing of the Activities of Electoral Commissions.

Financing of electoral commissions to elect President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan is carried out by the Central Electoral Commission and electoral commissions to elect deputies of local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan by the respective territorial electoral commission.

ARTICLE 42. Control over Spending the Resources of the Republican Budget for Electoral Campaigns.

Control over the spending of the resources of the Republican budget allocated for the election campaign by the candidates is carried out by respective territorial commissions.

CHAPTER IX. ORDER OF VOTING

ARTICLE 43. Time and Place of Voting.

Voting takes place on the day of elections from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. local time. Area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions at the suggestion of the respective local representative and executive body, district (uchastkovy) electoral commission have the right to set up different timing for the beginning and completion of voting. In this case the elections cannot start earlier than 6 a.m. and be over not later than 10 p.m. The decision of area (okruzhnoi) electoral commissions regarding the changes of the beginning and completion of elections can be made and brought to the attention of voters not later than one week before the date of elections.

The district electoral commission informs the voters regarding the date and place of voting not later than 14 days before the elections.

At constituencies formed on board the ships, which are on voyage the day of elections, at military units, in remote and not easily accessible places, in far-off cattlebreeding rayons, in hospitals and other in-patient institutions, as well as in representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan in foreign states, the district electoral commission can declare the elections ended at any time if all the voters included into the list have voted. The list of such districts is approved by the area constituency not later than one week before the elections.

ARTICLE 44. Polling Sites.

Voting should take place in special offices, where an adequate number of voting cabins for secret balloting must be arranged, places for the distribution of ballots need to be identified, voting boxes should be placed in such a way that the voters approaching them should obligatorily go through the cabins or rooms for secret balloting. In this case an opportunity for the monitors and commission members to watch the boxes should be created.

Individuals at the electoral district should strictly comply with the requirements set by the voting commission. The chairman of the district election committee is responsible for the order and entitled to require that any person who prohibits the regulations of this Code leave the building.

Bodies of internal affairs are responsible for the provision of order.

ARTICLE 45. Order of Opening Polling Sites.

On the day of voting district electoral commissions should start opening polling sites before the beginning of voting. In this case one representative of each candidate on the ballot, print press and mass media representatives can be present at the polling site.

The chairman of the district election committee in presence of commission members seals the voting boxes. Simultaneously, he identifies individuals responsible for the distribution of ballots.

ARTICLE 46. Organization of Voting.

Each voters votes individually, voting for other individuals is not acceptable. Voting ballots should be given to voters on the basis of voters' lists by presenting the identity card of the voter.

Voters sign the list of receiving the ballot. Committee member who has given the ballot puts his signature in it and also signs the list against the name of the voter who received a ballot.

In cases when individual voters cannot come to the voting district because of health or any other reasons, the district election committee at their request should organize voting at the place of residence of these voters.

In case a voter learned that he would not be able to come to the voting district on the elections day not later than 3 days before the elections, he is entitled to get his ballot beforehand at the district election committee. When receiving the ballot, the voter signs in the list, the voter after filling in the ballot, puts them into an envelope which is glued and sealed and signed by the commission members and passes it over to the commission. The sealed envelope should be kept at the district election committee until the day of the elections.

ARTICLE 47. Conducting the Vote.

Ballots which have been filled in by the voters beforehand and kept in the district election committee, should be dropped in an envelope into the voting box by the chairman of the commission in the presence of other commission members before the beginning of general voting. In this case the wholeness (safety) of the envelope, seals and signatures, and the record of the number of envelopes on the list are checked.

Ballots are filled in by the voters in a cabin or a room for secret ballot. The presence of anyone except the voter is prohibited during the balloting. Voters who are not able to ballot independently can request the assistance of a person whom they trust. This person cannot be a member of the election committee or representatives of a candidate present at the polling site.

Voters cross out the names of candidates against whom they vote and drop the filled in ballot into the box.

CHAPTER X. DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF VOTING

ARTICLE 48. Vote Tabulation at the Polling Site.

Vote tabulation is done at the electoral district on each candidate for the Presidency, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and deputies of local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Ballot boxes should be opened by the district election committee after the chairman announces the voting over. It is prohibited to open the ballot boxes prior to the completion of voting.

Before the opening of ballot boxes, all the unused ballots are counted and cancelled by the district election committee. The total number of voters in the district and the number of voters who received ballots should be determined. The commission also determines the number of voters who participated in voting, number of votes "for" and the number of voters given "against" each candidate, number of ballots admitted invalid.

The ballot of a non-approved format and a ballot without the signature of the commission member is considered invalid. In case of disagreement, the issue is resolved by vote of the commission.

The results of vote tabulation are taken into consideration by the district election committee and are documented in protocols, which are signed by the chairman and members of the election committee. In the absence of the chairman of the election commission, the protocols are signed by the deputy chairman or secretary of the district election committee.

Information regarding the results of the elections of the President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies in their constituencies is published in the print press by the respective election committee within the dates determined by the Central Election committee. The following is indicated in the information: total number of citizens included into the list of voters; number of voters who participated in the elections; number of voters given "for" and "against" each candidate; number of invalid ballots; first, middle and last name, date of birth, position held, party affiliation, residence of the elected President, Vice-President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 50. Registration of the President, Vice-President, Deputies of the Supreme Soviet and Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Registration of elected President, Vice-President, deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan is conducted by appropriate election committees.

ARTICLE 51. Certificate for the President, Vice-President, Certificate and Badge for the Deputies of the Supreme Soviet and Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Central Election committee after the publication in the press of the Presidential elections results, gives appropriate certificates to the President and Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Central Election commission after the publication of the results of elections of deputies of the Supreme Soviet, provides them with the certificates of the Deputies of the Republic of Kazakhstan and badges of approved form.

The respective territorial election committee after the publication of the list of deputies of local representative bodies,

provides each deputy with a certificate and a badge of approved form.

CHAPTER XI. GUARANTEES FOR FREEDOM OF ELECTIONs

ARTICLE 52. Guarantees for Candidates' Activities During the Election Campaign.

Candidates for the Presidency, Deputies of the Supreme Soviet or local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan are equally eligible to participate in the election campaign in accordance with this Law immediately after they have been nominated and registered, enjoy equal rights and access to mass media within the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, or any territorial subdivision thereof and are charged with equal responsibilities.

Candidates are exempt from work for the course of pre-election compaignign with costs reimbursed for this period from the Republican budget election funds at an average wage rate.

Candidates for the Presidency, Deputies of the Supreme Soviet or local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan cannot be dismissed or transferred to another job or position without their consent during the election campaign.

Candidates for the position of President, Deputy of the Supreme Soviet or local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan cannot be arrested, detained, imposed public punishment on or prosecuted without written consent of relevant electoral committee. In addition, they cannot be detained except to be apprehended at the site of crime.

ARTICLE 53. Regulations for Candidates' Activities.

Candidates for President of the Republic of Kazakhstan are granted the right to free public transport (except taxi) within the territory of the Republic.

Candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet and local representative bodies are granted the right for free public transport (except taxi) within the territory of the relevant constitueney. Candidates residing outside the electoral district enjoy the same right for transportation to the district and back home.

ARTICLE 54. State Bodies' Activities to Ensure Freedom of Election.

The election day is the work day for the courts and attorney offices. They shall admit applications from the members of Electoral Commissions, citizens, representatives of legally registered public organizations, concerning vote issues, which should be considered within five work days.

Home Affairs Ministerial bodies shall provide any help to Electoral Commissions they may need to ensure order and freedom of election during the vote in accordance with the present Code.

ARTICLE 55. Terms for Appealing the Decisions and Action During Election Campaign.

Appeals regarding the infringement of this election Law admitted during campaigning or election shall be considered within three work days, and those admitted on the eve or on election day shall be addressed immediately.

ARTICLE 56. Responsibilities for Infringing Election Legislature.

Persons who by means of violation, fraud, menace, bribery or any other means impede the Kazakhstani citizen's right to elect freely or be elected the President, Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, local representative body of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and to campaign; who propagate willingly false information about the candidates for the President, Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, local representative body of the Republic of Kazakhstan, or otherwise involved in discrediting their reputation and dignity, as well as persons campaigning by the course of election day, interfering with the operation Electoral Commissions and impeding with the poll in election districts, with registration of candidates, vote tabulation and election results bear responsibilities as provided by the Law.

Members of Electoral Commissions, officers of the State bodies and public organizations who counterfeited electoral documents, performed willingly false vote tabulation, infringed upon the secrecy of balloting or otherwise violated this Law, shall also be prosecuted.

If the candidate violates provisions of this Code he would be warned. repeated violation will result in cancellation of his registration by the relevant Electoral Commission.

2. SPECIAL SECTION

CHAPTER XII. ELECTION OF DEPUTIES OF SUPREME SOVIET OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

ARTICLE 57. Setting the Election of Deputies of Supreme Soviet.

Grounds for setting the election of the Supreme Soviet is the termination of Supreme Soviet Deputies' term of office, unless specified otherwise by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Elections of deputies of the Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan are set by President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The date of elections is defined with regard to provisions of article 116 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 58. Membership of the Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan.

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan consists of 177 deputies,

135 deputies of the Supreme Soviet are elected in majority territorial constituencies,

42 deputies of the Supreme Soviet are elected according to the State list of candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet which is drafted by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 59. Requirements for Candidates for Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

To be elected a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall meet the requirements, defined by article 115 of the Kazakhstan Constitution, and also possess active suffrage as specified by article 110 of the Kazakhstan Constitution and by the present Code.

Settlement qualification is not applicable to the candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet.

ARTICLE 60. Nomination of Candidates for Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Nomination of candidates for deputies of the Supreme Soviet by public organizations is made by their High Republican bodies.

A citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan has the right to nominate himself for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet.

Public organizations may nominate only one candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet within one constituency. No one can be nominated for more than one constituency. The resolution on nomination of a candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet is passed by a majority vote of delegates for General Assembly or conference of the public organization.

Minutes are taken on the nomination process.

The nominee is notified of the Body's resolution no later than two work days after nomination. Candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet in constituencies can be nominated with a minimum of 3000 supporting signatures of voters residing within the relevant territory. The support is certified by collecting signatures, which are to be filled in signature sheets released by territorial electoral committees.

The nominee support signature sheets are submitted to territorial electoral committees which after checking its correctness, draft the relevant reports.

Signature collectors are legally responsible for the authenticity of collected signatures and checklist data on voters.

Nomination of candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet is made by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in constituencies formed within borders of relevant oblasts and Republic governed cities. Alternatively, the list of nominated candidates from each oblast and Republic governed cities is submitted to the Central Electoral Commission.

Each nominee deposits an electoral pledge valued at five times his wages to the Central Electoral Commission's account. A candidate without a full-time job salary shall pledge five-times the minimal wage, as defined by law. The deposited money is returned to the nominee if he succeeds in gaining the election minimum of 5 per cent of the votes of those included in electoral lists. If a nominee fails to deposit an election pledge, his application is not considered submitted.

Nomination of candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan begins three months before and ends two months prior to elections unless specified otherwise when scheduling elections.

ARTICLE 61. Registration of Candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet within territorial constituencies are registered by the area electoral commissions upon presentations by the relevant bodies of public organizations, as well as upon applications of self-nominated candidates.

Candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet are registered upon submission of following documents:

1) nominee support signature sheets;
2) document certifying electional pledge deposit;
3) resolution of the relevant body of public organization on the nomination of candidate within the constituency with attached document indicated the said public organization was registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
4) nominees' biography;
5) candidate's application indicating his consent to campaign within this constituency and to comply with requirements of article 68 of the Constitution of Kazakhstan, if he is elected a deputy.

A self-nominated candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet can be registered upon submission of the following documents:

1) nominee support signature lists;
2) document certifying electional pledge deposit;
3) nominee's biography;
4) candidate's application indicating his consent to ballot within this constituency and comply with the requirements of article 68 of the Constitution of Kazakhstan, in case he is elected deputy.

The district electoral committee drafts a report that the candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet has been registered, and this report is submitted within five working days to the Central Electoral Commission.

Candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet on the State list are registered upon submission of following documents:

1) Presentation by the President of Kazakhstan on nomination of candidate within specific oblast or Republic governed city;
2) document certifying electional pledge deposit;
3) candidate's application indicating his consent to ballot within his constituency and comply with requirements of the article 68. Constitution of Kazakhstan, in case he is elected a deputy;
4) nominee's biography.

The electoral commission voids its decision on registration if there appear some circumstances which according to the Constitution, present Code and Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, preclude the candidate's participation in the election.

A voided registration can be appealed within three working days either to the Central Electoral Commission, or to the court. Not later than the seventh working day after the candidate for Deputy has been registered, the relevant Electoral Commission publishes in the press a notification about registration showing each candidate's name, date of birth, position, job, and residence.

The electoral Commission gives each candidate the relevant certificate within two days after registration.

Nomination of candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet begins two months before elections unless specified otherwise when setting elections.

ARTICLE 62. Withdrawal of Candidacy for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A candidate for deputy, nominated within a territorial constituency, has the right to withdraw his candidacy at any time before election day by submitting application to the relevant area Electoral Commission.

A candidate for Deputy being nominated on the State list has the right to withdraw his candidacy at any time before election day, by submitting an application to the relevant area Electoral Commission.

Public organizations having nominated a candidate for Deputy within a territorial constituency, as well as the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan having nominated a candidate on the State list have the right to annul their motion on nomination.

ARTICLE 63. Representatives of the Candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet may have up to five representatives.

ARTICLE 64. Nomination of the Candidates of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Lieu of Those Who Dropped Out With Termination of the Registration Term.

In the case that all candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet to be elected within territorial constituencies, withdraw after the expiration of the registration dedline has passed, the relevant Electoral Commission requests citizens and public organizations to nominate new candidates.

In the case that candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet being nominated on the State list withdraw before the election with the result that the total number of remaining candidates is less than the number of the mandates, the Central Electoral Commission applies to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan for suggestions on the nomination of new candidates.

If candidates for Deputy withdraw less than 15 days before the day of elections, a deputy shall be elected two months after the date of universal elections.

ARTICLE 65. Setting and Publishing Results of Electing Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Based on the results of the voting, the district electoral committee completes two report forms: one for territorial constituency candidates, the other one - for State list nominees. Both reports are immediately transmitted to the district Electoral Commission.

Based on these reports, the district Electoral Commission defines the following: total constituency number of voters; number of voters given ballots; number of electors who took part in voting; number of votes "for" and "against" for each candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet; number of voided ballots.

The district Electoral Commission may void the results of electing the Deputies of the Supreme Soviet because of the violation of the Law's provisions during election or tabulation of votes.

A candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet from a territorial constituency is considered elected if he gains more votes than the other candidates.

A candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet being nominated on the State list is considered elected if he gains more voter than other candidates.

Results of electing Deputies of the Supreme Soviet within territorial constituencies are set at the District Electoral Commission meeting and included in a report which is signed by the chairperson and members of the Commission.

The second report on electing candidates for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet on the State list includes the following data: total constituency number of voters; number of voters given ballots; number of voters who took part in voting; number of votes "for" and "against" for each candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet; number of voided ballots. The report is also signed by the chairperson and the members of the Commission.

The district Electoral Commission transmits both reports to the Central Electoral Commission within five working days.

Information on the election of Deputy of the Supreme Soviet is published in the press by the relevant Electoral Commission within seven days. The report indicates the total constituency number of voters; number of voters given ballots; number of electors who took part in voting; number of votes "for" and "against" for each candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Soviet; number of null ballots; name, date of birth, position (occupation).. Party membership, residence of elected deputy.

Information on overall Republican results of election along with a list of elected deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan is published by the Central Electoral Commission in the press no later than ten days after the election; in alphabetic succession indicating names, date of birth, position (occupation), Party membership, residence of deputy, name of election district or oblast, or Republic governed city from which the deputy has been elected.

ARTICLE 66. Registration of the Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Central Electoral Commission based on the reports of territorial Electoral Commissions registers elected deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Central Electoral Commission may recognize election results as null and void if during the election, the vote tabulation or announcement of election results, there were violations of this Law. In this case, the commission may refuse to register the deputy of the Supreme Soviet.

ARTICLE 67. Repeat Elections

If elections are not held because of the lack of required voter turnout, if elections are recognized as void, or if the only candidate on the ballot was not elected, the Central Electoral Commissions may decide hold repeat elections. At this point, the Commission may find it necessary to replace the district and area Electoral Commissions' staff. The voting is held within the same election areas and by the same voters list drafted during previous election.

A repeat election is conducted no later than two months after the previous election. Formation of Electoral Commissions, nomination and registration of the deputies and other actions are regulated by the present Code.

Candidates who ran in elections deemed not to have been held may not be candidates.

ARTICLE 68. Election of Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Lieu of Those Who Dropped Out.

In cases of pre-term termination of Deputy's powers within the relevant constituencies, a repeat election is held to replace the deputies within three months. The election of Deputy of the Supreme Soviet is set by the Central Electoral Commission not later than two months before election starts, and shall be organized pursuant to provisions of present Code. Nomination of the candidates begins from the day of setting the election and ends 35 days before the election, registration of candidates for deputy ends a month before election, territorial Electoral Commissions are formed 30 days before election.

In case the deputy quits within less than one year of the end of his term of office, new elections to replace him are not held.

CHAPTER XIII. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

ARTICLE 69. Regular Elections of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan Presidential elections are held every five years on the first Sunday of December of the relevant year.

ARTICLE 70. Extraordinary Presidential Elections.

Extraordinary Presidential elections are conducted not later than two months after the President resigns or dies.

The subsequent elections are set in five years within dates defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 71. Organization and Conduction of Kazakhstani Presidential Elections.

Preparations and holding of Kazakhstani Presidential elections rests with oblast and city (Republic run) territorial Electoral Commissions.

ARTICLE 72. Scheduling Presidential Election.

Regular elections are scheduled by the Supreme Soviet not later than 4 months prior to termination of Kazakhstani President's office.

Extraordinary Presidential elections are set by the Supreme Soviet within dates pursuant to Article 70 of the present Code.

ARTICLE 73. Requirements which the President and Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan should Meet

To be elected the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan the Kazakhstani citizen must meet the requirements specified in article 114 of the Kazakhstan Constitution, and should be neither of clerical grade, nor a clergyman, be free of previous criminal conviction, and enjoying active suffrage, pursuant to Article 110 of the Kazakhstan Constitution and to this Law.

Violation of this Law results in the recognition of the Presidential election as null and void.

ARTICLE 74. Specific Features of Nomination for Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The nomination for Presidency of Kazakhstan begins three months before and ends two months before the election unless specified otherwise when setting the elections.

Candidates for the President are nominated by public organizations, personified by highest national authorities, as well as by self-nomination. At this point, every public organization is eligible to nominate only one candidate for the President. A nominee must be supported by 1 per cent of the total number of Kazakhstan voters.

Resolution on the nomination of candidates for the President is passed by a majority vote at the meeting of the Republican highest body of public organization. Minutes are taken on the nomination process.

The nominee is notified by the Body's resolution not later than two working days.

A candidate for the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan must be supported by signature collection. The latter is carried out by support groups formed pursuant to provisions of this Law and validated by signature sheets issued by the Central and territorial Electoral Commissions not later than five days after nomination of Candidate for the President on the basis of documents certifying his nomination.

Support signature sheets are submitted to the territorial Electoral Commission which checks them for correctness, then validates the relevant protocol, and transmits it to the Central Electoral Commission.

Signature collectors are legally responsible for the authenticity of collected signatures and checklist data on voters.

Territorial Electoral Commissions are responsible, if requested by candidate for the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

for informing him of the number of collected supportive signatures.

Each candidate for the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan deposits an electional pledge valued at ten times his wage to the Central Electoral Commission's account. Deposited money is returned to nominee if he is successfully elected the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A candidate for Vice-Presidency is determined by the candidate for Presidency before the latter has been registered by the Central Electoral Commission.

If nobody has been nominated for the Presidency or if all nominees have withdrawn their candidacies, the Central Electoral Commission extends nomination term to 20 days.

ARTICLE 75. Representatives of the Candidate for the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Candidate for the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan may have up to twenty representatives.

ARTICLE 76. Registration of the Candidates for Presidency and Vice-Presidency.

Registration of the candidates for the Presidency begins two months before and ends one month before election date unless specified otherwise when scheduling the election.

Candidates for the Presidency, and their candidates for the Vice-Presidency, from public organizations are registered by the Central Electoral Commission upon submission of following documents:

1) protocol on nomination of candidate for the President of Kazakhstan;
2) protocol on results of collecting signatures supporting the candidate for Presidency;
3) presentation of the candidate for Presidency on Vice-President's candidacy;
4) nominee's biography;
5) applications of candidates for Presidency and Vice-Presidency indicating their consent to campaign.

The candidates for the Presidency and their nominees for Vice-Presidency as well as self-nominees are registered by the Central Electoral Commission upon submission of following documents:

1) candidate supporting signature sheets;
2) nominee's biography;
3) applications of candidates for Presidency and Vice-Presidency indicating their intention to ballot.

The number of candidates for Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan is unlimited.

Candidates for Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan may be refused registration only in connection with violations of the present Code's provisions. Registration waivers on the behalf of Central Electoral Commission can be appealed by nominees within seven working days at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Supreme Court shall consider the plea within three working days. The Supreme Court's verdict is final.

The Central Electoral Commission gives Candidates for Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan appropriate certificates within five days after registration.

Not later than the seventh day after registration of candidates for Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan the Central Electoral Commission publishes information in the press about registration including names, date of birth, position (occupation), Party membership, residence of each candidate. At the same time, the list of candidates who have been refused registration specifying reasons of refusal is published.

ARTICLE 77. Withdrawal of Candidacy, Annulling the Resolution on Nomination by the Candidate.

A candidate for Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan may withdraw his candidacy at any time before registration, applying in writing to the Central Electoral Commission. This automatically means withdrawal of his purposed candidate for Vice-Presidency.

A candidate for Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan may withdraw his candidacy at any time before registration, applying in writing to the candidate for Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan at any time before registration, may void his decision on the proposal on a Candidate for Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 78. Nomination of Candidates for the Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Lieu of Those Who Withdraw.

In case the candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan withdraw his candidacy after termination of registration, and there is no alternative available, The Central Electoral Commission requests citizens and public organizations to nominate new candidates.

If candidates drop out less than 15 days before elections, Presidential elections are held within two-months after universal elections.

ARTICLE 79. Campaigning through the Press and other Mass Media

From the moment of registration in the Central Electoral Commission through the end of election campaign, candidates for Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan enjoy equal rights for campaigning and promotion of their election programs through Republican press and other mass media.

Timing for broadcasts on radio and TV is 7 to 11 p.m.

Each candidate may address for free on TV, up to one hour.

Addresses, commercial reels advertising specific candidate can be broadcast through TV, radio or published in the press only provided there is payment from the election campaign fund of specific candidate.

Official publishing bodies of the high Republican authorities, pursuant to present Code, shall publish information-sheets distributed by the Central Electoral Commission regarding candidates for the President and Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 80. Setting and Publishing Results of Electing the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Based on the protocols of the district Electoral Commissions, territorial Electoral Commissions define the following: total constituency number of voters; number of voters given ballots; number of electors who took part in voting; number of votes "for" and "against" for each candidate for the President; number of voided ballots.

The Presidential election vote results are set at the meeting of territorial Electoral Commission and are formalized in a protocol, which is signed by the chairperson and members of the commission, and then transmitted to the Central Electoral Commission within three days.

The Central Electoral Commission, based on the reports of the territorial Electoral Commissions, defines not later than within seven days after the election, the results of Presidential elections and adopts a relevant resolution.

The candidate is considered to be elected the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan if he gains over 50 per cent of all votes. The Vice-President is considered elected along with the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Central Electoral Commission may recognize election as not taken place if less than 50 per cent of citizens included in the poll-lists participated in the election, as well as in the event of the withdrawal of all registered candidates for the Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Central Electoral Commission may recognize the election as a whole or within individual poll-places null and void if during the election, the vote tabulation that this Law was violated. Resolution on recognizing election null and void is adopted by the Central Electoral Commission. The candidates for Presidency may appeal this resolution within ten days from the date of its adoption, to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which makes a final decision within ten days.

Information on the election of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is published in press by the Central Electoral Commission within seven days after adopting the resolution on election results including name, date of birth, position (occupation), Party membership, residence of the President.

ARTICLE 81. Registration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Central Electoral Commission based on the reports of territorial Electoral Commissions registers as elected the President and Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Central Electoral Commission may recognize election results null and void if during the election, vote tabulation or setting of the vote results the present Code has been violated, so refusing to register the President.

ARTICLE 82. Repeat Voting.

If more than two candidates for President of the Republic of Kazakhstan have been included in the ballot-paper, and both failed to be elected, the Central Electoral Commission scheduled repeat voting for the Presidential election out of two candidates receiving the most votes. If only one candidate remains after others withdraw, repeat voting shall be held.

Repeat voting is held no later than two months pursuant to provisions of this Law. Repeat voting shall be publicized in the press and other mass media.

Candidate is considered elected if he gains over 50 per cent of live votes.

Repeat voting is considered taken if it was participated by more than 50 per cent citizens included in the poll-lists.

ARTICLE 83. Repeat Elections.

If no more than two candidates were campaigning in the Presidential election and was not elected, and if elections have been recognized null and void or not held, or if repeat voting failed to determine the elected President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Central Electoral Commission sets another repeat the Presidential election. At this point, it may decide to make new election conducted by territorial and district Electoral Commissions with new staff. Candidates for the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan failing to gain necessary number of votes cannot be candidates in repeat elections.

Repeat elections are held no later than two months after the election. The repeat elections is held at the same constituencies according to lists prepared for primary elections.

The organization of Electoral Commissions, nomination and registration of candidates for Presidency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and other actions are regulated by provisions of this Law.

The decision of the Central Electoral Commission on repeat elections is publicized in press and through other mass media.

ARTICLE 84. Inauguration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The president of the Republic of Kazakhstan elected during the regular election, assumes his office after swearing an oath at the Supreme Soviet session, the third Wednesday of January.

A President of the Republic of Kazakhstan elected during an extraordinary election, assumes his office after swearing an oath at the Supreme Soviet session which shall be held within a month of publishing of election results.

CHAPTER XIV. ELECTIONS TO LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

ARTICLE 85. Local Representative Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The local representative bodies are elected for five year term by the population of the relevant administrative and territorial divisions.

The elections of local representative bodies are set by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan no later than three months before expiration of the term of the local representative bodies of previous convocation, unless specified otherwise when scheduling elections. Elections of deputies of local representative bodies are conducted simultaneously. The election date is published in the press.

ARTICLE 86. Numerical strength of Local Representative Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The number of deputies to be elected to local representative bodies is defined by the Law on Local Representative and Executive Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 87. Demands/Requirements to be met by the Deputies of the Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstani citizens, in order to be elected deputy of local representative body, must meet requirements specified by Article 115 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as enjoy active voting rights pursuant to Article 110 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and this Law.

ARTICLE 88. Nomination of Candidate for Deputy of Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The nomination of Candidates for deputy of local representative bodies is performed by local bodies of public organizations registered in accordance with the law.

A Kazakhstani citizen has the right to nominate himself as a candidate for deputy of a local representative body.

A Candidate for deputy of a local representative body can be nominated provided a minimum 3 per cent support of the relevant constituency. Support is certified by collected signature in signature-sheet specially designed and issued by area Electoral Commission. Public organization can nominate only one candidate within each constituency for a relevant local public body. Nobody can be nominated as a candidate in more than one constituency.

A resolution on a candidate nomination is passed by the majority vote of the total assembly of local body of the public organization. Minutes are taken on nomination process.

Candidate for Deputy is notified of Body's decision within two working days.

Signature sheets supporting candidates for deputy of local representative body are submitted to the area Electoral Commission which clears them for accuracy and then validates the relevant report.

Signature collectors are juridically responsible for authenticity of collected signatures and checklist data on voters.

Nomination of candidates for deputy begins 70 days before and ends 35 days before the election, unless specified otherwise when setting the election.

ARTICLE 89. Registration of Candidates for Deputies of Local Representative Bodies.

The Candidates for Deputy of local representative bodies are registered by area Electoral Commissions upon presentation of the relevant bodies and public organizations as well as on applications of self-nominating candidates.

Decision on registration of candidate for deputy of local representative body from public organizations is made upon submission of following documents:

1) nominee support signature sheets;
2) resolution of the relevant body of public organization on the nominating of candidate within a constituency with attached document on registration of local body of this organization by the oblast (city) department of justice;
3) nominee's biography;
4) candidates application indicating his consent to campaign within this constituency.

Self-nominated candidate for Deputy of local representative body shall be registered upon submission of following documents:

1) nominee support signature sheets;
2) nominee's biography;
3) candidates application indicating his consent to campaign within this constituency.

Electoral Commission annuls its decision on registration if there appears some circumstances precluding a candidate's participation in the election pursuant to the Constitution, the present Code, and the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The relevant Electoral Commission drafts a report on the registration of candidates for deputy which, along with candidate's application, is submitted within five working days to territorial Electoral Commission.

A registration waiver may appealed in three days to the relevant territorial Electoral Commission or court.

The relevant Electoral Commission, not later than on the fourth day after the candidate has been registered, publishes information on registration indicating each candidate's name, date of birth, position (occupation), Party membership, and residence.

The Electoral Commission within two working days after registration gives the nominees for deputy appropriate certificates.

Registration of the candidate for deputy of local representative body begins 45 days before and ends one month before the election day, unless specified otherwise when setting the election.

ARTICLE 90. Representative of the Candidate for Deputy of Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A Candidate may have up to three Representatives.

ARTICLE 91. Setting and Publishing Results of Electing Deputies of Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Based on the protocols, the district Electoral Commissions define the following: total constituency number of voters; number of voters given ballots; number of electors who took part in voting; number of "nays" and "yeas" for each candidate for deputy; number of null ballots.

Area Electoral Commission may nullify results of electing the Deputies of local representative bodies because of violation of the this Law during the election or tabulation of votes.

A Candidate for Deputy of local representative bodies from territorial constituency is considered elected if he gains more votes than the other candidates.

Local representative body deputy the election vote results are set at the meeting of territorial Electoral Commission and are formalized in protocol, which is signed by chairperson and members of the commission and then transmitted to the Central Electoral Commission within three days.

Information on the results of the election of Deputies of local representative body is published in press by the relevant territorial Electoral Commission within seven days. This report indicates the total constituency the number of voters; the number of voters given ballots; the number of electors who took part in voting; the number of "nays" and "yeas" for each candidate for Deputy of local representative body; the number of null ballots; name, date of birth, position (occupation), Party membership, residence of elected deputy.

ARTICLE 92. Nomination of Candidate for Deputy of Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Lieu of Those Who withdraw After End of Registration Term.

In case all candidates for deputy of Local representative bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan withdraw after the end of registration term, the relevant Electoral Commission applies to citizens and public organizations requesting nomination of new candidates.

If candidates for deputy withdraw less than 10 days before the election, deputy the election are held within two months after general the election.

ARTICLE 93. Registration of Deputies of Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The relevant territorial Electoral Commission, based on the reports submitted by area Electoral Commissions, registers elected deputies of local representative body.

The Territorial Electoral Commission may recognize the election null and void if during the election, vote tabulation or drawing vote results, the this Law was violated, and may refuse acknowledge the deputy of local representative body.

ARTICLE 94. Repeat elections.

If the election are recognized as not held because of lack of necessary voters quorum, if the election are recognized null and void, or if the only candidate during ballot was not elected, the Territorial Electoral Commission decides to hold repeat elections. At this point, the Commission may find it necessary to replace the district and area Electoral Commissions' staff. Voting is held in the same election areas and by the same voters list drafted during the previous election.

The repeat election is held not later than two months after previous election. Formation of the Electoral Commissions, nomination and registration of the deputies and other actions are regulated by the present Code.

Candidates who ran in elections that were declared not to have been held may not be candidate in repeat election.

ARTICLE 95. The Election of Deputies of Local Representative Bodies of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Lieu of Those Who Withdraw.

In case of before term termination of Deputy powers within the relevant constituencies, a repeat the election is taken to replace the withdraw deputy within three months. The election of Deputy of local representative bodies is set by the Territorial Electoral Commission not later than two months before the election starts, and shall be organized pursuant to provisions of this Law. Nomination of the candidates begins from the day of setting the election and ends 35 days before the election, registration of candidates for deputy ends a month before the election, territorial Electoral Commissions are formed 30 days before the election.

In case the deputy withdraw within less than one year of the end of his term of office, new elections to replace him are not held.

Latvia

LAW
ON ELECTIONS OF THE FIFTH SAEIMA

The Republic of Latvia Supreme Council resolves:

To adopt the Republic of Latvia June 9, 1922 "Law on the Saeima Elections" for the Fifth Saeima elections in the following text:

CHAPTER I. VOTING RIGHTS

ARTICLE 1.

All citizens of Latvia who are 18 years of age or older on election day have the right to vote. A citizen of Latvia who is older than 21 on the first day of elections can be elected to the Saeima if he/she conforms to the rest of this Law's requirements.

ARTICLE 2.

Persons who are recognized as incapacitated according to the procedures stipulated by law, do not have the right to vote.

ARTICLE 3.

Voting rights are lost by:

1) persons, who are serving court sentences in penitentiaries;
2) detained, accused or charged persons, if imprisonment for them is considered a security measure. These persons only lose the right to vote, but can be elected.

CHAPTER II. ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 4.

To conduct the Saeima (Parliament of Latvia) elections, a Central Electoral Commission is to be formed which consists of eight members. Five members of the Central Electoral Commission are elected by the Supreme Council, one member is elected from the current judges of the Supreme Court at its plenum meeting, one member is elected by the Supreme Council upon the proposal of the World Federation of Free Latvians and one member is elected by the Supreme Council upon the proposal of the Russia's Latvian Association Board.

ARTICLE 5.

The Central Electoral Commission must be formed no later than 150 days before the first day of the Fifth Saeima elections.

ARTICLE 6.

The Central Electoral Commission is convened for its first meeting by the Supreme Council Presidium and elects a Commission Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary.

ARTICLE 7.

The Central Electoral Commission conducts the elections, issues the necessary regulations and instructions within the limits of this law, ensures that the local electoral commissions described in this Law are established and verifies that they fulfill their tasks. Those Central Electoral Commission acts which regulate the election process but contradict this Law, are revoked by the Supreme Council.

ARTICLE 8.

All State and local government institutions must fulfill the regulations and instructions of the Central Electoral Commission, as well as those instructions issued by local electoral commissions in accordance with the Central Electoral Commission regulations and instructions.

ARTICLE 9.

The organization and technical services of the Central Electoral Commission are provided for by the Supreme council Administrative Office

ARTICLE 10.

Latvia is divided into five electoral regions for the Saeima elections:

1) Riga,
2) Vidzeme,
3) Latgale,
4) Kurzeme, and
5) Zemgale.

Note:

The Riga electoral region includes the city of Riga;

the Vidzeme electoral region includes the Aluksne, Cesis, and Gulbene districts, the city of Jurmala, the Limbazi, Madona, and Ogre districts, the Riga district (excluding the city of Riga), the Valka and Valmiera districts;

the Latgale electoral region includes the Balvi district, the Daugavpils district and the city of Daugavpils, the Kraslava, Ludza and Preili districts, the Rezekne district and the city of Rezekne;

the Kurzeme electoral region includes the Kuldiga district, the Liepaja district and the city of Liepaja, the Saldus and Talsi districts, the Ventspils district and the city of Ventspils;

and the Zemgale electoral region includes the Aizkraukle, Bauska and Dobele districts, the Jelgava district and the city of Jelgava, the Jekabpils and Tukums districts.

ARTICLE 11.

A Regional Electoral Commission must be established in every electoral region to conduct the Saeima elections:

- Riga electoral region in Riga,
- Vidzeme electoral region in Cesis,
- Latgale electoral region in Rezekne,
- Kurzeme electoral region in Kuldiga,
- Zemgale electoral region in Jelgava.

ARTICLE 12.

The Regional Electoral Commissions are formed in the following manner:

1) Riga electoral region - the Riga City Dome elects three commission members and the Central Electoral Commission and the Supreme Court Plenum designate one representative each;
2) Vidzeme electoral region - the Cesis District Council elects two commission members, the Central Electoral Commission designates two representatives and the Supreme Court Plenum - one representative;
3) Latgale electoral region - the Rezekne City and District Councils elect one commission member each, the Central Electoral Commission designates two representatives and the Supreme Court Plenum - one representative;
4) Kurzeme electoral region - the Kuldiga District Council elects two commission members, the Central Electoral Commission designates two representatives and the Supreme Court Plenum - one representative;
5) Zemgale electoral region - the Jelgava City and District Councils elect one commission member each, the Central Electoral Commission designates two representatives and the Supreme Court Plenum - one representative.

ARTICLE 12-1.

A District Electoral Commission must be established in each district from among the voters in the following way: the District Council or temporary board elects Seven commission members, the local people's Court Judges appoint one representative from their midst and the Central Electoral Commission appoints one representative.

ARTICLE 12-2.

Each Riga city district (suburb) must form a Riga City District (Suburb) Electoral Commission from among the Voters in the following way: the Riga City District (Suburb) Council or temporary board elects seven commission members, the local people's court judges appoint one representative from their midst and the Central Electoral Commission appoints one representative.

ARTICLE 12-3.

In Daugavpils, Jelgava, Jurmala, Liepaja, Rezekne and Ventspils electoral commissions are established from among the voters in the following way: each city Council or temporary board elects seven commission members, the local people's court judges designate one representative from their midst and the Central Electoral Commission designates one representative.

ARTICLE 13.

In each city district and rural district, at least one constituency must be established. The Republic cities* and Riga city districts (suburbs) are to be divided into several constituencies. The division into constituencies is carried out by the city, Riga city district (suburb) and rural district boards.

ARTICLE 14.

In each constituency, elections are conducted and supervised by the constituency's electoral commission, which consists of five to fifteen members who are elected by the city, Riga city district (suburb) or rural district boards.

Note:

If a city, Riga city district (suburb) or rural district board does not elect an electoral commission, then the Central Electoral Commission appoints a local electoral commission.

ARTICLE 15.

The State covers all expenses associated with the organization of the elections. The Central Electoral Commission determines the distribution of these resources among the regional, district, city, city district (Suburb) and constituency electoral commissions.

CHAPTER III. SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATE LISTS

ARTICLE 16.

Candidate lists are to be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission. candidate lists may be submitted starting from eighty days before the day of elections. The last day for submitting candidate lists is the 40th day before the election day.

ARTICLE 17.

The Central Electoral Commission determines the number of deputies to be elected from each electoral region in proportion to the number of voters in that region as of the day that the Fifth Saeima elections are proclaimed as ascertained by Citizenship and Immigration Department in accordance with the Republic of Latvia Resident Registry data.

The number of deputies to be elected from each electoral region is determined in the following way:

1) the number of all voters of Latvia is divided by 100;
2) the number of voters in each electoral region is to be divided by the figure obtained in this Article's sub-section two, sub-paragraph 1. The figures obtained in this way determine the number of deputies to be elected from the regions;
3) if the numbers obtained in this Article's sub-section two, sub-paragraph 2 are less than 100, then the number of deputies to be elected from that region is to be increased by one, first in the region where the fractional number is the greatest, and then in the region where the fractional number is the second largest, and so forth;
4) if the fractional numbers are the same for two electoral regions, then the number of deputies to be elected is first increased in the region where the number obtained from this Article's sub-section 2, is the smallest; and
5) if the fractional numbers and the whole numbers are equal for two electoral regions, then the region where the number of deputies is to be increased is determined by drawing lots.

The number of deputies to be elected from an electoral region must be published in the official press publication no later than one hundred days prior to the first election day.

ARTICLE 17-1.

The Central Electoral Commission Only accepts those candidate lists whose petitioners can provide either a bank receipt or its copy, thus indicating that a security deposit in the amount of fifty minimum monthly Salaries (according to the rate existing on the proclamation day of the elections) was paid into the Central Electoral Commission account. The bank provides the security depositor with a receipt (and for copies) which indicates who paid the deposit, the title of the candidate list for which the security deposit was paid and when the money was deposited. The paid security money entitles the depositor to submit one candidate list with the same title in all electoral regions and it is returned to the depositor, if at least one deputy from this candidate list is elected from at least one electoral region The security deposit paid for a candidate list from which no deputy is elected is transferred into the State budget by the Central Electoral Commission.

The candidate list must include the pre-election program (platform) signed by the persons contained within the candidate list and must not exceed 4000 characters. The Central Electoral Commission ensures the publication of these programs and all candidate lists (indicating the candidate's name, surname, birth date, education and occupation, as well as the city or district where the candidate lives) in the official newspaper no later than ten days before the first day of elections.

* Republic sities include: Riga, Daugavpils, Liepaja, Jurmala, Jelgava, Ventspils, Rezekne

ARTICLE 18.

The candidate list must state the name, surname, the personal code registered in his/her passport, birth date, residence, education and occupation of each candidate. In addition, a written statement by the nominated candidates stating that they accept the nomination must be submitted with the candidate list and statements must be clearly legible without any deletions or corrections. if a candidate list contains a greater number of candidates than the number of deputies who can be elected from that electoral region, then the candidates who are listed last are not included.

ARTICLE 19.

One and the same candidate can be nominated only on candidate lists under the same title. One and the same candidate can appear on the candidate lists of the same title in several electoral regions. If one candidate is nominated on candidate lists of different titles, he/she is deleted from all lists.

ARTICLE 20.

Every proposed Saeima deputy candidate list in an electoral region must be signed by at least one hundred voters and must indicate their personal codes as registered in their passports. The first three signatories are considered as the candidate list petitioners and they assume the responsibility for the validity of all submitted documents. Each voter can only sign one candidate list. If one voter has signed several lists, his/her signature is annulled on all lists.

In the title of the submitted candidate list is identical to the name of a previously-registered party, political or social organization, then an authorization form from this organization must be attached to the list.

If a candidate list is submitted by an association formed especially for the elections, then an authorization from all organizations included in this association must be attached.

The title of the candidate list must unmistakably differ from both the titles of the previously submitted candidate lists and the names of organizations, the activities of which have been suspended, prohibited or recognized as anti constitutional.

ARTICLE 21.

Any citizen of Latvia can be nominated as a candidate, even one not residing within the electoral region, if he/she has signed a statement according to the procedure stipulated by the Central Electoral Commission which states that he/she has not been or is not presently a salaried or contractual employee of the USSR or LaSSR KGB, the USSR Defense Ministry, Russia's (USSR's legal sucessor) and other State Security Services, or army intelligence or counter-intelligence, as well as an agent or resident of these establishments or an owner of an apartment used for conspiracy meetings. This statement must be attached to the candidate list.

A citizen of Latvia can be nominated as a candidate if his/her rights to work in State service or rights to hold specific Government positions are not restricted according to the procedures stated by law.

ARTICLE 22. Revoked on 05. 06. 28.

ARTICLE 23. Not applicable.

ARTICLE 24. Not applicable.

ARTICLE 25. Not applicable.

ARTICLE 26. Not applicable.

ARTICLE 27.

The submitted candidate list cannot be recalled.

ARTICLE 28.

The Central Electoral Commission numbers the candidate lists by casting lots and first determining numbers for those lists which have been submitted in all five electoral regions, then for those lists which have been submitted in four electoral regions and so forth. The candidate lists submitted under the same title have the same number in all regions. The Central Electoral commission ensures the publication of candidate lists on separate forms - election ballots - and delivers them to the regional electoral commissions. The election ballots must indicate:

1) the name of the electoral region;
2) the number alloted to the candidate list;
3) the title of the candidate list; and
4) the name and surname of the nominated candidate.

The election ballot has a place across from each candidate's surname for the voter to make a mark.

ARTICLE 29.

One representative from each organization or particular electoral voters group which has submitted their own candidate list in a particular electoral region can participate without voting rights in the regional district city, city district (Suburb) and constituency electoral commission meetings. These candidate list representatives must provide to the electoral commission chairperson an authorization from the organization or its local branch on which behalf he/she is participating in the meeting, or an authorization from the candidate list petitioners.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTION PROCEDURE

ARTICLE 30.

The election days are determined by the Supreme Council. They must be published in the official press publication at least 120 days prior to the first election day.

ARTICLE 31.

Notices indicating all candidate lists submitted in an electoral region and indicating the candidates' names surnames, birth dates, education, occupations and the city or district in which the candidate lives, and must be publicly displayed in each voting constituency at least ten days prior to the first day of elections.

ARTICLE 31-1.

Beginning with the seventh day before the first election day every voter is entitled to receive one copy of each candidate list submitted in the region.

ARTICLE 32.

During the elections, the polling stations must be open from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m.

ARTICLE 33.

The voting hours and the location of the poling stations must be announced no later then ten days prior to the first day of elections. In the countryside, this notice is issued by the rural district board to each house separately, and in the cities it is issued by the city board or Riga city district (suburb) Board by posting announcements in visible areas.

ARTICLE 34.

At the polling station entrance, the electoral commission will check whether the arriving citizens are voters who have not yet participated in the elections.

ARTICLE 35.

At the polling station every voter receives, from the constituency electoral commission, the election ballots of all the candidate lists submitted in the electoral region and a special envelope in which the voter must insert one election ballot, which coincides with that candidate list that the voter wishes to elect.

Opposite all or individual candidate surnames on the election ballot the voter, at his/her own discretion, can mark "+", not make a mark or cross out the candidate's name or surname. The voter can also insert an unchanged (unmarked) election ballot into the envelope.

The voter makes a "+" mark opposite a candidate's surname if he/she particularly supports this candidate's election to office. if the voter does not support one or more of the candidates listed on this election ballot he/she crosses out this candidate's name or surname.

After the envelope has been submitted, an electoral commission member makes a mark in the voter's passport which indicates that this voter has participated in the elections.

ARTICLE 36.

In the polling station an enclosed room or section must be provided where the voter can insert one election ballot into the envelope and seal it, in private. The voter hands over the sealed envelope in person in an open electoral commission meeting to one of the electoral commission member, who must deposit the envelope into a sealed ballot box in the presence of the voter.

Note:

If for health reasons an individual voter cannot come to the polling station, upon his/her request the constituency electoral commission can appoint two commission members to organize voting where this voter is located.

ARTICLE 37.

During elections, soldiers are released from their service duties for the period that is necessary for voting and they are issued their passports for this period.

ARTICLE 38.

The supervision of procedures at the polling stations is conducted by the electoral commission chairperson or his/her deputy. They must ensure that no restrictions of voting rights, disruption of order, or campaigning are permitted within the polling station or at its entrance.

ARTICLE 39.

A voter may only vote in person.

ARTICLE 40.

During the elections no one may submit more than one vote.

ARTICLE 41.

only those voters who entered the polling station before 8 p.m. on both election day can submit election ballots. After this. the polling stations are locked and the ballot boxes with the submitted ballots from the first election day are sealed with the commission chairperson's seal. The commission members and voters are also entitled to affix their own seals. The ballot boxes are left in the polling station under the supervision of the commission or the police until the electoral commission, in the presence of the voters present, is convinced that the ballot boxes are in order.

ARTICLE 42.

Beginning with the opening of the polling station on the first day of elections, the electoral commission prepares an official record on the course of the elections. The voters are entitled to request that their complaints or objections are recorded in the records.

ARTICLE 43.

The sale of alcoholic drinks is prohibited on election days.

ARTICLE 44. Not applicable.

CHAPTER V. COUNTING OF VOTES AND CALCULATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 45.

The counting of the election ballots is conducted on the evening of the second election day. The counting is undertaken by the constituency electoral commission at an open meeting. The constituency electoral commissions sort the submitted election ballots according to the candidate list numbers, sorting the valid election ballots from the invalid, the altered from the unaltered, and counts the number of votes submitted for each candidate list. In addition, in relation to each candidate, those election ballots are counted which particularly support (with the mark "+") a candidate's election into office, as well as those election ballots upon which a candidate's surname or name is crossed out. An official record of this is prepared in two originals.

ARTICLE 46.

The constituency electoral commission notes in the official records the number of envelopes received from the regional electoral commission, the number of envelopes remaining. the number of envelopes issued by the constituency electoral commission, the number of envelopes in the ballot boxes after their opening. the number of submitted election ballots, the number of invalid ballots and the information specified in Article 45 of this Law. The invalid election ballots are numbered and the reason for their rejection is written in the records.

ARTICLE 47.

Election ballots from other electoral regions and envelopes with more than one election ballots are invalid. If the multiple election ballots inserted into one envelope are the same, then only one election ballot is considered valid.

ARTICLE 48.

If any discrepancies arise concerning the validity of the election ballots during the counting of votes, the decision is made by a majority vote of the electoral commission. In the event of a tie, the chairperson casts the deciding vote.

ARTICLE 48-1.

After the counting of votes and preparation of the official records, all valid, and invalid election ballots cast, unused envelopes and one original of the records must be packed up, wrapped and sealed. The voters present are entitled to affix their own seals to these packages and this must be mentioned in the attached official records. The constituency electoral commission must then immediately send all election materials to the district, city or city district (suburb) electoral commission. A cover letter, which states when and with whom the election materials have been forwarded, must be sent together with the election materials.

ARTICLE 48-2.

The district, city and city' district (suburb) electoral commissions receive and count all constituency electoral results existing within their territory according to the submitted official records and immediately deliver the election materials together with their own official records to the regional electoral commission in the procedure stipulated by article 48-1 of this Law.

ARTICLE 48-3.

The regional electoral commissions count the elections results of all districts, cities and city districts (suburb) and prepares official records of these results.

ARTICLE 49. Revoked on 05. 06. 28.

ARTICLE 50.

Regional electoral commission must forward all constituency election records to the Central Electoral Commission together with any other election materials which the latter requests according to the procedures stipulated by Article 48-1 of this Law.

ARTICLE 51.

The Central Electoral Commission names the deputies who have been elected in the electoral regions.

Those candidate lists with the same title which have received less than four percent of the total votes cast throughout Latvia do not participate in the distribution of the seats of deputies regardless whether the list with the same title was submitted in one or more electoral regions. In order to distribute the seats of the Saeima deputies among the rest of the candidate lists submitted in a electoral region, the following procedure (Saint Laque's method) is applied:

a) the number of valid ballots cast for each candidate list in the electoral region is determined;
b) the number of election ballots cast for each candidate list, is divided, consecutively, by 1, 3, 5, 7, etc., until the figure is equal to the number of proposed candidates on the list;
c) the fractions obtained on all candidate lists in an electoral region are to be numbered in a common diminishing order;
d) the deputy seats in the electoral region are consecutively received by those candidate lists, which correspond to the largest fractions. If the fraction, whose consecutive number is equal to the number of deputies to be elected in the respective electoral region or is equal to one or more of the succeeding fractions, the deputy seat is received by the list, which has obtained the most votes throughout Latvia.

If these lists have only been submitted in one electoral region, the deputy seat is received by the candidate list which was submitted first.

ARTICLE 52. Revoked.

ARTICLE 53. Not applicable.

ARTICLE 54. Not applicable.

ARTICLE 55. Not applicable.

ARTICLE 56. Not applicable.

ARTICLE 56-1.

The candidates named in each list must be grouped according to the number of votes received. The number of votes cast for a candidate is equal to the number of votes cast for the list upon which this candidate is mentioned, minus the number of ballots from which this candidate is crossed out, plus the number of ballots from which the voters have particularly supported this candidate's election into office (with the mark "+"). if the same number of votes has been cast for two or more candidates of one list, the candidates are arranged in the order proposed by the person (s) who submitted the list. Those candidates are elected who have received the greatest number of votes and the remaining candidates are arranged in the order in which they are according to the total number of votes cast for them.

ARTICLE 56-2.

If, in accordance with Article 56-1 of this Law one and the same candidate is elected as a deputy in several regions, he/she is considered elected in that region where he/she has received the most votes and in the other regions, the next candidate with the largest number of votes on the corresponding lists considered to be elected.

ARTICLE 57.

If the elected Saeima deputy has died, declined or, for some other reason, has lost his/her mandate, then the next candidate from the same candidate list from which the previously elected deputy was elected, takes over his/her seat.

ARTICLE 58.

If due to the circumstances anticipated in Article 57 of this Law a list lacks a candidate, then the procedure of Article 51 of this Law determines from which candidate list the absent deputy should be taken.

CHAPTER VI. ON PARTICIPATION IN THE SAEIMA ELECTIONS BY REPUBLIC OF LATVIAN CITIZENS RESIDING ABROAD

ARTICLE 59.

The Republic of Latvia consulate offices which have been entrusted with the registration of Republic of Latvia citizens living abroad form electoral constituencies.

ARTICLE 60.

Upon the proposal of the governing body of the consulate office, the Central Electoral Commission appoints a local electoral commission composed of 5 to 15 persons from the voters living in the corresponding country. This electoral commission creates a constituency commission consisting of 3 to 15 persons If there is only one electoral commission in a country, the constituency commission functions are fulfilled by the local electoral commission.

ARTICLE 61.

Voters residing abroad may submit candidate lists in the procedures stipulated by Chapter III of this Law.

ARTICLE 62.

Registered citizens of Latvia who are living or residing abroad can vote in the Saeima elections in the Riga electoral region.

ARTICLE 63.

The Central Electoral Commission sends the Riga electoral region candidate lists and election ballots to the electoral commissions formed abroad.

ARTICLE 64.

The local electoral commission must send each registered voter the Riga electoral region candidate lists no later that 15 days prior to the first election day.

ARTICLE 65.

Republic of Latvia citizens who are living or located abroad during the period of the Saeima elections, can vote personally in the electoral constituencies formed abroad according to the procedures stipulated by Articles 35 and 36 of this Law no earlier than the seventh day before and no later then the third day before the first election day in Latvia.

ARTICLE 66.

The counting of ballots begins in the electoral constituency after the polling station has been closed. The counting of ballots occurs in accordance with Articles 45, 46, 47, 48, and 48-1 of this Law. The Electoral Commission prepares records of the election results in the electoral constituency which it immediately sends to the local electoral commission. The local electoral commission counts the results of all electoral constituencies according to their records and immediately sends the record to the Central Electoral Commission. The election ballots are packaged, sealed and sent by diplomatic courier to the Central Electoral Commission.

ARTICLE 67.

The Central electoral Commission determines the final results of the Fifth Saema elections in the Riga electoral region taking into account all of the ballot counting records of the electoral commissions established abroad.

CHAPTER VII. CONCLUDING REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 68.

Within six months' from the date of the elections, the complete election results, including results on the number of votes received in each electoral constituency for each list and each candidate, must be summarized and published in a separate publication which must be freely accessible in the State libraries.

ARTICLE 69.

After the above-mentioned publication is issued, all election records of all electoral commissions must be submitted to Latvia's State Archives.

ARTICLE 70.

The petitioners of candidate lists and the proposed candidates have the right to appeal electoral commission decisions in the people's court according to the electoral commission's location.

ARTICLE 71.

Persons, who prevent a citizen from participating in the elections through violence, deceit, threats, bribery or other illegal acts, as well as electoral commission members, State and public institution officials who have forged election documents, willfully counted ballots incorrectly, have not observed voters' secrecy or otherwise violated this Law, are called to legal responsibility as stipulated by law.

Lithuania

LAW
ON ELECTIONS TO THE SEIMAS

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1. The Principles of Elections of Deputies to the Seimas

Deputies to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereafter referred to as "the Seimas") shall be elected for a four-year term in single-candidate or multi-candidate electoral districts, on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, and by secret ballot in direct, mixed system elections.

ARTICLE 2. Universal suffrage

Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who, on the day of the election, are 18 years of age or over, shall have the right to vote.

Any citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who, on the day of election, is 21 years of age or over and has resided in Lithuania for the past three years, shall be eligible for nomination as a candidate for Seimas deputy.

Persons who, on the day of election, are in the national defense service or the alternative service, as well as officers, non-commissioned officers and re-enlistees of the national defense system, the police and internal affairs service, and officers of other militarized and security services who have not retired from service, shall not be eligible to be elected as deputies to the Seimas.

Persons who have not served a court-imposed sentence shall not be eligible to be elected as deputies to the Seimas.

Citizens who have been declared incapable by court shall not participate in elections.

Other direct or indirect abridgment of the right to vote of citizens of Republic of Lithuania on the ground of their descent, political convictions, social and property status, race, nationality, sex, education, language, religion, or the type and character of their occupation shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE 3. Equal Suffrage

Every citizen of Republic of Lithuania who has the right to vote shall have one vote in a single-candidate or multi-candidate electoral district; the vote of every citizen having the right to vote shall be of equal value.

All citizens shall be represented in the Seimas on an equal basis according to the representation quota which shall be established before every election.

ARTICLE 4. Direct Elections

There shall be no voting by proxy in elections of Seimas deputies.

ARTICLE 5. Secret Ballot

Voters shall vote in person and by secret ballot. Controlling the will of the voters in elections shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE 6. Publicity of the Preparation and Execution of Elections

State institutions and electoral committees shall prepare the conduct of elections publicity. Public notice must be given of all events (meetings, sessions) related to the organization of elections at least two days prior to the event.

The electoral committees shall inform the citizens about their work, the formation of electoral areas (apygarda) and electoral districts (apylinke), the membership of the electoral committees, the location of their offices and their working hours, the lists of voters, the results of deputy candidate registration, and the voting and election results.

The mass media shall report on the preparation and execution of Seimas elections. Representatives of the mass media shall have the right to participate without restrictions in all events organized by the electoral committees, as well as to obtain information about the preparation and execution of elections.

ARTICLE 7. Expenses Related to the Preparation and Execution of Elections

The State shall reimburse expenses related to the preparation and execution of the elections.

CHAPTER II. ELECTORAL AREAS AND ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

ARTICLE 8. Formation of Electoral Areas

For the organization and conduct of elections, the territory of the Republic of Lithuania shall be divided into 71 one-candidate electoral areas, taking into consideration the number of inhabitants and the administrative-territorial division. The number of inhabitants in the electoral areas must not differ by more than 25 percent. The Central Electoral Committee shall establish the size of electoral areas and their boundaries and centers, and shall make the information public no later than 75 days prior to the election day. (Amended 4 August 1992).

One multi-candidate electoral area shall also be formed where all citizens of the Republic of Lithuania having the right to vote shall cast their votes. 70 deputies of the Seimas shall be elected in the said electoral area according to the proportional system of elections.

ARTICLE 9. Formation of Electoral Districts

Electoral areas shall be divided into electoral districts. The electoral committee of the electoral area shall establish, at least 45 days prior to the election day, the division of every electoral area into electoral districts.

No more than 4,000 voters may reside in the territory of an electoral district.

The electoral committee of an electoral area must, within 7 days of the approval of the list of electoral districts, inform the voters of the boundaries of every electoral district, as well its quarters and place of polling.

CHAPTER III. ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 10. Electoral Committees

Elections to the Seimas shall be organized and conducted by:

1) the Central Electoral Committee;
2) the electoral committees of electoral areas; and
3) the electoral committees of electoral districts.

ARTICLE 11. Equal Representation of Political Organizations in Electoral Committees

All political parties and public political movements participating in an election shall have the right to equal representation in all electoral committees. New members may be additionally appointed to electoral committees no later than 30 days before the election. (Amended 4 August 1992).

Members of electoral committees may not be nominated as candidates for Seimas deputies.

ARTICLE 12. The Central Electoral Committee

The Central Electoral Committee shall be the supreme institution for the organization of elections. The Seimas shall appoint the Committee Chairman and at least 12 members for a four-year period no later than 90 days before the election day. New members may be additionally appointed to the Electoral Committee no later than 30 days before the election. (Amended 4 August 1992).

The Central Electoral Committee shall supervise the implementation of this Law, shall ensure that it is applied uniformly, and in pursuance of this Law, shall issue instructions and explanatory statements concerning the organization of elections, shall manage the resources appropriated by the State for the elections, and shall exercise other powers related to elections and provided for in this Law.

The Central Electoral Committee shall also carry out the functions of the electoral committee of the multi-candidate electoral area.

ARTICLE 13. Electoral Committees of Electoral Areas

Electoral committees of electoral areas shall consist of a chairman and at least 10 committee members. The Central Electoral Committee shall set up said committees and appoint their chairmen no later than 70 days before the election. (Amended 4 August 1992).

Electoral committees of electoral areas shall be formed for the election period.

The electoral committees of electoral areas shall monitor the election procedure and course in their respective territories, and shall exercise other powers provided for in this Law.

ARTICLE 14. Electoral Committees of Electoral Districts

Electoral committees of electoral districts shall consist of a chairman and at least 6 committee members. Electoral committees of electoral districts shall be formed for the election period. Electoral committees of electoral districts shall be set up and the chairmen of these committees shall be appointed by the electoral committee of the electoral area no later than 40 days before the election. (Amended 4 August 1992).

The electoral committees of electoral districts shall organize voting in their respective districts and shall exercise other powers established by this Law.

ARTICLE 15. The Organization of Work of Electoral Committees

Electoral committee assistant chairman and secretaries shall be elected at committee meetings.

Electoral committee meetings shall be considered valid if at least two-thirds of the members participate. Committee decisions shall be adopted by an open, majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the committee chairman shall be decisive. Committee members who disagree with the decision shall have the right to state their individual opinions, which shall then be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

Electoral committee decisions shall be obligatory to all participants of the election process, provided that the committees did not exceed their authority when adopting said decisions.

All electoral committee meetings shall be open. Observers appointed by political parties and public political movements, authorized representatives and observers of independent candidates for deputy, as well as representatives of the mass media shall have the right to participate in these meetings.

ARTICLE 16. Appeals Against Electoral Committee Decisions

Political parties, public political movements, candidates for deputy and their authorized representatives, observers and voters may appeal against electoral committee decisions to an electoral committee of a higher level within 10 days of the adopting of the decision. The decisions adopted by the Central Electoral Committee may be appealed against to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Lithuania within 10 days of their adoption. The appeal must be considered within 3 days of its receipt, or, if the appeal is received within 4 days of the election, immediately.

ARTICLE 17. Assistance for Electoral Committees

State institutions, firms, offices and institutions, as well as their officials, must assist electoral committees in exercising their powers, and must furnish them with necessary information.

State institutions, firms, offices and institutions, as well as their officials, must consider requests submitted by electoral committees and give the electoral committee a justified response within 3 days. Electoral committees may imploy the requested number of personnel for assistance work.

Local governments and State institutions and organizations must provide electoral committees with premises and equipment for the preparation and conduct of elections.

ARTICLE 18. Remuneration of Electoral Committee Members

For their work in electoral committees, the chairmen and members of electoral committees shall be paid wages at the rates submitted by the Central Electoral Committee and approved by the Government. The State shall pay sums in the amount of their average workpay to the chairmen and members of electoral committees who are employed in firms, offices, and organizations, and who are not receiving wages due to their involvement in electoral committees activities.

ARTICLE 19. Changing the Members of Electoral Committees

Chairmen and members of electoral committees may be dismissed from their posts with the committee by the institution which approved the composition of the committee.

As necessary, new chairmen and members of the electoral committee shall be appointed according to the procedure established by this Law.

CHAPTER IV. VOTER LISTS

ARTICLE 20. Compiling Voter Lists

For the execution of elections, voter lists of every electoral district shall be compiled. Said lists shall be drawn up by the appropriate institutions of management of local governments, signed by their chief officers, and delivered to the electoral committees of electoral district no later than 30 days prior to the election day.

The electoral committees shall review and approve the lists. Approved voter lists shall be signed by the chairmen and secretaries of the electoral committees of electoral districts.

ARTICLE 21. General Procedure for Registering Citizens on Voter Lists

Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who have the right to vote and who, at the moment of compiling the voter list, are permanently residing on the territory of that particular electoral district shall be included in the district's voter list.

In the event that a voter changes his permanent place of residence after the beginning of the compilation of lists, he may be registered in the voter list of his new place of residence, provided that he submits an application to the electoral committee of the district concerning his registration in the voter list at least 35 days prior to the election. The electoral committee of the electoral district must see to it that his name is struck from the voter list of the electoral district of his former permanent place of residence.

ARTICLE 22. Registration of Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania

In the event that citizens of the Republic of Lithuania residing abroad are not included on a voter list according to the general procedure, they may, at their own choice, be included in the voter list of the electoral district on whose territory they permanently resided before leaving the Republic of Lithuania. Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania residing abroad shall submit applications concerning their registration on a voter list to the diplomatic mission of the Republic of Lithuania at least 50 days prior to the election day, unless the Central Election Committee establishes a shorter period.

ARTICLE 23. Registration of National Defense Servicemen in Voter Lists

Persons performing military or alternative service shall be included in voter lists of the electoral districts on whose territory they permanently resided before conscription.

Officers of the national defense system and internal service, non-commissioned officers, and re-enlistees shall be included in the voter lists of the electoral district on whose territory they permanently reside.

ARTICLE 24. Registration of Voters in Only One List

Each voter may only be registered on one voter list. Compliance with this requirement shall be checked by the Central Electoral Committee. Upon establishing that a voter's name is registered on the voter lists of several electoral districts, the

committee shall address the voter within 20 days of the election day, requesting that he announce, within 10 days, which electoral district's voter list he wishes to be registered in. If the voter fails to make the choice within the established period, the Central Electoral Committee shall include the voter's name in the voter list of the electoral district where, in their opinion, it would be more convenient for the voter to vote, and shall inform the voter thereof within 3 days. Such decisions of the Central Electoral Committee may not be appealed.

ARTICLE 25. Public Announcement of Voter Lists

The electoral committees of electoral districts shall, at least 20 days prior to the election, announce publicly the compilation of the voter lists and shall provide conditions for the voters to get acquainted with the lists, indicating the time and place for the voters to implement this right.

ARTICLE 26. Reviewing Voter Lists

Any voter, or the authorized representative of a candidate for deputy, political party, or public political movement may submit to the electoral committee of the electoral district remarks concerning inaccuracies in a voter list no later than 7 days prior to the election. The electoral committee of the electoral district must consider the remarks and adopt the decision thereon within 2 days of the receipt thereof. The decision of the electoral committee of the electoral district may be appealed against to the electoral committee of the electoral area within 2 days; the electoral committees of the electoral areas must adopt relevant decisions within 2 days of the receipt of the complaint. The decision of the electoral committee of the electoral area shall be final.

ARTICLE 27. Appeals Concerning Restoration of the Right to Vote

Within 7 days prior to the election, the voter, or the authorized representative of a political party or public political movement shall submit to the electoral committee of the electoral district complaints concerning errors in the voter list which prevent the voter from implementing his right to vote. The electoral committee of the electoral district must consider the complaint and adopt a decision thereon either immediately or within 2 days of the receipt thereof if more than 10 days are left until the day of election.

The decision of the electoral committee of the electoral district may be appealed against within 3 days to the district (area) court, which shall consider the complaint within 2 days and adopt the final decision thereon. Complaints and comments shall not be considered after the expiration of the term established for filing suggestions or complaints. District electoral committees shall report to the Central Electoral Committee and the electoral committees of electoral areas about the received complaints and changes made in the lists of voters as soon as possible but no later than within 24 hours.

ARTICLE 28. Lists of Voters of Electoral Areas

Lists of voters of electoral areas shall be made by the electoral areas committees according to the lists of voters of electoral districts submitted by the electoral district committees.

ARTICLE 29. List of Voters of the Republic of Lithuania

The list of voters of the Republic of Lithuania shall be made by the Central Electoral Committee according to the lists of voters of electoral areas submitted by the electoral area committees no later than 20 days prior to the day of the election.

CHAPTER V. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE SEIMAS DEPUTIES

ARTICLE 30. Nomination of Candidates for the Seimas Deputies in One-candidate and Multi-candidate Electoral Areas

Political parties which have been registered for the election according to the Law on Political Parties no later than 35 days prior to the election, as well as public political movements whose effective statutes providing reference to their political character and the amendments thereto have been registered with the Ministry of Justice no later than 2 months prior to the election, shall have the right to nominate candidates for the Seimas deputies in one-candidate and multi-candidate electoral areas, provided their participation in the election is supported by no less than 1000 voters' signatures. Individual persons may nominate themselves for the deputies in one-candidate electoral areas, provided their candidacy is supported in writing by no less than 1000 voters of that electoral area. Political parties and public political movements or their coalitions shall nominate their candidates in multi-candidate electoral areas by presenting lists of candidates. The list must not include less than 20 candidates.

ARTICLE 31. Application Documents for the Nomination of Candidates

For the nomination of candidates political parties and public political movements must file with the Central Electoral Committee the following application documents:

1) statutes and amendments thereto, registration papers and voters' signatures according to the requirements provided for in part 1 of article 30 of this law;
2) application for the participation in the election, stating the electoral areas wherein political parties or public political movements intend to nominate their candidates;
3) the list of candidates nominated in the multi-candidate electoral area, in which candidates are registered in a numerical order. If the statutes of a political organization do not provide otherwise, the list of candidates must be approved at the convention or conference of said organization;

4) extract from the decision concerning the nomination of candidates in the concrete one-candidate electoral areas;
5) written consent of candidates for being nominated in the concrete electoral areas. The consent of a candidate, provided he is elected, must include his obligation to terminate his employment or any other activities inconsistent with the status of a deputy;
6) documents certifying that the election wager of the candidates list equal to one average monthly wage multiplied by the number of the candidates included in the list, has been paid; and
7) documents certifying that the election wagers of candidates nominated by an organization in a single-candidate electoral area, equal to one average monthly wage for each candidate, have been paid.

Individual persons who have nominated themselves for candidates for deputy, must submit to the electoral area committee the following documents:

1) application concerning nominating himself for the candidate for deputy in a certain electoral area. The application, provided he is elected, must include his obligation to terminate his employment or any other activities inconsistent with the status of a deputy;
2) no less then 1000 signatures of voters of that electoral area supporting his nomination; and
3) a document certifying that election wages equal to one average monthly wage, has been paid.

His application must also state his name, surname, date of birth and permanent place of residence. He must also submit the document certifying that he is a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania. Candidates who have taken an oath of a citizen of other states must repudiate it in writing. The wages shall be paid back to the candidate who wins the election or to political organizations the lists of candidates of which become eligible for the participation in the distribution of mandates. Other wages shall be transferred to the State budget. The filing of application documents shall commence 65 days before and shall end 35 days before the day of the election. Upon receiving application documents of a political organization, the Central Electoral Committee must within 2 days apply to the Ministry of Justice for the confirmation of the fact of the registration of said organization. The Ministry of Justice must give a written reply within two days. Upon receiving a notice about improper registration, the Central Electoral Committee must notify a person authorized by said organization.

ARTICLE 32. A Person Authorized for the Election

The application document of a political party, public political movement or of an individual candidate must state the names and addresses of person authorized for the election.

ARTICLE 33. Nomination of Candidates for Deputies and Entry in Register

In the multi-candidate electoral area each candidate to the Seimas deputies may be entered only in the list of candidates of one political party or public political movement. A person registered in such list at the same time shall have the right to be nominated for the candidate to the deputies in one one-candidate electoral area. If a person is on the list of candidates nominated by more than one political organization in the multi-candidate electoral area, or if he is nominated in more than one single-candidate electoral area, the Central Electoral Committee shall request him to choose the organization in whose list of candidates, or the single-candidate electoral area in which he would like to stand for election. If the candidate does not notify about his choice within 35 days prior to the election, he shall be struck off all lists of candidates in all multi-candidate electoral areas or in all single-candidate electoral areas. (Amended 4 August 1992)

ARTICLE 34. Joining of the Lists of Candidates

When less than 35 days remain until the election, several political parties or public political movements may join the lists of candidates nominated by them. One political party or public political movement may not participate in more than one joint list of candidates.

ARTICLE 35. The Right to Withdraw Application Documents

A political party or public political movement as well as person who has been nominated in one-candidate electoral area or is registered in the list of candidates of a political organization, may any time, but no later than 15 days before the election, withdraw his application documents. In such case he must apply to the Central Electoral Committee and notify a relevant political organization. If the application documents are being withdrawn by a political organization that has formed a coalition, the candidates shall be struck off the joint list of candidates and the name of the coalition may be changed. In such case it is necessary to notify in writing other members of the coalition. If the application documents are withdrawn only by a part of the coalition, and the candidates of only one political party or public political movement remain on the joint list of candidates, they will participate in the election only as the nominees of that political party or public political movement.

ARTICLE 36. Publication of the Names and Lists of Candidates

Upon the expiration of the term for the filing of the lists of candidates, the Ministry of Justice, on the request of the Central Electoral Committee, shall within one day officially confirm which political parties and public movements are registered, and the activities of which parties or movements are suspended or terminated. The next day after the Central Electoral Committee receives the official approval by the Ministry of Justice, it shall organize, in the presence of persons authorized by political parties, the arrangement of political parties, public political movements and coalitions participating in the election under separate lists, in numerical order by drawing lots. Less than 30 days before the election, the Central Electoral Committee shall make

available to the public the lists of candidates nominated by political parties, public political movements and coalitions participating in the election, their numerical order, as well as the names of candidates nominated in single-candidate electoral areas.

The election campaign shall commence from the day of such publication.

CHAPTER VI. GUARANTIES OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CANDIDATES TO THE SEIMAS DEPUTIES

ARTICLE 37. The Right of a Candidate to the Seimas Deputies to Speak at Meetings or through the Mass Media

After the publication of the lists of candidates in electoral areas, candidates to the Seimas deputies shall have equal right to speak at voters meetings or any other meetings, gatherings, conferences as well as through the mass media, and to acquaint voters with their respective election programs. Heads of state power and government institutions must assist candidates to the deputies to organize meetings with voters, and provide them with the necessary information, with the exception of confidential information.

ARTICLE 38. Liability for the Violation of the Law on the Elections to the Seimas

Persons who by force, threat, fraud or otherwise hinder the implementation of the right to vote or to be elected to the Seimas or to organize campaigning, as well as members of electoral committees, or other officers who falsify election documents, fraudulently calculate the votes, violate the secrecy of the voting or otherwise violate this Law, shall be liable according to the laws of the Republic of Lithuania. Legal action shall also be instituted against persons who publicize or otherwise disseminate false statements about a candidate to the deputies or prevent a candidate from meeting with voters.

ARTICLE 39. The Right of a Candidate to the Seimas Deputies to be Relieved from Work or his Service Duties

During the Period of Election Campaign. upon his request, a candidate who is on the list of candidates may be relieved from work or other service duties for the period of organizing and holding the election to the Seimas, but no longer than for 1 month.

ARTICLE 40. The Immunity of a Candidate to the Seimas Deputies

During the election campaign as well as after the election, a candidate may not be found criminally responsible or arrested, and administrative penalties may not be imposed on him for his actions during the election campaign without the consent of the Central Election Committee.

ARTICLE 41. Election Observers

An election observer of a political party, public political movement or of any individual candidate shall be a person bearing the certificate in the form established by the Central Electoral Committee.

Election observers shall have the right to demand that the chairman of an electoral committee and its members, as well as persons who are in the place of voting should adhere to this and other laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

CHAPTER VII. CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 42. The Basic Principles of Campaign

Political parties, public political movements and individual candidates may begin campaigning from the day the election campaign starts. Campaigning may be conducted in any form of manner, provided it does not contradict the Constitution and the laws of Republic of Lithuania.

ARTICLE 43. Conditions and Procedure for the Use of the Means of Mass Media

Political parties and public political movements that have nominated candidates for the Seimas deputies, as well as individual candidates shall be granted the right to use the means of state mass media free of charge. The actual duration and time of radio and TV programs for the purpose of campaigning shall be established by the Central Electoral Committee upon coordination with the heads of radio and TV and shall be distributed among the political parties and public political movements participating in the election and among the individual nominees according to the principle of equality. Each political party or public political movement shall be provided with no less than 1.5 hour of the state TV time, and individual nominees, 5 minutes each. Candidates who have nominated themselves shall have the right to publish the text with their electoral program not longer than 1 printed page in state newspapers and in local government papers of those electoral areas in which they have been nominated. Campaigning by means of commercial mass media shall be restricted only by the size of election accounts. During election campaign it shall be prohibited to publish the results of public polls providing ratings of political parties, public political movements and the candidates nominated by them, as well as the ratings of individual candidates. If the material discrediting candidates to the deputies is published in the mass media, they must be provided with the possibility to express publicly their opinion within five days before the election.

ARTICLE 44. Prohibition for the Officers of State Institutes to Exert Influence upon the Will of the Voters

During election campaign officers of state institutions as well as employees of the mass media shall be prohibited to use their official duties for campaigning or otherwise exert influence upon the will of voters.

If such persons are candidates to the deputies, they can use the means of mass media according to the procedure set forth in Article 43 of this Law. If the fulfillment of their duties requires them to announce to the mass media important news, they can do it only at a press conference.

ARTICLE 45. Provision of Finances for Campaign

Campaigning shall be financed from the resources of the state as well as from the resources raised by political parties, public political movements and candidates, which are being accumulated in special elections accounts. The maximum amount of money permitted for campaigning shall be in the amount of 20 average monthly wages for an individual candidate and 200 average monthly wages for a political organization. If the amount of the money transferred to the election account exceeds the established sum, the surplus shall be transferred by the bank to the State budget. Candidates shall be paid from state resources for the time on state radio and TV allotted to them under this Law, for the printing of campaign poster of a candidate in one-candidate electoral area, as well as for publishing election programs in state and local government newspapers, and for publishing the lists of candidates. The utilization of money allocated for campaigning shall be controlled by financial institutes and the Central Electoral Committee. Political parties and public political movements must publish in the press reports concerning the sources of finances and their utilization for campaigning not later than within 15 days after the elections.

ARTICLE 46. Prohibition of Campaigning on the Day of Election

Campaigning shall be prohibited 24 hours before the beginning of elections and on the election day, with the exception of permanent campaign posters in the places established for this purpose, provided that they were posted at least 48 hours prior to the election. No campaign posters may be put up in or within 50 metre radius of the voting place.

CHAPTER VIII. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 47. Establishment of the Election Document Samples

The Central Electoral Committee shall establish the samples and forms of voter certificates, ballot-papers, voucher envelopes and outer envelopes for voting by mail, other official envelopes used during election, packages, documents and seals, as well as the samples for filling them out.

ARTICLE 48. Ballot-papers

During the election to the Seimas, each voter shall be presented with two ballot-papers: one for voting for a candidate in a certain single-candidate electoral area, and the other for voting for lists of candidates from a political party or public political movement (coalition) in a multi-candidate area. The names of candidates on the ballot-paper of single-candidate electoral area shall be placed in alphabetic order. Such ballot-papers shall indicate the names and surnames of each of the candidates, as well as the name of the political organization which has nominated him. A ballot-paper of a multi-candidate electoral area shall contain the names of political parties which have nominated their candidates, and shall be arranged according to the provided serial numbers in an increasing order.

ARTICLE 49. Delivery of Ballot-papers

Ballot-papers and envelopes shall be delivered to electoral districts and post offices at least 7 days prior to the election.

At the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Lithuania and on ships which are sailing under the national flag of the Republic of Lithuania, voters must be provided with free access to ballot-papers and envelopes for voting by mail at least 10 days before the day of election. The Central Electoral Committee shall be responsible for the publishing of ballot-papers and envelopes for voting by mail, as well as for their delivery without violation of the fixed dates.

ARTICLE 50. Voter Certificates

Electoral committees of electoral districts shall issue numbered voter certificates. A voter's certificate shall contain:

1) the name and surname of the voter;
2) the birth date of the voter;
3) the address of the voter;
4) the electoral area in which the voter shall vote; and
5) the address of the electoral district in whose list of voters the name of the voter has been included.

ARTICLE 51. Delivery of Voter Certificates to Voters

Voter certificates shall be delivered to voters at least 10 days prior to the day of election. If a voter's certificate is not delivered through the fault of the electoral committee, it must be issued immediately upon the request of the voter. In the event that the voter is presented with an inaccurate voter's certificate, or, due to an error in the list of voters, a voter's certificate is not issued at all, a correct voter's certificate shall be issued immediately after the rectification of the mistake.

ARTICLE 52. Duplicates of Voter Certificates

Upon written application, a voter may be issued a duplicate voter's certificate. Duplicates of voter certificates shall not be issued on the day of election.

CHAPTER IX. VOTING

ARTICLE 53. Time and Place of Voting

Voting shall take place on the day of election from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. in the polling place designated by the electoral committee of the electoral district. Voters shall vote in the electoral district in whose list of voters their names have been included, unless this Law provides otherwise.

ARTICLE 54. Preparation of Polling Places

The requirements for the preparation of the polling places shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Voting booths must be set up in such a way that nobody is able to see the voter who is inside. The text of this Law must be accessible in all electoral districts. Lists of candidates eligible in the electoral area must be posted in the polling place. No other political actions may be organized in the polling place.

ARTICLE 55. Beginning of Voting

On the day of election, the polling place shall be opened only when at least 2/3 of the electoral committee members of the electoral district are present. Then, the chairman of the electoral committee of the electoral district, together with other members of the electoral committee, shall make sure that the ballot-box is empty and shall seal it up. Having checked that the polling place has been furnished without violating the established requirements, the chairman of the electoral committee of the electoral district shall distribute ballot-papers and lists of voters among the members of the electoral committee, shall open the polling place and shall thus proclaim the opening of the elections. The number of distributed ballot-papers shall be registered in the vote calculation record.

ARTICLE 56. Voter Identification

Upon arriving at the polling place, voters shall present to the electoral committee members of the electoral district their voter certificates as well as their passports or other documents certifying their identity and citizenship, and shall sign the list of voters. Voter certificates shall not be returned to the voters. In the case that a voter has not been issued a voter's certificate, one may be issued upon presentation of the passport or other document certifying the voter's identity and citizenship. After the voters sign the list of voters, they shall be handed their ballot-papers.

ARTICLE 57. Voting Procedure

Having been given ballot-papers, the voter shall go into the voting booth and mark the ballot. On a ballot-paper in a single-candidate electoral area, the voters shall mark the surname of the candidate for whom they are voting, whereas in a multi-candidate electoral area, the voters shall mark the name of the political party or social political movement (coalition) for whose candidates they are voting for. Voters shall personally cast their marked ballot-papers into the ballot-box. Upon the request of the voter, faulty ballot-papers shall be exchanged for new ones. After a faulty ballot-paper is crossed out and signed by a member of the electoral committee, it shall be kept separately. Voters who are physically unable to mark their ballot papers themselves may designate another person (with the exception of the chairman of the electoral committee) to carry out these actions in their place.

ARTICLE 58. Voting by Mail

Voting by mail shall be available at post offices during business hours beginning 7 days before the election and ending 1 day before the election. Expenses related to voting by mail shall be covered by the State. The head of the post office shall be responsible for the organization voting by mail. He shall also be responsible for the issue and collection of envelopes during voting. A responsible officer (officers) shall be appointed for the issue and collection envelopes during voting by mail. Post officers must provide a place where voters can, without interference, mark their ballot-papers and put them into voucher envelopes. Voting by mail shall be conducted in accordance with the manner set for the Articles 56 and 57 of this Law, with the exception of casting ballot-papers into the ballot-box. Together with ballot-papers, voters shall be given envelopes for voting by mail. Voters shall place marked ballot-papers into the voucher envelope, seal the voucher envelope, place the envelope into the outer envelope, and seal the outer envelope. The outer envelope shall be stamped with the post office seal. Envelopes for voting by mail shall be addressed to the electoral committee of the electoral area in the voter list of the electoral district whereof the voter is registered. The outer envelope, voucher envelope, and ballot-papers may be brought to the voter's home by a postman if the voter informs the post office of his wish and indicates the number of his voter's certificate. The voter may:

1) hand the sealed outer envelope (with the voter's certificate, voucher envelope and ballot-papers in it) to the post office;
2) hand the sealed outer envelope to the postman who, on the voter's wish, delivered the election documents; or
3) place the sealed outer envelope into a post-box.

ARTICLE 59. Voting in Diplomatic Missions

Voting in diplomatic missions (consulates) of the Republic of Lithuania may take place during business hours but for at least 4 hours a day. Voting days (no less than 5) for each diplomatic mission (consulate) shall be established by the Central Electoral Committee in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The list of diplomatic missions (consulates) in which voting shall take place shall be compiled by the Central Electoral Committee in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The head of the diplomatic mission (consulate) shall be responsible for the organization of voting.

ARTICLE 60. Voting on Ships which are Sailing under the National Flag of the Republic of Lithuania

Voting shall take place on board a ship if the ship leaves a port of the Republic of Lithuania within 6 days prior to an election and does not enter a port of the Republic of Lithuania on the day of the election, or if there are other circumstances which do not allow a crew member or passenger to vote in his electoral district or by mail. The list of ships on which voting shall take place shall be compiled by the Central Electoral Committee, on coordination with competent services and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in such a manner that each voter on board a ship is given the opportunity to vote. The captain of the ship shall be responsible for the organization of voting on board.

ARTICLE 61. The Procedure for Voting in Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Lithuania and on Ships Sailing under the National Flag of the Republic of Lithuania

The procedure for voting in diplomatic missions of the Republic of Lithuania and on ships sailing under the national flag of the Republic of Lithuania shall be established by the Central Electoral Committee.

ARTICLE 62. Voting in Medical Facilities and Institutions of Social Care and Welfare

Special post offices designated for voting shall be established in medical facilities and institutions of social care and welfare.

Patients of such facilities and institutions who are able to move shall vote in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 58 of this Law. Inmates of health facilities and institutions of social care who are unable to move shall be visited by officials of special post offices who are approved by electoral committees of electoral areas. The voting person must, in conditions of privacy, personally mark the ballot-paper and put it into the voucher envelope. If necessary, he may be assisted by an individual whom he trusts. According to the instruction of the head of an institution of care or welfare, it may be prohibited to disturb a person who is in bad condition for the purpose of voting. Such instructions shall be obligatory to all post officials. It shall also be prohibited to disturb individuals for the purpose of voting whom a commission of doctors have concluded pursuant to the established procedure of the Ministry of Health Care to be incapable of controlling and understanding the essence of their actions at the time of voting due to chronic mental disease, feeble-mindedness, or temporary mental disorder.

ARTICLE 63. Voting in Military Units

Special post offices designed for voting shall be established in military units of the national defense system and internal service. If possible, chief officers of military units shall provide conditions for servicemen to vote in the electoral districts according to their permanent place of residence.

ARTICLE 64. Voting in Places of Imprisonment

Special post offices designed for voting shall be established in places of imprisonment. In accordance with the procedure set forth in the laws of the Republic of Lithuania, heads of places of imprisonment may allow sentenced persons to vote in the electoral areas of their permanent place of residence.

CHAPTER X. CALCULATION OF VOTES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING RESULTS

ARTICLE 65. Tabulation of Voucher Envelopes and ballot-papers in Post Offices

Post office heads shall deliver unused envelopes and ballot-papers to the electoral committee of their electoral area one day prior to elections. In accordance with the procedure established by the Central Electoral Committee, the calculation of voucher envelopes and ballot-papers shall be conducted by the head of the post office in a journal specially designated for this purpose.

ARTICLE 66. Tabulation of Ballot-papers

Upon the closing of the polling place, the chairman of the electoral committee shall individually collect unused ballot-papers from each member of the electoral committee, count them, and check that no ballot-papers have been handed in unlawfully. Unused and faulty ballot-papers shall be calculated, voided, and placed and sealed in envelopes designated for this purpose.

ARTICLE 67. Registration of Voters Who Have Voted and Calculation of Voters in the Electoral District

The total number of voters in an electoral district, and the number of voters who have voted in the electoral district shall be established according to the electoral district list of voters. The electoral committee of the electoral district shall inspect the ballot-box to ensure that the seals have not been broken and that there is no other evidence which indicates that it could have been opened or that ballot-papers could have possibly been removed. If there is such evidence, a written statement shall be made and the votes shall not be tallied. Having ascertained that the ballot-box has not been tampered with, it shall be opened and the votes shall be calculated. Votes shall be tallied in such a way that the procedure may be observed by all persons present during the calculation of votes. The Central Electoral Committee shall establish the concrete procedure for the calculation of votes.

ARTICLE 68. Vote Tabulation Records in the Electoral District

Two vote calculation records shall be drawn up in every electoral district. They shall include:

1) the number of voters in the electoral district;
2) the number of voters who voted in the electoral district;
3) the number of ballot-papers delivered to members of the committee;

4) the number of unused ballot-papers;
5) the number of faulty ballot-papers;
6) the number of invalid ballot-papers;
7) the number of valid ballot-papers.

The vote calculation record of a single-candidate electoral area shall also include the number of votes separately cast for each candidate for deputy, whereas the vote calculation record of a multi-candidate electoral area shall include the number of votes separately cast for the list of candidates put up by each political party or public political movement (their coalition). Both vote calculation records of the electoral district shall be signed by the chairman and members of the electoral committee of the electoral district.

ARTICLE 69. Invalid Ballot-papers

Invalid ballot-papers shall be:

1) ballot-papers of an unestablished sample;
2) ballot-papers sealed with the seal of the incorrect electoral district;
3) ballot-papers of the incorrect electoral area; and
4) ballot-papers on which more than one candidate or political party (coalition) is marked.

The decision to declare a ballot-paper invalid shall be made by the electoral committee of the electoral district.

ARTICLE 70. The Presentation of Vote Tabulation

Documents of the Electoral District to the Electoral Committee of the Electoral Area, all ballot-papers, including invalid and unused ballot-papers, vote calculation records, voter lists and other election documents shall be put into a package and sealed by the electoral committee of the electoral district in the procedure established by the Central Electoral Committee. The package shall be delivered to the electoral committee of the electoral area within 12 hours of the closing of voting, unless the Central Electoral Committee provides otherwise. The Central Electoral Committee and the Ministry of Internal Affairs must ensure the safety of the election documents and the persons transporting them.

ARTICLE 71. The Tabulation of Votes in the Electoral Committee of the Electoral Area

The electoral committee of the electoral area shall begin tallying votes when it receives all vote tabulation documents from electoral districts.

ARTICLE 72. The Tabulation of Votes Received by Mail

In the electoral committee of the electoral area, votes received by mail shall be tabulated in the following procedure:

1) the chairman of the electoral committee shall present, unopened, all outer envelopes received by mail. Their number shall be entered in a separate vote calculation record;
2) outer envelopes shall be entered one at a time;
3) voter certificates shall be taken out of the outer envelopes and checked with the voter list of the electoral district, and the voucher envelopes shall be stamped with the seal of the electoral area. If the person on a voter certificate is not in the voter list, if the voter has already signed the voter list indicating that he has already voted in the electoral district, if another envelope for voting by mail has been received from the same voter, if there is no vote certificate in the outer envelope, the seal shall not be affixed and ballot-papers in the envelope shall be considered invalid. The fact must be noted on both the outer and the voucher envelopes;
4) in the voter list of the electoral area, a special record shall be kept of the surnames of voters whose votes have been received;
5) voucher envelopes shall be cast into the ballot-box prepared according to the established requirements; and
6) when all the envelopes received by mail are reviewed in this way, the ballot-box shall be opened, the voucher envelopes shall be unsealed, and the votes received by mail shall be tallied according to the requirements of Part 4 of Article 67. If there is more than one ballot-paper of a single-candidate electoral area or multi-candidate electoral area, all ballot-papers in the envelope shall be considered invalid.

ARTICLE 73. Records of the Tabulation of Votes Received by Mail

The electoral committee of the electoral area shall draw up two records of the tabulation of votes received by mail. They shall include:

1) the number of envelopes received by mail;
2) the number of invalid ballot-papers received by mail; and
3) the number of valid ballot-papers received by mail.

The record of the tabulation of votes received by mail in a single-candidate electoral area shall also include the number of votes separately cast for each candidate; in a multi-candidate electoral area it shall also include the number of votes separately cast for each list of candidates. The records of the tabulation of votes received by mail shall be signed by the chairman and members of the electoral committee of the electoral area.

ARTICLE 74. Other Vote Tabulation Records of the Electoral Area

In accordance with vote tabulation records of electoral districts and records of the tabulation of votes received by mail, the electoral committee of the electoral area shall establish (separately in a one-candidate and multi-candidate electoral area):

1) the number of votes cast, which is equal to the sum of the number of ballot-papers valid in electoral districts and the number of valid ballot-papers received by mail;
2) the number of ballot-papers invalid in the electoral area which is equal to the sum of the number of ballot-papers invalid in electoral districts and the number of invalid ballot-papers received by mail; and
3) the number of votes cast for each candidate (list of candidates). This shall be equal to the sum of votes separately cast for each candidate (list of candidates) and received by mail or in electoral districts.

This data shall be included into two separate vote tabulation records of the electoral area. A separate record of the establishment of election results of a one-candidate electoral area shall also be drawn up.

ARTICLE 75. The Establishment of Election Results in Single-candidate Electoral Areas

Elections shall be considered to have been held in single-candidate electoral areas if more than 40 percent of voters registered in the voter list of the electoral area participate in the elections. A candidate shall be considered elected when more than half of the voters participating in the elections vote for him or her in the elections. If more than two candidates were standing for election in the electoral area and none of them are elected to deputy, the Central Electoral Committee, adhering to the requirements of this Law, shall, within two weeks, hold a repeat vote between the two candidates who received the most votes in the first voting. After the repeat voting, the candidate for whom more voters cast votes shall be considered elected. If an equal number of votes is cast for both candidates, a repeat election shall be held. If, in the electoral area, no more than two candidates were standing for election and neither of them was elected, the repeat elections shall be held.

ARTICLE 76. The Establishment of the Election Results in a Multi-candidate Electoral Area

The elections shall be considered to have been held in a multi-candidate electoral area if more than one fourth of all voters participate in them. Political parties or public political movements (coalitions) may receive mandates of deputies only if at least 4 percent of the voters participating in the elections voted for the list of candidates that they presented. Public political organizations of ethnic minorities may receive mandates of deputies if the member of votes received by each political organization applying the method of quotas and remainders. At first, the quota shall be counted, that is, how many votes are needed to receive one mandate. It shall be equal to the members of votes, divided by 70, cast in a multi-candidate electoral are for the lists participating in the distribution of mandates. If when dividing, the quotient is with a remainder, the remainder shall be deducted and 1 shall be added to the quotient. The number of votes cast for each list shall then be divided by the quota. The received integer quotient shall be the number of mandates for each list and remainders of this division shall be used to distribute the rest of the mandates. Therefore, all political organizations (coalitions) shall be written down in succession - according to the size of the remainders received by organizations by the dividing, beginning with the largest. If the remainders of two organizations are equal, the first written down shall be the organization which receives more votes and if these numbers are also equal, the first written down shall be the organization which has received more mandates in all electoral areas. The rest of the mandates shall be distributed by one to the lists according to the succession established in this way. If one of the political parties (coalitions) received a larger number of mandates than was on its list, the number of mandates left would be distributed to other lists in the same way. Candidates of the same list shall receive mandates in the numerical order which is provided in the application documents of the political organization (coalition). Those candidates who are elected in single-candidate electoral areas shall be omitted from the list. The issuance of the deputy's certificate to the elected candidate from the list of the political organization for whom repeat voting must be still held in a one-candidate electoral area, shall be postponed until the establishment of the results of the repeat voting.

ARTICLE 77. The Presentation of Vote Tabulation Documents of the Electoral Area to the Central Electoral Committee

All documents received from electoral districts, ballot-papers received by mail, vote calculation records of the electoral area, the record of the establishment of election results of the electoral area, and other election documents shall be put into a package and sealed by the electoral committee of the electoral area. Packages shall be delivered to the Central Electoral Committee within the time period established by the Central Electoral Committee. The Central Electoral Committee shall keep in custody election documents during the entire period of the powers of the Seimas.

ARTICLE 78. The Participation of Observers in the Tabulation of Votes and Establishment of Election Results

The observers of political parties, public political movements and candidates for deputy, and also representatives of the mass media may participate in the calculation of votes in electoral districts and areas, and also in the establishment of election results in electoral areas. The observers shall have the right to make remarks and claims to the appropriate electoral committees concerning the violations of this and other laws of the Republic of Lithuania but they must not hinder the work of electoral committees. The observers shall have the right to make a written protest which is delivered to the electoral committee of the

electoral area together with other election documents of the electoral district. The representatives of the mass media shall be prohibited from disseminating the information about the vote tabulation and election results by video and sound recording equipment, orally, in writing, or otherwise, until the report of the Central Electoral Committee.

ARTICLE 79. The Publication of Election Results

The final election results (with the exception of the results of a repeat voting) shall be published by the Central Electoral Committee within 7 days of the election.

ARTICLE 80. The Deputy's Certificate

After the publication of election results, the Central Electoral Committee shall issue deputy's certificates to the elected deputies within 3 days, with the exception of cases provided in Article 76. All deputies concerning the non-issuance of the deputy's certificate shall be resolved by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Lithuania within 3 days whose decision is final.

ARTICLE 81. The Replacement of a Deputy

Upon the death of a deputy, or if he is unable to fulfill the deputy's powers, or his deputy powers are terminated before the expiration of his term of office as deputy:

1) new elections shall be held in a single-candidate electoral area where he has been elected; and
2) the first non-elected candidate of the political party, public political movement or joint list according to which the former deputy has been elected, shall become a deputy in a multi-candidate electoral area.

ARTICLE 82. Repeat Elections

Repeat elections shall be held:

1) in electoral areas where the voting has not been held or declared invalid; and
2) in cases provided in Article 75 of this Law. Repeat elections shall be held within half a year. The Central Electoral Committee shall establish the actual day of repeat elections and their procedure.

ARTICLE 83. The Declaration of the Elections as Invalid

The elections shall be declared invalid if during them election documents are falsified or other illegal actions are carried out which have substantial influence on the election results. Any voter, political party, or public political movement participating in the elections may lodge complaints considering the declaration of the elections invalid with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Lithuania within 10 days of the publication of the election results. The Supreme Court shall review complaints concerning the declaration of the elections invalid within 5 days.

ARTICLE 84. The Loss of the Mandate of a Deputy

In the event that a candidate for the post of a Seimas deputy consciously cooperated with the special services of foreign states and was not thereby carrying out the assignment of the Republic of Lithuania, he must make a public announcement thereof as well as indicate the fact in his election posters and in the posters of the political organization bearing the list of candidates. If the candidate fails to act in the prescribed manner, and if after the elections his cooperation with the KGB or other foreign special services which was not related to carrying out the assignments of the Republic of Lithuania is proved, his deputy powers shall be terminated from that day forward.

ARTICLE 85. The Entry into Force of the Law

This law shall enter into force on the day of the adoption of the Resolution of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Election to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 25 October 1992."

LAW
ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1. The Basis for Elections of the President of the Republic.

The President of the Republic shall be elected by the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania for a five-year term on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage and by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 2. The Right to Candidacy for the Office of President of the Republic.

Any person who is a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania by birth, who has lived in Lithuania for at least the past three years, who has reached the age of 40 prior to the election day, and who is eligible for election to Seimas member may be elected President of the Republic.

Time spent outside the boundaries of the Republic of Lithuania, if spent in connection with political exile or imprisonment for political convictions made prior to 11 March 1990, or with work at diplomatic services or other assignments of the State of Lithuania, shall be included in a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania's period of residence in Lithuania (Amended 5 January 1993).

The same individual may be eligible to serve in the office of the President of the Republic for no more than two terms.

ARTICLE 3. Universal Suffrage.

Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who on the day of the election are 18 years of age or over shall have the right to vote for the President of the Republic. Citizens who have been declared incopetent by court shall not participate in elections.

Any direct or indirect abridgment of a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania's right to vote on the grounds of their sex, race, nationality, language, descent, social status, religion, convictions, or views shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE 4. Equal Suffrage.

Every citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who has the right to vote for the President of the Republic shall have one vote in the election.

ARTICLE 5. Direct Election of the President of the Republic.

Voters shall elect the President of the Republic without mediators.

ARTICLE 6. Secret Ballot.

Voters shall vote in person and by secret ballot. Controlling the will of the voters in the election shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE 7. Making Public the Preparation and Conduct of Elections.

State institutions and electoral committees shall prepare and conduct the elections of the President of the Republic publicly. Public notice must be given of all events (meetings, sessions) related to the organization of elections at least 12 hours prior to the commencement of the event.

The electoral committees shall inform the citizens about their work; the formation of electoral districts (apylinke); the composition of electoral committees, their location and business hours; the lists of voters; the results of candidate registration to the post of the President of the Republic; and the voting and election results.

The state mass media shall inform the public about the preparation and execution of the elections of the President of the Republic.

Representatives of all mass media shall have the right to unrestricted participation in all events organized by the electoral committees, attendance of all electoral committee sittings, as well as the acquisition of information from the electoral committees concerning the preparation and execution of the elections.

ARTICLE 8. Expenses Related to the Preparation and Conduction of the Elections.

The expenses related to the preparation and execution of the elections of the President of the Republic shall be covered by the State.

CHAPTER II. ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 9. Formation of Electoral Districts.

The territories of towns and districts of the Republic shall be divided into electoral districts. The division of every town and region into electoral districts as well as their number and size shall be established by a town or regional electoral committee no later than 37 days prior to the election day.

At least 5 thousand voters must reside in the territory of an electoral district.

Within 5 days from the approval of electoral districts, the town or regional electoral committee shall inform the voters of the boundaries of every electoral district, as well as its quarters and place of polling.

ARTICLE 10. Electoral Committees.

The elections of the President of the Republic shall be organized and conducted by:

1) the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic;
2) the town and district electoral committees; and
3) the electoral committees of electoral districts.

Members of electoral committees may not be candidates to the office of President of the Republic or agents of such candidates.

ARTICLE 11. The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall be the supreme institution for the organization of elections of the President of the Republic.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall be organized by the Seimas at least 45 days prior to the election day.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall be composed of:

1) the Committee chairperson;
2) three persons who have higher legal education and who shall be chosen by lot from six candidates nominated by the Minister of Justice; and
3) three persons who have higher legal education and who shall be chosen by lot from six candidates nominated by the Lithuanian Society of Lawyers.

The Minister of Justice and the Lithuanian Society of Lawyers may propose more candidates to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

The drawing of lots during a sitting of the Seimas shall be organized by the Seimas Chairperson.

Political parties, public political movements, and public political organizations of ethnic minorities which have received the mandates of the Seimas members in multi-candidate electoral areas shall each have the right to nominate one candidate to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic from this one list of candidates (joint list) presented in a multi-candidate electoral area prior to the information of the Electoral Committee.

The Seimas shall appoint the chairperson of the Electoral Committee for the Elections of the President of the Republic. The chairperson of the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic as well as members of the Committee who were appointed by lot shall suspend their membership in political parties, public political movements and public political organizations if they are members of such organizations, and may not take part in the activities of said organizations or movements or carry out their instructions while working in the Committee. The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall elect the deputy chairperson and secretary of the Committee during its sitting. The deputy chairperson shall be elected from among the members who do not represent political parties, public political movements or public political organizations of ethnic minorities.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall be formed for the period of presidential elections and shall lose its powers from the moment the President of the Republic takes oath.

ARTICLE 12. The Powers of the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall:

1) distribute forms for the collection of voters' signatures;
2) register candidates to the office of the President of the Republic and issue them presidential candidacy certificates;
3) establish the samples and forms of ballot-papers and other documents used during the elections, as well as packages, stamps, and samples for their completion, and the procedure for sealing ballot-papers;
4) manage funds allocated by the State for the elections of the President of the Republic;
5) supervise the implementation of this Law;
6) consider complaints concerning decisions of town or regional electoral committees and electoral committees of electoral districts;
7) establish and publicize the results of the elections of the President of the Republic;
8) issue the certificate of the President of the Republic to the elected candidate;
9) hand over the documents of the elections of the President of the Republic to the State Archive for keeping; and
10) execute other powers provided for in this Law.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may not interpret the provisions of this Law. If it is necessary to do so, the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall appeal to the Seimas for the amendments of this Law. The Seimas shall consider questions submitted by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the

President of the Republic according to the procedure of particular urgency.

ARTICLE 13. Formation of Town and Regional Electoral Committees.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall form town and regional electoral committees at least 40 days prior to the day of elections of the President of the Republic.

Town and regional electoral committees shall be composed of:

1) individuals who reside or are employed in the said town or region having higher legal education and whose candidacies are proposed by the Minister of Justice;
2) individuals who reside or are employed in the said town or region having higher legal education and whose candidacies are proposed by the Lithuanian Society of Lawyers (Amended 19 January 1993).

The Minister of Justice and the Lithuanian Society of Lawyers may also propose more candidates.

Political parties, public political movements and public political organizations of ethnic minorities which have received the mandates of the members of the Seimas from the List of candidates (joint list) presented in the multi-candidate electoral area shall each have the right to nominate two representatives from this single list of candidates (joint list) to town and regional electoral committees (Amended 19 January 1993). The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may not reject said candidates. In the event that candidates are not nominated, the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may additionally approve candidates to the Committee who have been proposed by the Minister of Justice and the Lithuanian Society of Lawyers in their place.

The chairpersons of town and regional electoral committees shall be appointed by the Electoral committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

During the first sitting, town and regional electoral committees shall elect a deputy chairperson and a secretary of the committee.

According to the procedure prescribed by this Article, more than one town electoral committee having the powers provided for in Article 14 of this Law may be formed in the cities of Vilnius and Kaunas.

ARTICLE 14. The Powers of Town and Regional Electoral Committees.

Town and regional electoral committees shall:

1) divide the territory of the town or region into electoral districts and establish their boundaries as well as the numeration of the electoral districts;
2) inform the voters who reside in the respective town or region of the boundaries of electoral districts, the quarters of the town or regional electoral committee, the working hours and the polling place;
3) supervise the implementation of this Law in the respective town or region;
4) draw up the records of vote calculation in the town or region;
5) consider appeals against decisions and actions of the electoral committees of electoral districts and adopt decisions concerning them; and
6) exercise other powers provided for in this Law.

ARTICLE 15. Formation of Electoral Committees of Electoral Districts.

Electoral committees of electoral districts shall be formed by the town and regional electoral committees at least 36 days prior to the day of the elections of the President of the Republic.

Electoral committees of electoral districts shall be composed of proposed candidates of political parties, public political movements and public political organizations of ethnic minorities which have received mandates of the Seimas members form the list of candidates (joint list) presented in the multi-candidate electoral area. These political parties, public political movements and public political organizations of ethnic minorities shall have the right to propose as many as 3 candidates to the electoral committee of the electoral district. If candidates are not proposed, town and regional electoral committees may proportionally enlarge the number of representatives of the indicated political powers.

Town and regional electoral committees may not reject candidates who have been indicated in this Article and who have been proposed to electoral committees of electoral districts.

Chairpersons of electoral committees of the electoral districts shall be appointed by the town and regional electoral committees.

Electoral committees of electoral districts shall elect a deputy chairperson and a secretary of the electoral committee during their first sitting.

ARTICLE 16. The Powers of Electoral Committees of Electoral Districts.

Electoral committees of electoral districts shall:

1) receive lists of voters from the administrative bodies of local governments, correct and approve them;
2) register voters on the list of voters of the electoral district if the conditions provided for in part 2 of Article 24 of this Law are present;
3) consider complaints concerning errors made in voter lists;

4) submit the list of voters of the electoral district to the town or regional electoral committee at least 25 days prior to the day of the elections;
5) hand voting certificates to voters or distribute them in some other way;
6) guarantee the furnishing of voting premises and ballot-boxes in accordance with the requirements of this Law;
7) organize voting in the electoral district on the day of elections;
8) calculate votes and draw up the records therefor;
9) consider appeals and adopt decisions related thereto of voters and observers of their respective electoral district on issues concerning the preparation of elections, the organization of voting, and the calculation of votes and the drawing up of records thereof; and
10) exercise other powers provided for in this Law.

ARTICLE 17. Organization of Electoral committee Work.

Meetings of electoral committees shall be valid provided that at least three-fifths of the members of the committee are in attendance. Decisions made by the committee shall be adopted by open, majority vote. In the event of a tie vote, the committee chairperson's vote shall have power of decision. Committee members not in agreement with a decision shall have the right to state a dissentins opinion in writing, which shall then be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

Upon the completion of voting, the electoral committees of electoral districts as well as town or regional electoral committees may only adopt decisions related to the drawing up of records of the calculation of votes.

All electoral committee meetings shall be public. The right to participate therein shall be granted to observers appointed by political parties and public political movements, candidates nominated to the office of the President of the Republic, as well as agents of candidates to the office of the President of the Republic and representatives of all mass media.

No individual shall have the right to organize non-public meetings of electoral committees.

While exercising their duties in electoral committees, chairpersons and members of such committees shall be prohibited from any form of campaigning or attempts to influence the voters' will in any other way. Individuals who have violated this Law may be dismissed from the committee.

ARTICLE 18. Appeals Concerning Decisions of Electoral Committees which are Adopted prior to the Completion of Voting.

All political parties and political organizations which have nominated a presidential candidate, as well as agents of candidates to the office of the President of the Republic may appeal against the decisions of electoral committees according to the following procedure:

1) for decisions of electoral committees of electoral districts - to the town or regional electoral committee;
2) for decisions of town or regional electoral committees -to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic; and
3) for decisions of the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic - to the Supreme Court.

Appeals must be considered within 48 hours of the time the appeal is submitted. Non-working days shall also be included in this period. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be final.

ARTICLE 19. Appeals Concerning Decisions of Electoral Committees which are Adopted after the Completion of Voting.

All political parties and political organizations which have nominated a presidential candidate, as well as agents of candidates to the office of the President of the Republic, may appeal to the town or regional electoral committees against the decisions of electoral committees of electoral districts concerning the drawing up of records of the calculation of votes not later than within 24 hours of their adoption. Such appeals must be considered no later than within 24 hours.

Town or regional electoral committees, in considering appeals concerning the drawing up of records of the calculation of votes, may re-count the ballot-papers presented by the electoral committee of an electoral district, provided at least three-fifths of the town or regional electoral committee members are present. Upon establishing an arithmetic mistake or incorrectly calculated valid or invalid ballot-papers, the committee may amend the record of the calculation of votes. Town or regional electoral committees shall not have the right to declare invalid the record of the calculation of votes drawn up by electoral committees of electoral districts.

The decisions of the electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may be appealed against to the Supreme Court no later than within 2 days of their adoption, and must be considered not later than within 48 hours. This term shall also include non-working days. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be final and shall be binding upon the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

While considering appeals against the decisions of town or regional electoral committees concerning the drawing up of records of the calculation of votes in a respective town or region, the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may re-count the ballot-papers presented by the town or regional electoral committee. Upon establishing and arithmetic mistake or incorrectly calculated ballot-papers, the Committee may amend the entries in the records of the calculation of votes of the respective town, region or electoral district. The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall not have the right to declare invalid the town or regional electoral committee record of the calculation of votes.

ARTICLE 20. Assistance for Electoral Committees.

State institutions, firms, offices and organizations and their officials must assist electoral committees in exercising their powers, and must furnish them with necessary information.

State institutions, firms, offices and organizations and their officials must consider requests submitted by electoral committees and give the electoral committees a justified response no later than within 3 days.

Electoral committees may employ the required number of personnel for assistance work.

Local governments and State institutions and organizations must provide electoral committees with premises and equipment for the preparation and execution of elections.

ARTICLE 21. Remuneration for Electoral Committee Members.

Chairpersons and members of electoral committees shall be paid salaries for their work in electoral committees in accordance with rates submitted by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic and approved by the Government. Chairpersons and members of electoral committees who are employed in firms, offices and organizations, and who are not receiving wages due to their involvement in electoral committee activities shall be paid by the State an amount not exceeding their average monthly salary.

ARTICLE 22. Changing the Members of Electoral Committees.

Chairpersons and members of electoral committees may be dismissed from their posts on the committee by the institution which approved the composition of the committee.

As necessary, new chairpersons or members of electoral committees shall be appointed according to the procedure established by this Law.

CHAPTER III. VOTER LISTS

ARTICLE 23. Compiling Voter Lists.

For the conduct of elections, voter lists of electoral districts shall be compiled. Said lists shall be compiled by the appropriate administrative institutions of local governments, shall be signed by their chief officers, and shall be delivered to the electoral committees of electoral districts at least 35 days prior to the day of election.

Electoral committees of electoral districts shall review and approve voter lists. Approved voter lists shall be signed by the chairperson and secretary of the electoral committee.

ARTICLE 24. General Procedure for Registering Citizens in Voter Lists.

Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who have the right to vote and who, at the time the voter list is compiled, are permanently residing on the territory of that particular electoral district, shall be included in the district's voter list.

In the event that a voter changes his permanent place of residence after the compilation of lists begins, he shall be registered in the voter list of the new place of residence. In such a case, the voter must submit an application to the electoral committee of the latter territory concerning his or her registration in the voter list at least 30 days prior to the election. The electoral committee of the electoral district must see to it that the voter's name is struck from the voter list of the electoral district of the former permanent place of residence.

ARTICLE 25. Registration of Voters in Only One List.

Each voter may only be registered on one voter list. This shall be checked by the town or regional electoral committees and the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic. Upon establishing that a voter's name is registered on the voter lists of several electoral districts, town or regional electoral committees as well as the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall address the voter within 20 days of the election day, requesting that he announce within 5 days which electoral district's voter list he wishes to be registered in. If the voter fails to make this choice within the established period, the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall include the voter's name in the voter list of the electoral district where in their opinion, it would be more convenient for the voter to vote, and shall inform the voter thereof within 3 days. Such decisions of the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may not be appealed.

ARTICLE 26. Public Announcement of Voter Lists.

At least 20 days prior to the election, the town or regional electoral committees shall announce publicly the compilation of voter lists and shall provide conditions for the voters to be acquainted with the lists, indicating the time and place for the voters to implement this right.

ARTICLE 27. Reviewing Voter Lists

Any voter may submit remarks concerning inaccuracies in a voter list to the electoral committee of an electoral district. The electoral committee of the electoral district must consider the remarks and adopt a decision thereon within 48 hours of the receipt thereof. The decisions of electoral committees of electoral districts may be appealed against to the town or regional electoral committee within 48 hours of the acceptance thereof. The town or regional electoral committee must adopt a relevant decision within 48 hours of the receipt of the complaint. The town or regional electoral committee's decision shall be final.

ARTICLE 28. Appeals Concerning Restoration of the Right to Vote.

A voter may submit complaints to the electoral committee of an electoral district concerning errors made in the voter list which hinder the voter from implementing his or her right to vote. The electoral committee of the electoral district must consider the complaint and adopt a decision no later than within 24 hours of the receipt thereof.

The decision of the electoral committee of the electoral district may be appealed against within 48 hours to the district court, which shall consider the complaint within 24 hours. The district court's decision shall be final. Remarks as well as complaints which are submitted later than 24 hours of the opening of elections shall not be considered.

ARTICLE 29. Town and Regional Voter Lists.

Town and regional voter lists shall be made at least 25 days prior to the day of election by the town or regional electoral committees according to the lists of voters of electoral districts submitted by the electoral district committees.

ARTICLE 30. List of Voters of the Republic of Lithuania.

The list of voters of the Republic of Lithuania shall be compiled by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic according to the lists of voters submitted by the town or regional electoral committees as well as the lists of voters residing abroad at least 20 days prior to the day of the election.

CHAPTER IV. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES TO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

ARTICLE 31. Nomination of Candidates to the Office of the President of the Republic.

Individual persons may nominate themselves to the office of President of the Republic.

Political parties and political organizations may nominate and support candidates to the office of President of the Republic.

The number of candidates to the office of President of the Republic shall not be limited.

The nomination of candidates shall begin the next day after the formation of the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic, and shall end at least 40 days prior to the day of elections.

ARTICLE 32. Declaration of an Individual's Participation in the Elections as a Candidate to the Office of President of the Republic.

Individuals who have been nominated or who have nominated themselves to the office of President of the Republic must declare their nomination to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President at least 40 days prior to the election.

If an individual is nominated by a political party or political organization to the office of President of the Republic, this decision shall also be presented in writing.

Documents confirming the identity of the candidate shall also be submitted and a deposit equaling five average monthly salaries shall be paid. Having collected twenty thousand (20,000) voter signatures as provided in Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the total deposit shall be refunded to the individual who has paid it.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall, no later than within 3 days (including non-working days), confirm that none of the conditions indicated in Article 78 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania which prohibit an individual from being a candidate to the office of President of the Republic are present, and shall adopt a grounded decision on whether or not to issue the individual forms with the name and surname of the candidate to the President of the Republic for the collection of voter signatures. Refusal to issue the forms for the collection of voter signatures may be appealed against to the Supreme Court no later than within 3 days, and that appeal shall be considered no later than within 72 hours of its submission. This term shall include non-working days. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be final.

ARTICLE 33. The Collection of Voter Signatures.

At least twenty thousand voter signatures as prescribed in Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania must be collected on the form for the collection of voter signatures, which shall contain the following text:

I, as citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, confirm my support for the application of

_____

(the person's name, surname)

to participate in the (month, day and year)elections as a candidate to the office of President of the Republic of Lithuania.

Serial No
Individual's Surname, Name
Series and No of the Document Confirming Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania
Place of Birth
Permanent Place of Residence
Signature and Date

The name and surname of the individual who has collected the signatures shall be indicated at the bottom of the page, as well as the series and number of the document confirming his citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania, his permanent place of residence, and signature.

All information on forms for the collection of signatures shall be filled out by the voters themselves. Voters may sign for each candidate to the office of President of the Republic, but may only sign for each candidate once.

Forms for the collection of voter signatures shall be directly issued by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic to individuals who have announced in writing their participation as candidates in the elections of the President of the Republic and, upon the request of these persons - to persons indicated by them.

ARTICLE 34. Registration of Candidates to the Office of the President of the Republic.

At least 25 days prior to the elections, individuals who have been nominated or who have nominated themselves as candidates to the office of the President of the Republic must submit voter signature collection forms containing at least twenty thousand voter signatures to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic which issued the said forms.

Individuals who have been nominated or who have nominated themselves as candidates to the office of President of the Republic may submit a certificate of their health condition to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic. The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall announce such certificates through mass media.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall confirm that the forms for the collection of voter signatures have been completed correctly no later than within 24 hours of the receipt thereof. In the event that it is discovered that a citizen has signed for the same candidate more than once, none of that voter's signatures shall be counted. Signatures of persons who did not record all of the necessary information or who recorded incorrect information shall also be annulled.

If after all invalid votes are cast off, the candidate to the office of President of the Republic has the signatures of at least twenty thousand of voters, the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall register the individual as a candidate to the office of President of the Republic no later than within 3 hours. Refusal of the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic to register an individual as a candidate to the office of President of the Republic may be appealed against to the Supreme Court no later than within 3 days (including non-working days), and the Court must consider the appeal within 48 hours. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be final.

Individuals who have been nominated or who have nominated themselves as candidates to the office of President of the Republic shall acquire the status of candidate to the office of President of the Republic upon their registration as candidates to the office of President of the Republic with the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall officially announce the list of all individuals who have been registered as candidates to the office of President of the Republic no later than 22 days prior to the day of the elections, and shall issue certificates of candidacy to the office of President of the Republic within at least 3 hours of the announcement thereof. The campaign for elections of the President of the Republic shall commence on the day of the official announcement of the list of candidates to the office of President of the Republic.

ARTICLE 35. Agents of Candidate to the Office of President of the Republic.

Individuals who have been registered as candidates to the office of President of the Republic shall have the right to have their own agents. Candidates to the office of President of the Republic shall submit their list of agents to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic, which shall, no later than within 24 hours, issue agent certificates (indicating the name and surname of the candidate) to the agents of the candidates to the office of President of the Republic.

On the instruction of the candidate to the office of the President of the Republic, an agent of the candidate to the office of President of the Republic shall have the right to represent the candidate in meeting with voters and in the mass media; to raise funds for financing the elections, and to carry out other instructions of the candidate to the office of President of the Republic which do not contradict laws.

Candidates to the office of President of the Republic may at any time recall their agents in writing. An agent shall be deemed recalled from the moment the declaration thereon is submitted to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

ARTICLE 36. Observers of the Elections of the President of the Republic.

All political parties and political organizations which have nominated an individual as a candidate to the office of President of the Republic as well as candidates to the office of President of the Republic shall have the right to appoint in writing observers to each electoral committee. Observer certificates of the Elections of President of the Republic shall be issued immediately. The certificates shall be issued by:

1) the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic - to observers who have been appointed to observe the activities of the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic as well as the activities of town or regional electoral committees; and
2) town or regional electoral committees - to observers who have been appointed to observe the activities of the electoral committees of electoral districts.

Election observers shall have the right to be present at the meetings of electoral committees whose activities they have been appointed to observe and to demand that the chairperson and members of the electoral committee observe this Law.

Protests presented by observers in writing shall be attached to the records and decisions of the electoral committee.

In cases provided for in this Law and according to the procedure established therein, observers shall have the right to appeal against the decisions of electoral committees.

Organizations as well as candidate to the office of President of the Republic who have appointed observers shall have the right to recall the observer in writing at any time. The observer shall be deemed recalled form the moment the declaration of recall is submitted to the electoral committee which issued the observer's certificate to the individual.

CHAPTER V. GUARANTEES OF THE ACTIVITIES OF CANDIDATES TO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

ARTICLE 37. The Right of Candidates to the Office of President of the Republic to Speak at Meetings or through Mass Media.

After the official publication of the list of candidates, the candidates to the office of President of the Republic shall have equal right to speak at voter meetings or at any other meetings, gatherings, or conferences, and to utilize state mass media and publicize their election program.

Heads of state institutions of power and government must assist the candidates to the office of President of the Republic to organize meetings with voters and to obtain necessary information, with the exception of confidential information.

ARTICLE 38. The Right of Candidates to the Office of President of the Republic to be Relieved from Work or Service Duties During the Election Campaign.

Upon his or her request, a candidate to the office of President of the Republic may be relieved from work or service duties for the period of the election campaign but for no longer than 2 months. During this period, the candidate shall be paid two average monthly wages from State resources.

ARTICLE 39. Immunity of the Person of a Candidate to the Office of President of the Republic.

During the election campaign and directly following the elections, candidates to the office of President of the Republic may not be found criminally responsible or arrested, and may not be imposed with administrative penalties by court for their actions during the election campaign of the President of the Republic.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall see to the protection of candidates to the office of President of the republic.

ARTICLE 40. Responsibility for the Violation of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Presidential Elections.

Individuals who obstruct, by means of violence, fraud, threats, or any other way , the implementation the right of voters to elect the President of the Republic, and the organization of campaigning, as well as the members of electoral committees and other officials who have falsified documents of the election, intentionally counted the votes incorrectly, or violated voting secrecy, or this Law in any other way shall be responsible according to the laws of the Republic of Lithuania. Legal actions shall be also brought against individuals who have announced or publicize in any other way false information concerning a candidate to the office of President of the Republic, or who have interfered with a candidate's meeting with voters.

CHAPTER VI. CAMPAIGNING

ARTICLE 41. The Basic Principles of Campaigning.

Political parties and political organizations, as well as citizens and candidates to the office of President of the Republic may begin campaigning from the day the campaign of the elections of the President of the Republic begins to which the provisions of this Chapter shall be applicable.

Campaigning may be conducted in any form or manner provided that it does not contradict the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Lithuania. The commencement of campaigning shall be declared by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

ARTICLE 42. Conditions and Procedure for the Use of Mass Media.

Candidates to the office of President of the Republic shall all have equal opportunity to use State mass media free of charge for the purpose of campaigning. The actual duration and time of radio and television programs used for each candidate's campaign for the elections of the President of the Republic shall be established by the Electoral Committee for the Elections of the President of the Republic in coordination with the radio and television administration and set in a manner which ensures that principals of equality are maintained among the candidates to the office of President of the Republic.

Candidates to the office of President of the Republic may use the time allotted to them in State mass media themselves or may permit political parties or political organizations indicated by them, as well as to their agents or other specified individuals, to conduct campaigning at the fixed time.

Only the special account of the Elections of the President of the Republic shall limit campaigning in the commercial mass media.

All disputes concerning campaigning shall be settled by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic, which shall base itself on the principle of equality of rights to candidates to the office of President of the Republic.

Upon the demand of a candidate to the office of President of the Republic or the candidate's agent, mass media which has publicized compromising material about the said candidate to the office of President of the Republic must publicize the response of the candidate or his agent at least 5 days prior to the day of election.

ARTICLE 43. Prohibition of Officers of State Institutions Influencing the Will of the Voters.

During election campaigns, officers of State institutions and employees of the mass media shall be prohibited from using their official duties for campaigning or otherwise influencing the will of voters.

If such individuals are candidates to the office of President of the Republic, they may only use the mass media in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 42 of this Law. If they are required, in order to fulfill their duties, to announce important news to the mass media, they may only do so at a press conference.

ARTICLE 44. Financing Campaigning.

Campaigning shall be financed from State resources as well as from resources raised by political parties and political organizations, and citizens and candidates to the office of President of the Republic and which shall be accumulated in special accounts for Elections of the President of the Republic in the Savings Bank of Lithuania as well as its branches.

Candidates shall be paid from State resources on an equal basis for the time on State radio and television which is allotted to them, the printing of campaign posters, and the publishing of election programs. The utilization of funds allocated for campaigning shall be controlled by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President and by the Savings Bank of Lithuania. The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic and the Savings Bank of Lithuania shall publicize the report concerning utilization of Sate resources for campaigning in the press no later than within 15 days after the election of the President of the Republic.

Candidates to the office of President of the Republic, as well as the elected President of the Republic, shall announce all funds which were received and utilized for the elections (indicating their sources) in the press no later than within 30 days after the election of the President of the Republic.

ARTICLE 45. Prohibition of Campaigning on the Day of Election.

Campaigning shall be prohibited during the 24 hours prior to the commencement of elections and on the day of elections. During this time, no campaign posters, with the exception of those which are issued by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic, may be put up within a 50 metre radius of the voting places.

CHAPTER VII. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 46. Ballot-papers.

For elections of the President of the Republic, each voter shall be presented with a ballot-paper which shall contain the name and surname of each candidate to the office of President of the Republic. Candidates to the office of President of the Republic shall be listed in alphabetic order.

ARTICLE 47. Delivery of Ballot-papers.

The Electoral Committee for elections of the President of the Republic shall deliver ballot-papers and envelopes to town and regional electoral committees at least 10 days prior to the day of election. Town and regional electoral committees shall recount the received ballot-papers and envelopes and shall draw up a report of the receipt thereof.

Town and regional electoral committees shall deliver ballot-papers to the electoral committees of electoral districts at least one day prior to the day of elections. The electoral committees of electoral districts shall recount the ballot-papers and draw up a report of the receipt thereof.

Town and regional electoral committees shall deliver ballot-papers and envelopes to post offices at least 7 days before the day of election.

At diplomatic missions of the Republic of Lithuania, voters must be provided with free access to ballot-papers and envelopes for voting by mail at least 10 days prior to the day of election.

The Electoral Committee for elections of the President of the Republic shall be responsible for the issue, calculation and delivery of ballot-papers and envelopes within the indicated period.

ARTICLE 48. Voter Certificates.

Voter certificates shall be delivered to each voter at least 10 days prior to the day of election. Voter certificates shall be sent or distributed in another way by the electoral committees of electoral districts which shall indicate this on the voter list. If a voter's certificate is not delivered through the fault of the electoral committee of an electoral district, it must be issued immediately upon the voter's demand.

Upon written application, a voter may be issued a duplicate voter's certificate.

Voter certificates shall contain:

1) the number of the town or regional electoral committee;
2) the number of the electoral committee of the electoral district;
3) the voter's sequence number in the electoral district voter list;
4) the voter's name and surname;
5) the voter's permanent place of residence; and
6) the address of the polling place.

CHAPTER VIII. VOTING

ARTICLE 49. Time and Place of Voting.

Voting shall take place on the day of election from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the polling place designated by the electoral committee. Voters shall only vote in the electoral district in whose voter list their names have been included. Votes received by mail shall be valid only in the electoral district in whose voter list the name of the voter has been included.

ARTICLE 50. Preparation of Polling Places.

Requirements for the preparation of polling places shall be established by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

Voting booths must be set up in such a way that nobody is able to see the voter who is inside.

The text of this Law must be accessible to each voter in all electoral districts.

No other political actions except the organization of elections and voting may be conducted in the polling place.

ARTICLE 51. Commencement of Voting.

On the day of election, the polling place shall be opened only if at least 3/5 of the members of the electoral committee of the electoral district are present. Then, the chairperson of the electoral committee, together with other members of the electoral committee, shall make sure that the ballot-box is empty and shall seal it. Having checked that the polling place has been furnished without violating the established requirements, the chairperson of the electoral committee of the electoral committee of the electoral district shall register the total number of the received ballot-papers into the record of the calculation of votes, distribute the ballot-papers and voter lists among the members of the electoral committee, register the number of ballot-papers distributed among each electoral committee member into the record of the calculation of votes, and open the voting place, thereby proclaiming the commencement of the elections.

ARTICLE 52. Voter Identification.

Upon arriving at the polling place, voters shall present to a member of the electoral committee of the electoral district their voter certificates as well as their passports or other documents certifying their identity and citizenship, and shall sign the voter list. Voter certificates shall not be returned to the voters. A ballot-paper shall be handed to the voter only after the voter has signed. In voting by mail, there shall be an entry made on the voter certificate concerning the issue of a ballot-paper, and the voter certificate shall be returned to the voter.

It shall be prohibited to issue to a voter another voter's ballot-paper. Members of electoral committees who violate this provision shall be liable by law.

ARTICLE 53. Voting Procedure.

Having been handed the ballot-paper, the voter shall enter a voting booth and mark the ballot personally. The voter must enter the voting booth alone. The only exceptions shall be in cases provided for in part 5 of this Article.

On the ballot-paper, the voter shall mark the name of the candidate for whom he is voting.

Voters shall personally cast their marked ballot-papers into the ballot-box.

Upon the request of a voter, faulty ballot-papers shall be exchanged for new ones by the decision of the electoral committee of the electoral district. The chairperson of the electoral committee shall cross out the faulty ballot paper in ink (ball-point pen) and shall sign it. The electoral committee secretary and one of the members shall also sign the faulty ballot-paper. Faulty ballot-papers shall be kept separately.

Voters who are physically unable to mark their ballot-papers themselves or cast them into the ballot-box may designate another person to mark the ballot-paper and cast it into the ballot-box for them. Electoral Committee chairpersons or members, as well as election observers, shall be prohibited from carrying out such actions for voters.

ARTICLE 54. Voting by Mail.

Voting by mail shall be possible at post offices during business hours beginning 7 days before the election and ending one day before the election if the voter is entered the voter list of that town or region, and ending two days before election if the voter is not entered on the voter list of that town or region. Expenses related to voting by mail shall be covered by the State.

The head of the post office shall be responsible for the organization of voting by mail and shall be responsible for the issue and collection of ballot-papers and voucher envelopes during voting by mail.

An officer(s) shall be appointed responsible for the issue and collection of ballot-papers and voucher enveloped during voting by mail.

Post offices must provide a place for voters to mark their ballot-papers and put them into voucher envelopes without interference.

Voting by mail shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure established in Articles 52 and 53 of this Law, with the exception of the procedure for casting ballot-papers into the ballot-box. The voter shall be given envelopes together with the ballot-paper for voting by mail.

The voter shall put the marked ballot-paper into the voucher envelope and seal it. Then, together with the voter's certificate, the voter shall put the voucher envelope into an outer envelope and seal that as well. The post office seal shall be stamped on the outer envelope.

Envelopes for voting by mail shall be addressed to the electoral committee of the electoral district in the list of voters wherein the voter is registered.

Outer envelopes for voting by mail shall be addressed to the electoral committee of the electoral district in the list of voters wherein the voter is registered.

Outer envelopes, voucher envelopes and ballot-papers shall be delivered at least 2 days prior to the election by a postal worker to the homes of voters who are not able to move. The list of voters who are unable to move shall be compiled at least 7 days before the election by the electoral district committee in accordance with documents submitted in writing by town and regional social care and welfare institutions. Post officials, members of electoral committees or other persons may not bring outer envelopes, voucher envelopes and ballot-papers to the homes of voters who are not registered on the list of immobile voters.

Voters may:

1) hand the sealed outer envelope (with the voters certificate, voucher envelope and ballot-paper in it) to a post office official;
2) hand the sealed outer envelope to the postal worker who delivered the election documents; or
3) place the sealed outer envelope into a post box.

ARTICLE 55. Voting in Diplomatic Missions.

Voting may take place in diplomatic missions (consulates) of the Republic of Lithuania during working hours. At least 4 hours must be allotted for this every day. Voting days (at least 5) for each diplomatic mission (consulate) shall be established by the electoral committee for Elections of the President of the Republic in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The list of diplomatic missions (consulates) in which voting shall take place shall be compiled by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The head of the diplomatic mission (consulate) shall be responsible for the organization of voting.

ARTICLE 56. Voting on Ships Sailing under the Lithuanian State Flag.

Voting shall take place on board ships which sail under the State flag of Lithuanian if the ship leaves a port of the Republic of Lithuania at least 6 days prior the election and does not return before the election day, or if there are other circumstances which make it impossible for a crew member or board passenger having the right to vote in his or her own electoral district or by mail.

The list of ships in which voting shall take place and the time of voting in each ship shall be established by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic in cooperation with competent services and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in such a manner which makes it possible for each citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who is on board a ship to vote. The captain or assistant captain of the ship, being citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, shall be responsible for the organization of voting on board the ship.

ARTICLE 57. The Procedure for Voting in Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Lithuania and on Board Ships which are Sailing under the State Flag of Lithuania.

The procedure for voting in diplomatic missions of the Republic of Lithuania and on ships sailing under the State flag of Lithuania shall be established by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

ARTICLE 58. Voting in Medical, Social Care and Welfare Institutions.

Special post offices designated for voting shall be established in medical, social care and welfare institutions..

Patients of such institutions who are able to move shall vote personally in the polling place in accordance with the procedure established in Article 54 of this Law.

Patients and inmates of medical and welfare institutions who are not able to move shall be visited by officials of the special post office who shall be approved by the town or regional electoral committees. The person voting must, in conditions which are created for his or her privacy, personally mark the ballot-paper and put it into a voucher envelope. If necessary, the voter may be aided by a person whom he or she trusts (with the exception of post office and medical and welfare institution employees, and election observers).

Under the instruction of the head of the medical, social care or welfare institution, it may be prohibited to disturb patients who are in bad health for the purpose of voting. Such an instruction shall be obligatory to electoral committees.

It shall also be prohibited to disturb a person for the purpose of voting if, in the procedure established by the Ministry of Health Care, a commission of doctors has drawn a conclusion that, at the time of voting, the person is incapable of understanding the essence of his or her actions and of controlling them due to chronic mental disease, feeble-mindedness, or temporary mental disorder.

ARTICLE 59. Voting in Military Units.

Special post offices designated for voting shall be established in units of the national defense system and internal service.

In accordance with opportunities, the chief officers of military units shall provide conditions for servicemen to vote in the electoral districts of their permanent place of residence.

ARTICLE 60. Voting in Places of Imprisonment.

Special post offices designated for voting shall be established in places of imprisonment.

Heads of places of imprisonment may allow sentenced persons to vote in electoral districts of their permanent place of residence in the procedure established by laws.

CHAPTER IX. CALCULATION OF VOTES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING RESULTS

ARTICLE 61. Calculation of Voucher Envelopes and Ballot-Papers in Post Offices.

Post office heads shall return unused envelopes and ballot-papers to town and regional electoral committees one day before the elections.

Registration of voucher envelopes and ballot-papers shall be conducted by the head of the post office in a journal specially designated for that purpose in accordance with the procedure established by the electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

The post office shall deliver envelopes containing ballot-papers marked by voters to electoral committees of electoral districts on the day of election, but no later than 2 hours before the closing of the election.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall conduct the registration of voucher envelopes and ballot-papers in the Republic.

ARTICLE 62. Calculation of Ballot-Papers in Electoral Districts.

Upon the closing of a polling place, the chairperson of the electoral committee of the electoral district, in the presence of at least 3/5 of the members of the electoral committee, shall close and seal the ballot-box slot, collect unused ballot-papers from each member of the electoral committee of the electoral district, record the number of unused ballot-papers in the vote calculation record, count them publicly, and check, according to signatures in the voter list, that no ballot-papers have been handed in unlawfully.

Unused and faulty ballot-papers shall be counted publicly by the electoral committee, voided by cutting off the upper right corner, and put into envelopes specially designated for this purpose which shall thereafter be sealed. The number of unused and faulty ballot-papers shall be entered in the vote calculation record.

ARTICLE 63. Calculation of Votes in Electoral District and Registration of Voters who Have Voted.

The electoral committee of the electoral district, in the presence of at least 3/5 of its members, shall inspect the ballot-box of the electoral district to: ensure that the seals have not been broken and that there is no other evidence which indicates that it could have been opened or that ballot-papers could have been removed in any other way. The committee, in the presence of at least 3/5 of its members, shall decide if the ballot box has been tampered with. If the committee decides that the ballot-box was tampered with, an act shall be drawn up about this and votes shall not be calculated.

Upon the ascertainment that the ballot-box has not been tampered with, the box shall be opened and the votes shall be calculated.

Votes shall be calculated in such a way that this procedure and ballot-papers marked by voters can be observed by all persons present during the calculation of votes. The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall establish the concrete procedure for the calculation of votes.

Upon ascertainment that the ballot-box was not tampered with and in the presence of at least 3/5 of the members of the committee as well as observers, the box shall be opened, all ballot-papers shall be placed on tables on which there are no other documents and writing-materials, and the votes shall be counted.

The number of the voters of the electoral district shall be established according to the voter list of the electoral district. The number of voters who have voted in the electoral district shall be established according to the number of ballot-papers found in the ballot-box of the electoral district. The number of voters who have participated in the elections shall be established according to the number of ballot-papers found in ballot-boxes of the electoral district and the number of ballot-papers received by mail.

Upon finding more ballot-papers in the ballot-box than were provided to the voters, the committee shall take measures to clarify the reason.

The results of the vote calculation shall be entered in the vote calculation records.

ARTICLE 64. Registration of Voters who have Voted by Mail and the Calculation of their Votes.

After the calculation of ballot-papers found in the ballot-box, ballot-papers received by mail shall be calculated in the following procedure:

1) the chairperson of the electoral committee of the electoral district shall present, unopened, all outer envelopes received by mail. Their number shall be entered in the vote calculation record;
2) outer envelopes shall be opened one at a time;
3) voter certificates shall be taken out of the outer envelopes and checked against the voter list of the electoral district, and the voucher envelopes shall be stamped with the seal of the electoral district. If the person on the voter certificate is not on the voter list, if the voter has already signed the voter list indicating that he or she has already voted in the electoral district, if another envelope for voting by mail has been received from the same voter, if there is no voter certificate in the outer envelope, or if there is more than one voucher envelope in the outer envelope, the seal shall not be affixed and the ballot-paper in the envelope shall be considered invalid. This fact must be noted on the voucher

envelope;

4) in the voter list of the electoral district, a special record of the receipt of the elector's vote shall be made by the surname of the voter whose vote has been received by mail;
5) the sealed voucher envelope shall be cast into the ballot-box prepared according to the established requirement; and
6) when all envelopes received by mail have been gone over in this way, and upon opening the unsealed voucher envelopes, the votes received by mail shall be calculated according to the requirements of Article 63. If there is more than one ballot paper in the voucher envelope, all ballot-papers in the envelope shall be considered invalid.

If only one sealed voucher envelope is in the electoral district (committee), in order to protect the privacy of voting, it shall not be opened but shall be handed over to the senior electoral committee, which shall enter the results of the voting in its vote calculation record.

ARTICLE 65. Vote Calculation Records in Electoral Districts.

A vote calculation record shall be drawn up in every electoral district. It shall include:

1) the number of voters in the electoral district;
2) the number of ballot-papers received from the town or regional committee;
3) the number of ballot-papers delivered to each member of the committee, the number of ballot-papers delivered to voters, the number of voters' signatures, the number of voter certificates, and the number of unused ballot-papers;
4) the number of unused ballot-papers;
5) the number of voters who have voted in the polling place of the electoral district;
6) the time that the ballot-box is opened;
7) the number of invalid ballot-papers found in the ballot-box;
8) the number of valid ballot-papers found in the ballot box;
9) the number of votes found in the ballot-box which have been separately cast for each candidate to the office of President of the Republic;
10) the number of envelopes received by mail and the number of sealed voucher envelopes;
11) the number of invalid ballot-paper received by mail;
12) the number of valid ballot-papers received by mail;
13) the number of votes received by mail for each candidate to the office of President of the Republic;
14) the total number of voters who participated in the elections in the electoral district;
15) the total number of invalid votes in the electoral district; and
16) the total number of votes cast for each candidate to the office of President of the Republic.

If more ballot-papers are found in the ballot-box than have been delivered to voters, this shall be entered in the vote calculation record, indicating the number of extra ballot-papers which were found.

The vote calculation record of the electoral district shall be signed by the chairperson and members of he electoral committee of the electoral district. After that the observers shall sign the record. Their observations and the opinions of the members of the committee shall be attached to the record and shall be an inseparable part thereof.

ARTICLE 66. Invalid Ballot-papers.

Invalid ballot-papers shall be:

1) ballot-papers which are not of the established sample;
2) ballot-papers which are sealed with the seal of the improper electoral district;
3) ballot-papers on which more than one candidate to the office of President of the Republic are marked by the voter; and
4) ballot-papers on which the voter has not marked any of the candidates to the office of President of the Republic.

The decision to declare a ballot invalid shall be made by the electoral committee of the electoral district.

ARTICLE 67. Presentation of Electoral District Vote Calculation Documents to Town and Regional Electoral Committees.

All ballot-papers, including invalid and unused ballot-papers, and voucher envelopes, vote calculation records, voter lists and other election documents shall be put into a package and sealed in accordance with the procedure established by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic. The package shall be delivered to the town or regional electoral committee within 6 hours of the closing of voting.

The Electoral Committee for the Elections of the President of the Republic and the Ministry of Internal Affairs must ensure the safety of the transportation of election documents as well as of the persons transporting them.

ARTICLE 68. The Calculation of Votes in Town and Regional Electoral Committees.

Town and regional electoral committees shall begin calculating votes when all vote calculation records from all electoral districts are received.

ARTICLE 69. Town and Regional Vote Calculation Records.

According to the electoral district vote calculation records, ballot-papers, and other election documents, the town and regional electoral committees shall establish;

1) the number of voters who have participated in the town or regional elections, which shall equal the number of voters who have voted in the town or regional electoral districts;
2) the number of invalid ballot-papers in the town or region which shall equal the number of invalid ballot-papers in the town or regional electoral district;
3) the number of ballot-papers valid in the town or region, which shall equal the number of ballot-papers valid in the town or regional electoral district; and
4) the number of votes cast for each candidate to the office of President of the Republic. This number shall equal the sum of votes received in the electoral districts separate for each candidate to the office of President of the Republic.

This information shall be entered into town and regional vote calculation records, which shall then be signed by the chairperson and members of the respective town or regional electoral district.

ARTICLE 70. Presentation of Town and Regional Vote Calculation Records to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

Town and regional electoral committees shall place all documents received from the electoral districts, the calculation records of the electoral districts, the town or regional vote calculation records of the electoral districts, the town or regional vote calculation record and other documents into special packages, and shall seal these packages and deliver them within 36 hours of the closing of voting to the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may begin to establish the election results only after the vote calculation records of the electoral committees of all towns and regions, as well as other documents indicated in the first part of this Article have been received.

According to the vote calculation records of the town and regional electoral committees and the vote calculation records in diplomatic missions, the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall establish:

1) the number of voters of the Republic of Lithuania;
2) the number of voters who participated in the elections;
3) the number of invalid ballot-papers;
4) the number of valid ballot-papers; and
5) the number of votes cast for each candidate to the office of President of the Republic.

Considering complaints filed in the procedure established by this Law, the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may recount ballot-papers and, upon the establishment of errors in their calculation, may correct entries in vote calculation records. The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic may not consider invalid vote calculation records of the electoral districts or town or regional electoral committees due to errors found in vote calculation records.

Upon the establishment that gross violations of this Law were committed during voting or that the document forgery had a decisive influence on the results of the election of the President of the Republic, the Electoral Committee for the Elections of the president of the Republic may consider the results of the elections to the office of the President of the Republic invalid.

A candidate to the office of president of the Republic shall be considered elected if during voting for the first time in which at least half of all voters participate, he or she receives more than half of the votes of all voters participating in the elections. If less than half of all voters participated in the elections, a candidate shall be considered elected when he or she receives the most, but no less than one-third of votes of all voters.

If during the first voting round none of the candidates receive the required majority vote, a repeat vote shall be held within 2 weeks of the election day in the procedure established by this Law between the two candidates who received the most votes in the first voting round. In this case, the candidate who receives the majority of votes shall be considered elected.

If no more than two candidates participate in the first voting round and neither of them receive the required number of votes, a repeat elections for the office of President of the Republic shall be held within 3 months of the day of the elections in the procedure established by this Law.

ARTICLE 71. Participation of Observers in the Calculation of Votes and the Establishment of Election Results.

Observers of political parties and political organizations which have nominated candidates to the office of President of the Republic, observers appointed by persons who have nominated themselves as candidates to the office of President of the Republic, and representatives of all mass media may participate in the calculation of votes in electoral districts and town and regional electoral committees, as well as in the establishment of election results in the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic.

Observers shall have the right to make remarks and claims to electoral committees concerning violations of this and other laws of the republic of Lithuania, but they must not hinder the work of electoral committees. Observers shall have the right to make written protests which must be added to the electoral committee records and decisions and, together with other election documents, must be delivered to the senior electoral committee.

ARTICLE 72. Publication of Election Results.

The final results of elections of the President of the Republic shall be publicized by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic within 4 days of the elections.

The results of repeat elections of the President of the Republic shall be publicized by the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic within 4 days of the day of the repeat elections.

ARTICLE 73. Certificate of the President of the Republic.

The Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall issue a certificate of the President of the Republic to the elected President of the Republic within 3 hours of the publication of the election results.

ARTICLE 74. The Keeping of Documents Concerning the Elections of the President of the Republic.

After the closing of elections of the President of the Republic and within 20 days of the end of the term established in this Law for the consideration of complaints against its decisions, the Electoral Committee for Elections of the President of the Republic shall deliver records and voter list of the electoral districts and town and regional electoral committees to the State Archives to be held for an unspecified period of time.

Macedonia

LAW
ON ELECTION AND RECALL
OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ASSEMBLYMEN

CHAPTER I. BASIC PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

This law shall regulate the election and recall of representatives in the assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonian and assemblymen in assemblies of local communities and the city community (hereinafter: representative on an assembly).

Provisions of this law which relate to the election and recall of representatives in the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonian shall accordingly be applied in the election and recall of assemblymen in the assembly of the city community.

ARTICLE 2.

Citizens shall directly and secretly vote in order to elect representatives in the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonian, and assemblymen in assemblies for a representative in an assembly.

ARTICLE 3.

Freedom and secrecy of voting shall be guaranteed.

No one can hold a citizen responsible because of voting, and demand from him to reveal how he voted or why he did not vote.

ARTICLE 4.

The function of a representative or an assemblymen is incompatible with functions in republican government of city government agencies determined by law.

ARTICLE 5.

A representative of an assembly can only be recalled by the electoral body or district which elected him.

CHAPTER II. SCHEDULING AND HOLDING ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 6.

Elections for representatives in assemblies shall be scheduled every four years by the president of the assembly.

The announcement of date of elections shall be published in the appropriate official gazette.

The date of elections shall be announced with the decision on scheduling elections. No more than two months and no less than one month can pass from the day of scheduling elections to the day of holding elections.

Elections have to be held at the latest within 15 days from the date of expiration of the term of office of an assembly, and the statute of limitations shall begin with the verification of election of representatives in an assembly.

CHAPTER III. BODIES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS AND RECALL

ARTICLE 7.

Bodies for administration of the election and recall of representatives in assemblies shall be: vote counting committee and polling boards (hereinafter: election bodies)

Only those people who enjoy the right to vote may be members of election bodies or deputy members.

Members of election bodies and their deputies cannot be candidates for representatives. If a member of an election body or his deputy accepts the candidacy for a representative his function in the election body shall cease.

ARTICLE 8.

Representatives of candidates who monitor the work of polling boards may attend the work of polling boards.

Representatives of candidates may warn the chairman of the polling board about inconsistency in work, and if the latter refuses to accept the warning he is supposed to record it in the minutes.

ARTICLE 9.

The following vote counting committees shall exist:

1) local community vote counting committee;
2) local counting committees of electoral districts for the election of representatives in the assembly of the SR Macedonian (hereinafter: vote counting committees and electoral districts); and
3) republican vote counting committee.

ARTICLE 10.

A local community counting committee and an electoral district vote committee shall have standing membership consisting of a chairman, secretary and three members, appointed for a term of office of four years.

The chairman, secretary and members of a vote counting committee eacg have deputies.

Additionally, vote counting committees shall include one representative and his deputy from all forms of political organizations and activity of citizens who registered candidates for representatives, and from independent candidates as well.

They will represent the changeable membership of a vote counting committee.

Eight days after completion of candidacy procedures, the chairman of a vote counting committee shall convene a session.

Authorized representatives of political organizations and citizens who registered their candidates for representatives and independent candidates shall exercise their right cited in paragraph 4 of this article and appoint their representative with a deputy who will enter the changeable membership of a vote counting committee.

After determining the existence of rights cited in paragraph 4 of this article, the standing membership of a vote counting committee shall determine and announce by full name the changeable membership of a vote counting committee.

ARTICLE 11.

The local community vote counting committee shall be appointed by the assembly of a local community.

The republican vote counting comîmittee and vote counting committees of electoral districts shall be appointed by the assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonian.

When there are no more than two electoral districts Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonian may authorize the local community vote counting committee to perform the function of the electoral district vote counting committee.

ARTICLE 12.

Chairmen of local community vote counting committees, chairmen of electoral district vote counting committees and their deputies shall be required to have a degree in law and work experience as judges.

Chairman of the Republican vote counting committee and his deputy shall be appointed from the Supreme Court of Macedonia.

Membership and changes in membership of vote counting committees shall be published in the official gazette.

ARTICLE 13.

A local community vote counting committee shall be responsible for the following:

1) to ensure that administration of election and recall of assemblymen is carried out in a legal way;
2) to determine whether proposed and determined candidates for election of assemblymen were proposed and determined in conformity with law;
3) to create a joint list of candidates for each electoral district and to publish it;
4) to determine polling places;
5) to appoint polling boards;
6) to determine and make public voting results on election and recall of assemblymen in assemblies of local communities, and to issue announcements on voting results;
7) to fill out and deliver the statistics to the republican organization responsible for statistical affairs;
8) to carry out technical preparation for elections;
9) to carry out other matters determined by this law.

ARTICLE 14.

The vote counting committee of an electoral district shall be responsible for the following:

1) to ensure legal administration of elections and recall of representatives in the Assembly of the SR Macedonia elected in a particular electoral district;
2) to determine whether proposed and confirmed candidates for election of representatives to the Assembly of the SR Macedonia were proposed and confirmed in conformity with law;
3) to propose a joint list of candidates and make it public;
4) to determine polling places;
5) to appoint polling boards;
6) to determine voting results for election and recall of representatives in a particular electoral district;
7) to fill out and submit the statistics to the republican statistical office;
8) to carry out technical preparation for elections;
9) to carry out other affairs determined by this law.

ARTICLE 15.

The standing membership of the republican vote counting committee shall be responsible for the following:

1) to administer preparation of elections and recall of representatives until the changeable (full) membership of the republican vote counting committee is determined;
2) to issue instructions to vote counting committees on question of administration of elections and recall of representatives;
3) to prescribe necessary forms for administration of elections and recall of representatives.
4) to determine joint standards for election material and other concrete conditions for the administration of elections and to ensure the implementation of these standards and conditions:
5) to issue explanations on implementation of provisions cited in this law and in the administration of elections;
6) to regulate handling and staring of election material;
7) to perform other affairs determined by this law.

The changeable membership of the republican vote counting committee shall be responsible for following:

1) to ensure the legal administration of elections and recall of representatives;
2) to supervise the work of vote counting committees and electoral districts;
3) to publish voting results in the Official Gazette of SR Macedonia on election and recall of representatives for the SR Macedonia Assembly;
4) to submit a report to the assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia on completed elections and voting on recall of representatives in the assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia;
5) to perform other affairs regulated by this law.

ARTICLE 16.

Polling boards shall directly manage the voting activity in elections and the recall of representatives, ensure regularity and secrecy of voting and determine voting results of a polling place.

A polling board shall be appointed for each polling place at the latest three days before the day determined for holding elections, or voting on recall of representatives.

A polling board shall consist of chairman, two members and their deputies.

A polling board shall operate as a whole with all members present.

ARTICLE 17.

Governmental agencies are to provide technical and other conditions needed in polling places and to submit information needed for their work.

Organizations and communities are to offer assistance to vote counting committees and polling boards and to furnish them with information needed for their work.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

ARTICLE 18.

Electoral districts for election of representatives in assemblies shall be formed in a way which ensures that approximately the same number of voters elects one representative and that one representative is elected in each electoral district.

ARTICLE 19.

Electoral districts for election of assemblymen shall be determined by local communities with decision of their assemblies, while the electoral districts for election of representatives in the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia shall be determined by law.

CHAPTER V. PROPOSING AND CONFIRMING CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 20.

Proposing and confirming candidates for representative in assemblies shall be proposed and confirmed by citizens, political organizations and other forms of organization and association.

Registered political parties which have at least one thousand five hundred members (1,500) shall enjoy the right to propose and confirm candidates for representatives in the assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia. For that purpose political parties shall submit a list of candidates for representative in the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia in each electoral district. Registered forms of political organization and activity of citizens with at least five hundred (500) members shall enjoy the right to propose and confirm candidates for assemblymen in assemblies of local communities, and for that purpose they shall submit a list of candidates in each electoral district for assemblymen in assemblies of local communities.

Registered political organizations which do not have the necessary number of members cited in paragraph 3 of this article, as well as citizens, shall propose candidates for representative in the assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia by

collecting at least one hundred (100) signatures, while for candidates for assemblymen in assemblies of local community the required number of signatures shall be at least fifty (50).

If there are less than five hundred (500) voters in an electoral district those persons who correctly collected signatures of at least 50 of all voters in that electoral district shall be considered as candidates.

Based on collected signatures of citizens, political organizations and other forms of organization and association shall prove the size of their membership with a copy of signed application forms of their members or a certificate of an agency where a party is registered. Together with a list of proposed and confirmed candidates this evidence shall be submitted to the authorized vote counting committee.

ARTICLE 21.

The list of candidates shall contain: name of assembly for which the election is performed; name of electoral district for administration of elections; full name and address of each candidate and the date when the list was filled.

The name of the list shall be determined according of the name of political organization and other form of organization and association which submits the list.

The name of the list submitted by citizens shall be: list of independent candidates.

ARTICLE 22.

Procedure and rules for proposing and confirming candidates for representative in assemblies, shall be determined by political organizations and other forms of organization and association with their own enactements, while the rules for proposing and confirming candidates by citizens shall be determined by the republican vote counting committee.

ARTICLE 23.

Political organizations and other forms of organization and association of citizens from paragraph 4 of article 20 of this law shall collect signatures in an application form prescribed by the republican vote counting committee. This application form shall include the following information: full name and address and identity card number of the proposed candidate and of every signed proposer.

ARTICLE 24.

A citizen can be proposed and confirmed as candidate for a representative in an assembly only in one electoral district.

Signed proposers of candidates for representatives in assemblies must enjoy the right to vote and elect and have a place of residence on the territory of an electoral district for whose representative a candidate is proposed.

A citizen enlisted in the register of citizens with the right to vote on the territory of an electoral district can give his support, by signing the form, to only one candidate in that electoral district.

Signatures for proposing and confirming candidates for representatives of citizens shall be submitted on a form to an authorized agency which maintains the register of citizens with the right to vote in a particular electoral district.

ARTICLE 25.

The list of candidates shall have an attached statement of candidates that they accept the candidacy, as well as an attached form cited in article 23 of this law.

ARTICLE 26.

As soon as it receives lists of candidates, the vote counting committee shall determine whether they were submitted within the fixed time limit and whether they were composed in conformity with this law.

If an authorized vote counting committee establishes irregularities in lists of candidates that certain requirements were omitted in lists of candidates, it will invite submitters to correct this immediately or at the latest within three days form the day irregularities were found.

If an authorized vote counting committee finds that lists of candidates were not submitted promptly, and if a submitted failed to correct irregularities or omitted elements cited in paragraph 2 of this article, the list of candidates will not be confirmed.

ARTICLE 27.

An authorized vote counting committee shall create the joint lists of candidates of an electoral districts at the latest within five days from the date the deadline from paragraph 1 of article 25 expires, and this list shall include all candidates for representatives in an assembly who were properly proposed and confirmed as candidates.

ARTICLE 28.

Candidates for representatives in assemblies shall be entered in the joint list of candidates of an electoral district according to their membership in political organizations and other forms of organization and association.

If a candidate was confirmed in the basis of a proposal of citizens, the words "independent candidate" shall be placed beside his name.

The sequence order of political parties and other forms of organization and association shall be determined by drawing lots.

ARTICLE 29.

A candidate withdraw his candidacy at the latest 15 days before elections are held.

A candidate may withdraw by informing the vote counting committee in writting.

ARTICLE 30.

If because a candidate withdrew his candidacy the number of candidates for representative is less than the number that should be elected in an electoral unit, then the procedure for proposing and confirming candidates shall be repeated in that electoral district.

In case the situation cited in paragraph 1 of this article takes place, authorized voter counting committee shall determine an additional deadline for proposing and confirming candidates on the basis of provisions cited in this law, except that this deadline expires at three days before scheduled elections are held.

If the repeated procedure from paragraph 1 of article does not enable elections to be carried out additional elections shall be scheduled in an electoral district.

ARTICLE 31.

As soon as it prepares the joint list of candidates, and at the latest five days before scheduled elections are held, the vote counting committee shall announce the joint list.

The joint list shall be announced through advertisement in inhabited places and an appropriate official gazette.

Announcing of the joint list of assemblymen shall also be performed in the local newspaper, and for representatives of the republican assembly in other main newspaper as well.

CHAPTER VI. PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 32.

Candidates for representative in assemblies shall have the right to a presentation in a discussion of candidates with citizens in special meetings in organizations and communities, with the participation of candidates in public discussion, in the media and in other appropriate way.

Registered political organizations and other forms of organization and association may organize a preelection campaign for their candidates. A citizen who collects signatures in order to propose an independent candidate may also organize a preelection campaign.

Presentation of candidates and the preelection campaign shall be performed in the way determined by statute or other general enactment of political organizations and other forms of organization and associations.

In the preelection campaign political organizations and other forms of organization and association are supposed to observe the mutually determined rules (the code) in order to protect the dignity, reputation and integrity of a candidate. These rules must also be observed by the citizens pursuant to paragraph 3 of this article.

ARTICLE 33.

Presentation of candidates and preelection campaign cannot be performed 48 hours before the date of scheduled elections.

CHAPTER VII. ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. POLLING PLACES AND ELECTION MATERIAL

ARTICLE 34.

Voting for the election of representatives shall be performed in polling places.

Each polling place shall have an ordinal number.

At least five days before the date of scheduled elections, a local community vote counting committee, or a vote counting committee of an electoral district shall announce which polling places were determined and specify in which polling places citizens from a particular region shall vote.

ARTICLE 35.

Polling places shall be determined depending on the number of voters and distance between a polling place and inhabited areas, ensuring that the number of voters permits voting to take place promptly and without difficulty.

Special premises shall be determined for each polling place.

Premises determined for voting shall be equipped with cabins, curtains or screens so that it cannot be seen how the voter completed the voting paper.

ARTICLE 36.

A local community vote counting committee or a vote counting committee of an electoral district is supposed to promptly prepare and distribute election material to the polling places. Election material shall include: the required number of ballot boxes, voting papers, certified voting roll for each polling place, a form for minutes on the working of the polling board and other

material needed to administer voting.

Together with a certified voting roll the vote counting committee shall also attach an officially certified list of voters from a particular polling place who are temporarily working in a foreign country and those who are serving in the army.

A polling board shall be given as many voting papers as there are voters in a particular polling place, and the number of voting papers shall be equal to the number of voters cited on the voting roll including the attached list cited in paragraph 2 of this article.

Exceptionally from paragraph 3 of this article, a polling board shall also receive a sealed envelope with a certain number of voting papers, the number of which shall be written on the envelope. These voting papers shall only be used if a citizen approaches the voting and was excluded from the voting recorded in the minutes.

SECTION 2. VOTING

ARTICLE 37.

Voting shall be carried out personally.

Voting shall be carried out with voting papers.

ARTICLE 38.

A voting paper shall contain:

1) name of assembly for which elections are held;
2) name of electoral district in which elections are administered;
3) specified number of representatives that are elected in polling places;
4) full names of candidates; and
5) name of political organization or other form of organization and association which initiated the procedure for proposing a candidate, or a note that there is an independent candidate in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 28 of this law.

Names of candidates shall be listed on a voting paper in the same order in which they were listed in a joint list of candidates of an electoral district.

An ordinal number shall be placed before the name of each candidate.

ARTICLE 39.

A voting paper for voting on recalling a representative shall contain his full name.

The words in favor of recall and against recall shall be placed in front of the name of a representative.

ARTICLE 40.

Voters can only vote on candidates mentioned by name on the voting paper and they can select at the most the number of candidates that equals the number of representatives that will be elected.

A voting paper is filled out by circling the ordinal number in front of the candidate for whom a voter is voting.

On recalling a candidate a voter votes by circling either the words "for recall" or "against recall".

ARTICLE 41.

Voting papers on which the ordinal numbers of more candidates than the number that should be elected are circled, voting papers with new names entered and circled, incompletely filled out voting papers, and voting papers completed illegibly so that it cannot be distinguished with certainty who the elected candidates are, shall be considered as invalid voting papers.

ARTICLE 42.

Voting shall take place without interruption from 7:00 A.M. through 19:00 P.M. At 19:00 hours polling places shall be closed, but the voters who happened to be on the polling place at that time shall be allowed to vote.

Polling places in which all voters from a certified voting list voted can be closed before the expiration of the deadline cited in paragraph 1 of this article.

ARTICLE 43.

All members of the polling board or their deputies must attend the entire course of voting.

Polling boards shall be responsible for ensuring order and peace in polling places.

A polling board is authorized to remove persons who make disorder and disturbance.

If necessary a polling board may call police officers for assistance.

No one can come to the polling place armed with weapons or dangerous tools, except for police officers cited in paragraph 4 of this article.

ARTICLE 44.

A polling board shall check whether a voter who came to vote is entered in a certified voting roll. If a voter is not entered, the polling board will not allow him to vote unless he proves with a certificate of an authorized governmental agency or an identity card that he has the right to vote. The polling board shall register every such case in the minutes.

ARTICLE 45.

A voter who cannot vote in the way prescribed by this law because of a physical defect or illiteracy is entitled to bring a person, with his consent, to help him with the voting.

The polling board will register every such case in the minutes.

ARTICLE 46.

Those citizens who are not in their place of residence on the voting day because of military exercise shall be enabled to vote for their representatives in a military unit or military institution.

Citizens temporarily employed in a foreign country shall vote in polling places on the territory of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia where they lived before departure to a foreign country, or they may vote in diplomatic and consular mission of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia.

ARTICLE 47.

The local community agency for national defense shall prepare a list of citizens on military service or military expertize, while the local community secretariat for internal affairs shall prepare the list of persons temporarily employed in foreign countries. These lists shall be submitted to authorized vote counting committees.

An authorized vote counting committee is supposed to immediately submit the necessary number of incomplete voting papers and sealed enveloped addressed to the vote counting commission to military units and institutions or diplomatic consular mission of the SFRY in countries where citizens from paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 46 are located.

ARTICLE 48.

A citizen from paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 46 of this law who votes shall then place the completed voting paper in an envelope and submit the closed envelope to his military unit at institution or diplomatic consular mission which will deliver it by mail to the authorized vote counting committee.

As soon as voting from paragraph 1 of this article is completed all envelopes with voting papers must be delivered to the vote counting committee.

Voting by citizens from paragraph 1 and 2 of article 46 of this law should be completed promptly so that completed voting papers can reach the vote counting committee before the deadline for vote counting and result finding.

ARTICLE 49.

All types of campaigning are banned on the election day or recall day.

A building in which voting takes place and the area in its direct neighborhood shall be considered as a voting place.

SECTION 3. VOTE COUNTING IN POLLING PLACES

ARTICLE 50.

As soon as voting is finished polling boards shall immediately start counting votes.

Determination of election results begins when the polling board counts unused voting papers and puts them in a special envelope and seals it. After that, based a voting list, the polling board starts opening ballot boxes and counting votes.

When the voters are counted the polling board determines how many votes each candidate received and how many voting papers are invalid.

If the counting reveals that less voters voted than the number of voting papers in the ballot box the polling board shall be dismissed and voting in that polling place shall be repeated.

ARTICLE 51.

When the polling board counts the votes it shall enter the following information in the minutes: number of voters according to the voting list, number of voters that voted, number of votes that each candidate received and how many voting papers were proclaimed invalid.

The minutes on the work of the polling board shall also include other circumstances and facts which are of significance for the voting.

Each member of the polling board may give remarks and opinions which shall also be entered in the minutes.

Representatives of certain candidates may also give remarks and opinions if they attended the work of the polling board which shall also be entered in the minutes.

Minutes shall be signed by all members of the polling board.

ARTICLE 52.

The polling board shall submit the minutes and other election material to an authorized vote counting committee within 18 hours from the time of closing of polling places.

SECTION 4. FINDING ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 53.

Based on voting results from all polling places, authorized vote counting committees shall determine election results for representatives in an electoral district.

Authorized vote counting committee shall also take into consideration the voting papers cited in paragraph 3 of article 48 of this law before it determines the final election result.

ARTICLE 54.

A candidate shall be elected for a representative if hi received the majority of votes from voters that voted in an electoral district, on condition that the number of votes he received is not smaller than one third of the total number of voters according to the voting list.

If none of the candidates received the necessary number of votes cited in paragraph 1 of this article, or if that number of votes was received by a smaller number of candidates than the number that should be elected for representatives, voting in a particular electoral district shall be repeated 14 days after the day when first voting took place.

Only those candidates who received at least 7% of votes from voters who voted can enter the second voting round and repeated voting.

If none of the candidates received the necessary majority from paragraph 3 of this article the entire election procedure of an electoral district shall be repeated.

In the repeated voting, a candidate who received the highest number of votes from the voters who voted shall be elected for representative. If in the repeated voting two or more candidates received the same number of votes the selection between them shall be made by drawing lots.

ARTICLE 55.

If a vote counting committee confirms that there were irregularities on polling places which could have influenced the election results, voting shall be canceled in some or all polling places and repeated elections shall be scheduled for canceled elections.

ARTICLE 56.

A vote counting committee shall keep the minutes with the following official information included: number of voters enlisted on the voting papers, full name of each candidate with a specification of the number of invalid voting papers, full name of each candidate with a specification of the number of received votes, and full name of elected candidate.

Each member of a vote counting committee may give remarks which shall be entered in the minutes.

Minutes shall be signed by all members of a vote counting committee.

ARTICLE 57.

After confirming election results, a vote counting committee of an republican vote counting committee which shall make public election results for representatives in the assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia and submit a report to the assembly.

Election results in assemblies of local communities shall be made public by the local community vote counting committee which is to submit a report to its assembly about the conduct of elections and election results.

ARTICLE 58.

CHAPTER VIII. CESSATION OF A TERM OF OFFICE

ARTICLE 59.

A term of office of a representative shall cease prematurely in the following cases:

1) if a representative is recalled;
2) if a representative resigns;
3) if a representative is convicted with a non-suspended sentence to six months of imprisonment and the court sentence went into effect;
4) in case of incompatibility with the function of a representative occurs;
5) in case of death;
6) if a representative is deprived of legal capacity on the basis of a court sentence that went into effect.

A term of office of a representative shall cease with the occurrence of cases from points 3,4,5 and 6 from paragraph 1 of this article. In the first next session after the occurrence of an appropriate case assembly shall confirm cessation of term of office.

In the first next session after submission of resignation assembly shall confirm that a term of office ceased for a representative effectively with the day that session was held.

In case of recall, term of office of a representative shall cease when a decision to recall him was made.

CHAPTER IX. REPEATED AND ADDITIONAL ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. REPEATED ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 60.

Repeated elections shall be carried out in the following cases:

1) if an authorized vote counting committee cancels the voting because of irregularities in the administration of elections;
2) in cases envisaged in paragraph 4 of article 54 of this article.

Repeated elections shall also be carried out if assembly cancels the procedure of verification of a term of office because of irregularities in the administration of election.

ARTICLE 61.

In the repeated elections, carried out because of circumstances cited in paragraph 1, point 1, of article 60 of this law, voting shall take place according to the existing list of candidates. In the repeated elections, carried out because of circumstances cited in paragraph 1, point 2 of article 60 of this law, voting shall take place according to the new list of candidates created in the way envisaged by this law.

The new list of candidates for repeated elections shall be submitted at the latest 10 days before the day of scheduled repeated elections.

ARTICLE 62.

Repeated elections in cases cited in paragraph 1 and 2 of article 60 of this law shall be scheduled by an authorized vote counting committee, while the repeated elections from paragraph 2 of article 60 shall be scheduled by an assembly.

The decision on scheduling elections shall also set the date for these elections.

SECTION 2. ADDITIONAL ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 63.

Additional elections shall be carried out when a term of office ended for a representative prematurely, and in the case cited in paragraph 3 of article 30 of this law.

ARTICLE 64.

Additional elections cannot be scheduled six months before the expiration of the term of office of the assembly.

ARTICLE 65.

Unless the provisions cited in articles 60 through 61 envisage otherwise, provisions of this law on regular election shall apply on repeated and additional election as well.

CHAPTER X. RECALL

ARTICLE 66.

Provisions of this law which relate to the procedure for proposing and confirming candidates for representatives in assemblies shall also appropriately be applied on the procedure for proposing a recall of representatives, except that in order to initiate the procedure for recall it is necessary to collect large times as many signatures of citizens that the number mentioned in article 20 of this law.

A proposal must contain the full name of a representative whose recall is proposed, name of assembly where the representative is a member, and reasons because of which recall is proposed.

ARTICLE 67.

Provisions of this law which concern elections shall also be appropriately applied on scheduling the voting on recall, minutes of the vote counting committee, polling boards and submission of reports on voting results.

ARTICLE 68.

Voting results on recall shall be valid if more that one half of the total number of voters from on electoral district voted. A representative shall be recalled if more than one half of the voters who voted in favor of recall.

CHAPTER XI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS AND RECALL

ARTICLE 69.

Financial resources for administration of elections and recall of representatives in assemblies shall be provided in the republican budget, that is to say in the local community budget. These financial resources shall be made available to the local community vote counting committee, that is to say the republican vote counting committee.

From the total amount disposable for administration of elections, two thirds shall serve for coverage of costs related to election activities of bodies for administration of elections.

One third of the financial resources for administration of elections shall serve for coverage of a part of the costs created by political organizations and other forms of political organization and association whose candidates were elected for representatives, and by the elected representative who was elected as an independent candidate.

Financial resources shall be distributed among representatives on the basis of the number of received votes by each elected representative.

CHAPTER XII. PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND ELECT

ARTICLE 70.

Based on irregularities in the procedure of candidacy, procedure of collecting signatures or the procedure for election and recall, each candidate and each voter is entitled to submit a complaint to an authorized vote counting committee.

A complaint on irregularities in the procedure of candidacy, in the procedure of collecting signatures, and a complaint on the list of candidates of an electoral district shall be submitted within 48 hours from the day when the list of candidates was made public.

A complaint on irregularity in the procedure for election and recall shall be submitted within three days from the day of completion of voting on election, or recall.

An authorized vote counting committee must officially decide on a complaint within three days from the day a complaint was submitted.

ARTICLE 71.

If an authorized vote counting committee establishes that irregularities in the procedure of candidacy, procedure for election and recall had significant influence or could have had significant influence on the results of election and recall, it shall cancel the effects of previous procedure and decide to repeat voting within a certain period of time. If these irregularities were established in the procedure for election and recall the committee shall cancel the election or recall and new voting shall be scheduled in a polling place where the voting on election or recall was canceled.

ARTICLE 72.

A complainant is entitled to file an appeal to the decision of the vote counting committee.

An appeal against the decision of a local cammunety vote counting committee shall be filed with an authorized regular district court, while an appeal against the decision of a vote counting committee of an electoral district or the republican vote counting committee shall be submitted to the Supreme Court of Macedonian within 48 hours from the day the original decision was received.

The authorized court shall decide on appeals within 48 hours from the day it receives them.

CHAPTER XIII. PUNITIVE PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 73.

Registered political organizations and other forms of organization and association shall be fined 2,000 to 25,000 dinars for an offense if they organize presentation of candidates and preelection campaign in violation of the contrary to provisions cited in article 32 and 33 of this law.

A responsible person in a political organization or other form of organization and assoceation shall be fined 1,000 to 2,500 dinars for an offense cited in paragraph 1 of this article.

ARTICLE 74.

A physical person shall be fined 500 to 2,500 dinars or with imprisonment up to 30 days for offence:

1) if a physical person holds a citizen responsible or demands from the citizen to reveal for whom he voted and why he voted (article 3, paragraph 2);
2) if a physical person participated in presentation and preelect campaign 48 hours before the date of scheduled elections (article 33);

3) if a physical person caused disorder and disturbance in a polling place and refuses to leave the polling place when so requested by the polling board (article 43, paragraph 3);
4) if a physical person campaigns in a polling place.

CHAPTER XIV. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 75.

When this law enters into force the law on election of members of delegations and delegates in assemblies of social-political communities and self management communities of interest ("Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Macedania" 48/89 shall cease to be in effect.

ARTICLE 76.

This law shall enter into force in the eight day after the day it is published in the "Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia".

Moldova

LAW
ON ELECTIONS TO PARLIAMENT

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopts the present Law

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.
The parliament shall be elected on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage with free and secret voting, observing the conditions envisioned by the present Law.

ARTICLE 2.
The right to participate in the elections shall be granted to citizens of the Republic of Moldova who, as of the day of the elections, have reached 18 years of age, the right to be elected shall be granted to citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have reached 21 years of age.

ARTICLE 3.
Citizens of the Republic of Moldova shall enjoy full suffrage regardless of their origin, social or property position, racial or national affiliation, sex, edification, language, political views, religious beliefs, or type and nature of employment.

ARTICLE 4.
1. The following may not participate in the election:

   a) military servicemen on active duty;
   b) mentally ill individuals and individuals declared by a court to be incompetent;
   c) individuals sentenced to incarceration by a court decision that has taken legal force.

2. The following may not be elected:

   a) military servicemen;
   b) judges, and workers in the office of Prosecutor, police and national security organs;
   c) individuals included in the categories envisioned by points b) and c) of the preceding part.

ARTICLE 5.
1. A citizen shall have the right to vote in only one electoral district; a voter shall have one vote.
2. A voter shall exercise his right to participate in the election only in the electoral precinct of the area in which he permanently resides.

ARTICLE 6.
1. Elections to parliament shall be conducted in multiple-seat electoral districts based on voting according to lists from parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs and independent candidates, according to the principle of proportional representation.
2. Parliamentary mandates shall be obtained by parties, socio-political organizations and electoral blocs which have received in the elections no less than 4 percent of the valid votes in the country as a whole.
3. The norm for representation for elections to parliament shall be one deputy for 28,000 voters.
4. Parliament shall be elected for a term of four years and shall be permanently active. The performance of deputy duties shall be incompatible with any other state or private employment.

ARTICLE 7.
1. The day of the elections to parliament shall be scheduled by an edict of the president of the republic no later than four months before the expiration of the term of office of Parliament. The edict shall be made public through the mass media.
2. In the event that Parliament is disbanded, elections shall be held within three months after it is disbanded. In the event that it disbands itself, new elections shall be scheduled by the Parliament itself within this same period of time.
3. Elections shall be conducted in all electoral districts on the same day, on a Sunday.

ARTICLE 8.
1. Candidates for election to Parliament may be nominated by political parties and socio-political organizations that are officially registered by the day of the scheduling of the elections, in keeping with the conditions envisioned by this Law; independent candidates may also be nominated.
2. A candidate shall be nominated within the time periods envisioned by this Law.

CHAPTER II. ELECTION COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 9.

A Central Election Commission and district and precinct election commissions shall be formed for elections to Parliament.

ARTICLE 10.

1. The Central Election Commission shall be formed within 10 days after the scheduling of the elections. It shall include five judges of the Supreme Court and one representative from each party, socio-political organization, and electoral bloc participating in the elections, but no fewer than 16 individuals.
2. The aforementioned five judges shall be elected from among the active judges of the Supreme Court by a secret vote at an open session within five days after the scheduling of the elections. The results of the voting shall be entered in a record which shall be signed by the chairperson and the secretary of the meeting. The chairperson of the Supreme Court shall announce the date of the meeting through the mass media no later than 48 hours before it begins.
3. On that same day, the judges elected to the Central Election Commission shall elect a commission chairperson from among themselves by a secret vote. The results of the voting shall be entered in the record which shall be signed by all five members of the Central Election Commission.
4. The Central Election Commission, with this composition, shall perform the duties assigned to it in keeping with the present Law until it is staffed by representatives of parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs.
5. Parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that intend to participate in the elections shall within five days after the election of the chairperson of the Central Election Commission submit, their proposals regarding candidates for the full membership of the commission.
6. If the number of candidates nominated is less than the number established by part 1, the parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs shall nominate additional candidates. If the number of nominated candidates exceeds the established number of members of the Central Election Commission, the chairperson of the commission, in the presence of representatives of the parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs, shall cast lots for membership.
7. The Central Election Commission, within three days after its positions are filled, in keeping with the procedure established by it, shall elect from among its members a deputy chairperson and secretary and make public the composition of the commission, its location, and contact telephone numbers.
8. The Central Election Commission shall have its own staff, whose members shall be approved by the government.

ARTICLE 11.

1. The Central Election Commission shall:

   a) throughout the entire territory of the country oversee the implementation of this Law, provide for its uniform application, and give explanations regarding the procedure for its application;
   b) in the event that early elections are scheduled in keeping with part 2 of Article 7, establish the time periods for conducting preelection operations, reducing them correspondingly;
   c) make public the names and boundaries of electoral districts and establish the number of seats for each electoral district;
   d) establish the forms of the ballots, the voter rolls, the records of the meeting of the electoral commissions, and other documents, and the models of the stamps of the electoral commissions, and provide for their manufacture and storage;
   e) determine the duties of the ministries, state departments, and other organs of state administration related to preparing for and conducting the elections and listen to their reports;
   f) distribute the financial funds allotted for conducting the elections among the district electoral commissions, oversee the provision of electoral commissions with premises, transportation, communications, and computing equipment, and consider other issues of material and technical support for the elections;
   g) develop instructions on organizing and conducting elections and through the mass media notify voters of the procedure for voting and clarify the significance of the voting;
   h) travel to electoral districts in order to oversee the application of the law on elections and the use of the instructions that have been received;
   i) consider statements regarding its own activity and statements and complaints about decisions and actions of district and precinct electoral commissions and make decisions regarding them;
   j) declare elections invalid in an individual electoral district if during the voting or the tabulation of the results of the elections there were violations which could affect the distribution of seats;
   k) receive from the district electoral commissions records with data concerning the number of valid votes cast for each slate of candidates and establish whether there are parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have not garnered 4 percent of the valid votes in the country as a whole; within 24 hours after the establishment of this, report the information to the district electoral commissions and make it public;
   l) verify and register the results of the elections and the distribution among electoral districts of deputy seats for political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates;
   m) exercise other authority in keeping with this Law and other laws that are in force.

2. If, with regard to a complaint, it is necessary to conduct an inspection on the spot, it shall be carried out in the presence of a judge who is a member of the Central Election Commission.

ARTICLE 12.

1. The district electoral commission shall be formed within a five-day time period after the elections are scheduled. It shall include three judges of the district court or the municipal court - for Chisinau - and no more than 10 representatives of parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs participating in the elections.
2. The district electoral commission shall be formed in keeping with the provisions of parts 2 - 6 of Article 10.
3. The district electoral commission within three days after the members are chosen shall elect from among its members a deputy chairperson and a secretary, of which it shall immediately notify the Central Election Commission, and it shall publish a list of members of the commission, its location, and contact telephone numbers.
4. The district electoral commission shall have its own staff which shall be approved by the Central Election Commission.

ARTICLE 13.

The district electoral commission shall:

a) oversee the execution of the present Law on the territory of the electoral district and provide for its uniform application;
b) form electoral precincts;
c) approve the composition of the precinct electoral commissions and publish lists of precincts, the composition of commissions, their location, and their contact telephone numbers;
d) hear reports from organs of local government and leaders of state enterprises, institutions, and organizations regarding questions of preparing for and conducting the elections;
e) distribute the financial funds allotted for conducting the elections among the precinct electoral commissions; monitor the provision of electoral precincts with premises, transportation, communications, computing equipment, instructions, and laws on elections, and consider other questions of material and technical support for the elections,
f) promptly notify the population of all measures related to organizing and conducting the elections;
g) register lists of candidates from parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs and the independent candidates, and issue them with the appropriate certificates;
h) make public and post lists of candidates from political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs and information on independent candidates;
i) approve the text of the ballot for the electoral district and provide for the manufacture of ballots and their distribution among the precinct electoral commissions;
j) organize instruction for members of precinct electoral commissions in preparing for and conducting elections, notify the voters about the voting procedure, and explain the significance of voting;
k) sum up the results of the elections in the electoral district and make them public, submit the results of the elections to the Central Election Commission and the Constitutional Court, and issue temporary certificates to the elected deputies;
l) consider statements and complaints about decisions and actions of precinct electoral commissions and make decisions regarding them;
m) exercise other authority in keeping with this Law and other laws in effect.

ARTICLE 14.

1. The precinct electoral commission shall be formed no later than 30 days before the elections and shall consist of a chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, and no fewer than five members.
2. Chairpersons of precinct electoral commissions shall be approved at the suggestion of the council of the commune or city or municipal organ of the district electoral commission within 10 days after the publication of the decision to form electoral precincts.
3. Parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs within the same 10-day period shall propose one representative each for the precinct electoral commissions.
4. If the number of representatives exceeds the number established in part 1, the advantage is given to political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have presented the largest number of candidates on the lists.
5. If all the positions on the commission have been filled and several political parties, socio-political organizations, or electoral blocs which have the same number of candidates on the lists are contending for it, the chairperson of the district electoral commission shall cast lots.
6. If the positions on the commission are not all filled because of the absence of representatives of parties, socio-political organizations, or electoral blocs, these positions are filled by representatives of the population point in which the electoral precinct is located who are approved by the district electoral commission.
7. The list of representatives of the population point and the precinct electoral commission shall be approved by the local council on whose territory the electoral precinct is located and submitted to the district electoral commission as a reserve list along with the candidacy for chairperson of the commission.
8. The chairperson and representatives of the population point who are representatives of the precinct electoral commission may not be members of parties or socio-political organizations.
9. The precinct electoral commission within three days after filling its positions shall elect from among its members a deputy chairperson and a secretary, which is immediately reported to the district electoral commission.

ARTICLE 15.

The precinct electoral commission shall:

a) conduct a familiarization of voters with the list of voters, accept and consider statements about mistakes in the list and resolve the question of making the corresponding changes in it, and issue certificates of the right to vote to voters who,

on the day of the elections, intend to be absent from their place of residence;

b) notify the population of the day of the elections and the polling place, provide for preparation of the premises for voting and the installation of ballot boxes or booths, organize the voting on the scheduled day, supervise the course of the voting, and take the necessary measures for observance of public order in the premises of the voting precinct and the territory adjacent to it;

c) upon completion of the voting, count the votes and draw up the records, which along with all the ballots shall be submitted to the district electoral commission;

d) consider statements and complaints regarding questions of preparing for the elections and organizing the voting and make decisions regarding them;

e) exercise other authority in keeping with this Law.

ARTICLE 16.

1. Electoral commissions shall include citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have the right to vote.
2. One individual may be included in only one electoral commission.
3. The electoral commission may not include candidates and officials of the organs of power at any level.
4. The inclusion of representatives of political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and population points on the electoral commissions shall be carried out on the basis of decisions of management organs of parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, or independent candidates participating in the elections.
5. Individuals included on electoral commissions do not have the right to campaign for or against political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, or independent candidates participating in the elections.
6. If political parties, socio-political organizations, or electoral blocs do not submit the list of candidates within the time period specified by part 1 of Article 30, the members of electoral commissions who are representatives of these parties, socio-political organizations, or electoral blocs, shall be considered relieved of their duties.
7. Members of electoral commissions who are representatives of parties, socio-political organizations, or electoral blocs may not exercise any authority other than that envisioned by this Law.

ARTICLE 17.

1. Chairpersons, deputy chairpersons, secretaries, and members of electoral commissions may be relieved of their duties on the commission at their own request, in the event that they are deprived of their authority or recalled by the organs that nominated them.
2. The right to deprive a member of the commission of his authority if he violates the law on elections or regularly ignores his duties shall belong to the higher electoral commission, and for a member of the Central Electoral Commission, to the Constitutional Court.
3. In the event that a member of the commission is deprived of office authority or recalled, the organ that nominated him shall, within three days but no later than 10 days, submit another candidate in keeping with this Law.

ARTICLE 18.

1. Meetings of the Central Election Commission, the district electoral commissions and precinct electoral commissions shall be authorized if a simple majority of their members participates in them.
2. If members of electoral commissions who are representatives of parties, socio-political organizations, or electoral blocs boycott the work of the commissions out of various political motives, they shall be relieved of their duties as members of the corresponding commission without the right to replacement, and the commission shall work with an incomplete membership.
3. Decisions of the electoral commissions shall be made by a majority of votes of those present by open voting. If the votes are divided equally, the vote of the chairperson is considered decisive. Members of the commission who do not agree with the decision that has been adopted have the right to express a dissenting opinion which shall be put in writing and appended to the record of the meeting.
4. Decisions of electoral commissions adopted within the limits of the their authority are binding for all state and social organs, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and citizens.
5. The procedure for the formation and the composition of electoral commissions and their decisions and actions may be appealed to the higher electoral commission and also to the court in the place where the electoral commission is located.
6. The electoral commission and the court to which the complaint has been sent shall consider it within three days and provide the applicant with a substantiated decision.
7. A court decision may be appealed within three days after its adoption to an arbitration court, whose decision is final.
8. A complaint against the Central Election Commission shall be considered in the Constitutional Court within five days after it is received.

ARTICLE 19.

The chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, and members of electoral commissions when necessary, by a decision of the commission, may be released during the period of organizing and conducting elections from the performance of their professional duties. They shall receive, from the money of the electoral fund, a wage which is 30 percent greater than the average monthly wage in their main place of employment.

ARTICLE 20.

1. The term of office of electoral commissions shall expire after the Constitutional Court declares the elections in the corresponding electoral districts to be legal.
2. The term of office of the Central Election Commission shall expire after the recognition of the authority of the deputies and the formation of the Parliament.

CHAPTER III. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND PRECINCTS

ARTICLE 21.

For elections of deputies to Parliament, multi-seat electoral districts shall be formed which correspond to the second-level administrative-territorial units of the republic.

ARTICLE 22.

1. The number of seats for each electoral district shall be established by the Central Election Commission by dividing the number of voters in the district by the norm of representation envisioned by part 3 of Article. If the remainder is greater than half the norm of representation, one seat is added.
2. Figures of the number of voters in the population points of the electoral district for which the number of seats is determined shall be submitted by the State Department for Statistics as of 1 January of the year in which the decision to schedule the elections was made.

ARTICLE 23.

Lists of voter districts with an indication of their boundaries and the locations of the electoral commissions, the number of voters, and the number of seats shall be made public by the Central Election Commission within 15 days after the scheduling of the elections.

ARTICLE 24.

1. In order to conduct the voting the electoral districts shall be divided into electoral precincts formed by district electoral commissions in population points on the basis of reports from the corresponding organs of local government no later than two months before the day of elections, with no fewer than 50 and no more than 3,000 voters.
2. Electoral precincts may be formed in dormitories and in hospitals, maternity homes, sanatoriums, and homes for the elderly with no fewer than 50 voters.
3. For students in the day-time courses and for schoolchildren who have the right to vote who are not living permanently in the population points in which they are studying, electoral precincts shall be formed at dormitories which have from 200 to 3,000 voters.
4. For voters who are traveling on the day of the election, electoral precincts may be created in railroad stations, bus terminals, and airports.
5. At diplomatic missions and consulates of the Republic of Moldova, electoral precincts are formed for workers of these missions and consulates and members of their families and also for citizens of the Republic of Moldova who are in the corresponding countries. These electoral precincts are included in the electoral district of the municipality of Chisinau.

ARTICLE 25.

1. The district electoral commission shall establish the numbering of the electoral precincts within the electoral district and inform the voters of the boundaries of each electoral precinct, the location of the precinct electoral commission, the polling place, and the contact telephone numbers.
2. The electoral precincts shall be numbered beginning with the population point in which the district electoral commission is located, then according to the communes in alphabetical order.
3. The heads of the population point shall make available all notices, information and the necessary assistance to the district electoral commissions in order for them to perform their duties as envisioned by the preceding parts.

CHAPTER IV. VOTER LISTS

ARTICLE 26.

The voter lists shall include citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have an active right to vote and who reside and are registered on the territory of the given electoral precinct on the day the list is compiled.

ARTICLE 27.

1. Voter lists shall be compiled for each electoral precinct by the corresponding official's office and signed by the head official.
2. The voter lists shall include in alphabetical order the last name and first name of the voter, the year of his birth, and his place of residence.
3. The voter may be included in only one voter list and in only one electoral precinct.
4. Twenty days before the elections the voter list shall be submitted to the precinct electoral commission and posted in public places and in the premises of the voter precincts. The voters shall be notified by various methods of the voter precinct at which they must vote. A control copy of the list of voters shall be stored in the office of the corresponding administrative official.

5. Changes made to the voter lists after they are submitted shall be reported to the precinct electoral commissions within 24 hours.

ARTICLE 28.

1. Citizens shall be provided with an opportunity to become familiar with the voter lists and to verify the correctness of their compilation. They have the right to appeal their failure to be included or incorrect inclusion on the lists or exclusion from it, and also mistakes made in indicating the data of the voter. Complaints from voters shall be considered by the precinct electoral commission, which must within no more than two days and, on the day before and the day of the elections, immediately make the necessary corrections in the list or issue to the applicant a copy of the justified decision to reject his complaint.
2. A decision of the precinct electoral commission may be appealed no later than two days before the elections to the court in the place where the electoral precinct is located. The court decision may be appealed to an arbitration court. A correction in the voter lists in keeping with the court, decision shall be made by the precinct electoral commission immediately.

ARTICLE 29.

1. When a voter changes his place of residence during the period between the compilation of the voter rolls and the day of the elections, the precinct electoral commission at his request and upon presentation of his passport or another document certifying his identity shall issue a certificate of the right to vote. The voter who has received such a certificate shall have a notation made on the voter roll across from his name.
2. On the basis of the certificate of the right to vote the voter shall be included on the day of the elections on an additional voter roll in the corresponding electoral precinct.
3. An additional voter roll shall be compiled in keeping with part 2 of Article 27 and with an identification of the document of the grounds on which the voter is being included on the lists.

CHAPTER V. PROPOSAL OF CANDIDACIES

ARTICLE 30.

1. Proposals regarding candidates shall be submitted to the electoral districts and presented to the district electoral commissions. The documents shall be presented no earlier than the third day after the district electoral commissions are fully formed and no later than 40 days before the elections. The district electoral commission shall register the candidates within no more than five days, and independent candidates no more than 10 days, after the receipt of the corresponding documents.
2. The registration of candidates shall end 30 days before the elections.
3. Within three days after the registration, the district electoral commissions shall publish the list of candidates and information about independent candidates.
4. The right to propose candidates shall be granted to parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that are officially registered by the day of the scheduling of elections according to legislation in effect.
5. Parties and socio-political organizations that have joined into voter blocs may not at the same time be members of other electoral blocs and may not participate in the elections independently.
6. Citizens of the Republic of Moldova supported by no fewer than 1,000 voters from the corresponding electoral district may propose themselves as independent candidates.

ARTICLE 31.

1. A candidate may run in only one electoral district as a representative of only one party, socio-political organization or electoral bloc or as an independent candidate.
2. The number of candidates included in the list of the political party, socio-political organization or electoral bloc may exceed the number of seats in the corresponding electoral district by two candidates, who have a reserve status.

ARTICLE 32.

1. Parties, socio-political organizations or electoral blocs shall submit to the district electoral commissions list of candidates in three copies certified by leading individuals of the political parties, socio-political organizations, decisions of the management organ of the political party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc concerning the proposal of candidacies and statements from candidates included on the list concerning their consent to run.
2. An independent candidate shall submit a statement of his consent to run and lists of signatures of no fewer than 1,000 voters supporting his candidacy.
3. The first copy of the lists of candidates submitted by the political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs shall be stored in the district electoral commission, the second copy shall be sent to the Central Election Commission, and the third copy shall be posted in the premises of the district electoral commission. For an independent candidate only the information contained in the documents envisioned by part 2 shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission.

ARTICLE 33.

1. The procedure for including candidates on the lists shall be determined by the parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs themselves.
2. The lists indicate the last name and first name of the candidate, his date of birth, his occupation, his position (kind of employment), and place of residence.

ARTICLE 34.

1. The list of individuals supporting an independent candidate shall be the official document with all the consequences envisioned by law.
2. Indicated on the lists of individuals supporting independent candidates shall be the day of election, the last name and first name of the candidate, the date and year of his birth, his occupation, his position (kind of employment), his place of residence, and also the last name and first name of the individual who compiled the list. An individual supporting a candidate shall indicate his last name and first name, the number of his identification document and his place of residence; he shall indicate the date and sign his name in support of the candidate.
3. The names of those who signed shall be numbered separately on each page beginning with the number one and shall be verified by the manager of the organ of local administration on whose territory the signatories reside.
4. A voter shall have the right to place his signature in support of only one candidate and only in his own electoral district. Only citizens of the Republic of Moldova with the right to vote may support candidates.
5. District electoral commissions shall have the right to verify the authenticity of the signatures. Upon discovery of a forgery, the candidate shall not be registered or his registration shall be voided.

ARTICLE 35.

1. A political party, socio-political organization or electoral bloc shall have the right to recall the list of candidates, or to reverse its decision to include any candidate on the list. A party or socio-political organization shall have the right to withdraw from a electoral bloc.
2. A decision to withdraw a list of candidates or one candidate from a list or to withdraw from an electoral bloc shall be made only by the management organ of the party or socio-political organization and shall be submitted to the district electoral commission. The voters shall be informed of the decision.
3. An independent candidate and candidates included on a list may withdraw their candidacies at any time before the day of the elections by submitting the corresponding application to the district electoral commission.
4. The replacement of the recalled candidate from the list by another candidate upon expiration of the period of registration of candidates envisioned by part 2 of Article 30 shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE 36.

1. Citizens of the Republic of Moldova, parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs may appeal proposed candidacies no later than 25 days before the elections.
2. Complaints regarding questions of registration of candidates shall be considered in court in the location of the population points included in the electoral district within two days after it is received.
3. In response to a decision concerning a complaint, it shall be possible to submit an appeal to a higher court within 24 hours after it is made. The appeal shall be considered within two days after it is received.
4. On the basis of the court decision the district electoral commission shall make an entry in the record regarding leaving the candidates on the list or excluding them from the lists and shall issue instructions to print the election ballots.

CHAPTER VI. ELECTION BALLOTS

ARTICLE 37.

1. The form and text of the electoral ballot shall be established by the Central Election Commission. The size of the electoral ballot shall be established by the district electoral commission. The electoral ballot should consist of one sheet. or more, depending on the number of lists and the number of registered candidates.
2. The election ballot shall be divided into squares according to the number of parties, socio-political organizations, voter blocs, and independent candidates represented in the corresponding electoral districts. The sizes of the squares shall be determined by the number of candidates included on the lists.
3. Entered in each square in the order in which the lists are submitted to the electoral commission shall be the name of the party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, electoral symbol (if one exists), and last names and first names of the candidates.
4. Two or more political parties, socio-political organizations, and voter blocs may not have the same electoral symbols. Electoral symbols of parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs shall be made known to the public through the mass media.
5. Each independent candidate shall be included in a separate square placed after the list of candidates from parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs, in which his last name and first name are indicated and the words "independent candidate" are written.
6. The electoral ballots shall be printed on the basis of a decision of the district electoral commission in the state language and other languages used by voters of the electoral district in a quantity corresponding to the number of voters in the electoral district plus 10 percent of this number.
7. Within each square on the right side at an equal distance from the top and bottom shall be printed a circle 15 millimeters in diameter in which the voter, when casting his vote for the corresponding party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc or for an independent candidate, shall place two intersecting lines.

ARTICLE 38.

1. Electoral ballots in an electoral district must have the same format and be printed in the same script on paper of the same color which is thick enough to prevent the text and marks made by the voter from showing through.
2. If the ballot consists of several pages, they must be fastened together in such a way that they cannot be taken apart.

3. Electoral ballots shall be printed no later than 10 days before the elections.
4. The printed ballots shall be stored in the district electoral commission and two days before the elections shall be sent to the precinct electoral commissions, for which a transfer document shall be completed.
5. The premises for the district electoral commission on and the voter precinct in which the electoral ballots are stored shall be protected by the police.

ARTICLE 39.

Representatives of political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs and independent candidates have the right to familiarize themselves with the models of ballots in the district electoral commission.

CHAPTER VII. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 40.

1. The election campaign shall begin on the day the election date is made public and end on the day before the elections.
2. Elections shall be prepared for and conducted openly and shall be widely publicized in the mass media.

ARTICLE 41.

1. Parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates from the beginning of the election campaign shall be granted the opportunity to campaign freely and without impediment through rallies, meetings in the place of residence, individual discussions, using audio-visual means, the press, visual demonstrations, and other forms that do not create a violation of public order.
2. Electoral commissions and organs of local self-government shall be obliged to render assistance to parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates in conducting their election campaign.

ARTICLE 42.

1. After registration the parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates shall have the right to post their election programs and information on the candidates, and publish election slogans, statements, photographic materials, etc. The size of the placards and posters may not exceed two meters by three meters. Permission shall not be required to manufacture these printed products and they shall be paid for with money from the election fund.
2. State printing facilities shall fill equally orders from all parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates within acceptable time periods.
3. The Central Election Commission and the district electoral commission shall provide for publication of election programs in the republic and local press within five days after they are submitted.
4. The programs of the parties, socio-political organizations, voter blocs, and independent candidates shall not contain appeals for unconstitutional or other illegal actions.

ARTICLE 43.

1. Organs of local government shall be required within five days after the beginning of the election campaign to determine the place for locating election campaign materials, taking into account the number of parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates participating in the elections.
2. Places for location of election campaign materials shall be assigned in squares, streets, and other public places.
3. Places for locating election campaign, materials may not be used by one political party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, and independent candidate to the detriment of other parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates. Only one poster may be placed on one campaign billboard.
4. The content of campaign materials may not be unconstitutional or illegal.
5. It shall be prohibited to use on election posters combinations of colors that remind one of the flag of the Republic of Moldova or any other state, and also the state seal.
6. The police shall provide for protection of campaign billboards and posters.
7. On the day of elections any kind of campaigning shall be prohibited with the exception of campaign material that was previously posted outside the polling place.

ARTICLE 44.

1. Political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates shall have access to the state mass media.
2. For the period of the election campaign, the schedule for operation of National Radio and Television and broadcast time shall be established by the Central Election Commission with the consent of its leaders.
3. Broadcast time shall be distributed in proportion to the number of lists of candidates submitted in the country as a whole. Political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have submitted lists of candidates in 50 percent of the electoral districts shall be granted twice as much broadcast time as parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have submitted lists of candidates in fewer electoral districts.
4. Independent candidates shall be granted half as much broadcast time as political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have submitted lists of candidates in fewer than 50 percent of the electoral districts, and for only one time.
5. Broadcast time shall be granted to political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates on an equal basis and at the same time. The purchase of broadcast time on state audio-visual telecommunication systems shall be prohibited.

6. The assigned broadcast time shall not include interviews, reportage, or other audio-visual services of a general nature for the purpose of informing citizens.
7. The editorial offices of republic and local newspapers and magazines belonging to organs of state power and local government shall offer pages of their publications to political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates under equal conditions, establishing for them an equal number and length of articles.

ARTICLE 45.

1. The mass media shall regularly cover the course of preparing for and conducting the elections. Their representatives shall be guaranteed unimpeded access to all measures related to the elections. Electoral commissions, parties, socio-political organizations, and state organs shall supply them with the necessary information.
2. The Central Election Commission shall be obligated to regularly convey operational information to the mass media.
3. Reports from meetings of the Central Election Commission and district electoral commissions and decisions they make shall be regularly published in the republic and local press.

ARTICLE 46.

1. In order to observe the progress of the electoral campaign, at the request of parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates, the district electoral commission shall grant credentials to one of their representatives for each electoral precinct. To this end foreign observers shall be invited as well as representatives of any authorized private institution or organization especially accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. Representatives of the press and the audiovisual media, observers, and other accredited representatives shall have the right to attend all the activities related to the elections, and on the day of the election, to be present in the voter precincts and during the counting of the votes without interfering with the work of the commission and not hampering it, and to inform the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission of violations that have been committed in the event that they are discovered.
3. The chairpersons of precinct electoral commissions shall create conditions for the work of observers and other individuals granted the right to be present in the polling places.
4. Any campaigning for or against candidates or any attempt to influence the choice of the voter shall entail the application of the sanctions of the law, the termination of the accreditation by the electoral commission that discovered the violation, and on the day of elections, will lead to immediate expulsion of the violator from the polling place.

ARTICLE 47.

Candidates from parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs and independent candidates, after registration, shall be released according to the application submitted, from the performance of professional duties while retaining their average monthly wage; candidates from parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs shall be paid from their electoral funds. Independent candidates shall be paid with money from the election fund of the district electoral commission.

CHAPTER VIII. CONDUCTING THE VOTING

ARTICLE 48.

1. Voting shall be conducted on the day of the elections. It shall begin at 7:00 a.m. and shall end at 8:00 p.m.
2. If necessary, by a decision of the district electoral commission the time for conducting the voting in individual electoral precincts may be extended, but by no more than two hours.
3. By a decision of the Central Election Commission the time for conducting the voting shall be extended even longer, but only until midnight.
4. During the time allotted for voting it shall not be allowed to close the polling place or terminate voting, with the exception of cases of mass disorders, natural disasters, or other foreseen circumstances which make conducting the elections impossible or dangerous for the voters. In these cases the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission may suspend the voting for more than two hours in order to put the electoral precinct into the proper condition or move it to another place, having notified the voters.
5. Individuals with the right to be in attendance at the voting may not be compelled to leave the polling place during the time while the voting is suspended.

ARTICLE 49.

1. The voting shall be conducted in specially allotted premises, which are equipped with a sufficient number of booths so as to avoid a large accumulation of voters; and in order to provide for secrecy of voting, places are designated for turning in ballots and ballot boxes are installed. The latter shall be installed in such a way that in order to approach them the voters must go through the booths for secret voting.
2. The provision of the electoral precinct with booths, ballot boxes, and other necessary materials shall be the responsibility of organs of local government.
3. For purposes of maintaining order in the electoral precinct and in order to avoid a large accumulation of voters, the precinct electoral commission shall establish the path for the movement of the voters, beginning with the entry to the tables where the ballots are passed out and then to the secret voting booths, and on to the ballot boxes.
4. In order to avoid theft, the ballots shall be stored in a reliable place in the electoral precinct, packed in bundles of 100, and issued in the necessary quantity to individuals who will distribute them at various time intervals established by the commission chairperson.
5. The responsibility for organizing the voting, ensuring secrecy of the expression of the will of the voters, equipping the premises, and keeping them in the proper order shall be assigned to the precinct electoral commission.

6. The responsibility for maintaining order on the day of the elections in the polling places and territory adjacent to it within a radius of 300 meters shall be assigned to the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission. The decisions he makes in order to maintain order shall be mandatory for all.
7. Nobody other than members of the precinct electoral commission, candidates, observers, and other accredited representatives may be in the polling place for longer than the time necessary to vote.
8. The chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, and members of the precinct electoral commission shall be obliged to have identification cards. They and also other individuals who have the right to be in attendance in the electoral precinct shat! be prohibited from carrying any emblems, badges or other symbols having to do with the campaign.

ARTICLE 50.

1. At 7:00 a.m. on the day of the election the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission in the presence of no fewer than half the members of the commission shall check the ballot boxes and seal them, check the voter rolls, ballots, and seals, and announce the beginning of the voting.
2. Each voter shall vote in person. Voting for other individuals is not allowed. The precinct electoral commission shall issue a ballot to the voter based on the list of voters when an identification document is presented. Upon receiving the ballot the voter must sign the voter list next to his name.
3. Ballots issued to the voters must have on the reverse side a control stamp of the electoral precinct.
4. Citizens residing on the territory of the electoral precinct who have not been included on the voter rolls and also citizens who have arrived with a certificate of the right to vote shall be entered on an additional voter list upon presentation of an identification document.
5. If because of health or any other factors the voter is unable to be present in the polling place, the precinct electoral commission, at his request, shall send no fewer than two members of the commission with a mobile ballot box and everything necessary for voting in the place where the voter is located in order to conduct the voting.

ARTICLE 51.

1. The ballot shall be filled out by the voter in the secret voting booth. A voter who is unable to fill out the ballot himself has the right to invite another individual into the booth, with the exception of members of the electoral commission, representatives of candidates, and accredited individuals.
2. The voter shall place within the circle of only one of the squares on the ballot two intersecting lines signifying that he has voted for the given political party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate. The circles in the rest of the rectangles should be left blank.
3. It shall be prohibited to take the ballot that is received outside the polling place.
4. It shall be prohibited to vote for several political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, or independent candidates.
5. If the voter by mistake has spoiled the ballot, the precinct electoral commission shall issue just one new ballot. A note is made of this in the record on conducting the voting, and the vote is invalidated.
6. The voter shall drop the completed ballot in the ballot box.

ARTICLE 52.

If representatives of political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, or independent candidates have disclosed cases of violation of this Law during the process of voting or have doubts about the identity of an individual who has appeared at the elections, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission must verify these facts, and if they are confirmed, take measures to eliminate the violation or draw up the appropriate record and turn it over to the police.

ARTICLE 53.

1. The chairperson of and members of the precinct electoral commission and also individuals who have been entrusted to maintain order in the electoral precinct shall vote at the precinct after they have been placed on an additional list.
2. It shall be prohibited to enter the polling place with a firearm or bladed weapon with the exception of cases when there is no other possibility of restoring law and order, saving the lives of people in the premises, or protecting the electoral ballots and ballot boxes.
3. At the time of the completion of the voting, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall announce the termination of the voting and give instructions to close the electoral precinct.

CHAPTER IX. TABULATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 54.

1. Upon expiration of the time allotted for conducting the voting, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall begin to tabulate the results of the elections.
2. Before opening the ballot box, all the unused ballots shall be counted and canceled by the precinct electoral commission by stamping them "canceled".
3. After checking the seals on the ballot boxes the chairperson of the commission the presence of members of the commission and individuals with the right to attend shall open the ballot boxes.
4. The electoral precinct must be provided with a sufficient number of tables so that all the ballots taken from the ballot boxes may be counted in one place in the presence of all members of the commission and others in attendance.
5. On the table for counting the votes shall be installed flags with the names of the parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and last names of independent candidates, before which the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission

shall unfold the corresponding ballots taken from the ballot boxes. The ballots shall be counted and bound together separately and the results of the counting shall be entered on a special table.

6. Before the number of votes received by each party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, and independent candidate is entered in the record, observers and other accredited individuals shall be granted an opportunity to recheck the figures entered on the special table.
7. Ballots on which there is no control stamp from the electoral precinct, ballots of the wrong form, and ballots on which circles have been crossed out in several squares or no circle has been crossed out on any square shall be declared invalid. Invalid ballots shall be shown to all members of the commission, observers, and other accredited individuals.
8. Votes cast for individuals and political parties and socio-political organizations added by the voters to the electoral ballots shall not be taken into account and such ballots shall be declared invalid.
9. If members of the precinct electoral commission have doubts about the validity of a ballot, the question shall be decided by a vote.
10. Invalid electoral ballots shall not be taken into account when tabulating the valid votes.

ARTICLE 55.

1. The precinct electoral commission shall draw up in two copies a record which shall include:

   a) the number of voters included on the voter rolls;
   b) the number of voters who participated in the voting, including voters on supplementary lists;
   c) the overall number of valid votes;
   d) the number of electoral ballots declared invalid;
   e) the number of valid votes cast for each list of candidates and for each independent candidate;
   f) the number of ballots received by the electoral precinct;
   g) the number of unused and cancelled ballots;

2. A brief account of statements and complaints and decisions adopted regarding them shall be presented separately.
3. The results of the counting of the votes shall be considered at a meeting of the precinct electoral commission and entered into the record, which shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, and members of the commission. The absence of signatures of individual members of the precinct electoral commission shall not make the record invalid. The reasons for the absence of these signatures shall be indicated in the record.
4. The record, complaints regarding actions related to the elections and at the electoral precinct, ballots declared invalid, unused, or protested, and the stamps of the electoral precinct shall be turned over in a sealed box by the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission to the district electoral commission within 24 hours after the announcement of the closing of the electoral precinct. The sealed box shall be transported under a police guard.

ARTICLE 56.

1. After receiving from the electoral precincts the records with the results of the tabulation of the votes, the district electoral commission shall establish whether or not no less than one-third of the voters on the voter rolls participated in the elections throughout the entire electoral district. Otherwise actions related to the elections shall be suspended and the provisions of Article 64 shall be applied. If the elections have been declared valid, the district electoral commission shall draw up a record which indicates the number of valid votes cast for each political party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc throughout the entire electoral district, and within 24 hours shall submit it to the Central Election Commission.
2. The Central Election Commission shall consider the records received from all the electoral districts, commit the number of votes cast for each party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc in order to establish whether or not they have received no less than 4 percent of the valid votes in the country as a whole - the electoral qualification as established by part 2 of Article 6.
3. Within 24 hours the Central Election Commission shall send to the district electoral commissions information about the results of the voting in the country as a whole and its decision to exclude political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have not garnered 4 percent of the valid votes in the country as a whole from the process of distribution of seats.

ARTICLE 57.

1. After receiving the decision from the Central Election Commission concerning the exclusion from the process of distribution of seats of political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have not garnered 4 percent of the active votes in the country as a whole, the district electoral commission shall begin to distribute the parliamentary seats among the political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have a right to them and independent candidates in the presence of candidates and individuals accredited in keeping with the present Law on their request.
2. On the basis of the records of precinct electoral commissions, the district electoral commission shall determine:

   a) the overall number of voters included en the voter rolls in the district;
   b) the number of voters who participated in the voting, including voters on supplementary lists;
   c) the number of ballots declared invalid;
   d) the number of valid votes cast for each party, socio-political organization, and electoral bloc, except for those that have been excluded by a decision of the Central Election Commission, and for each independent candidate.
   e) the number of unutilized and canceled electoral ballots.

ARTICLE 58.

1. The distribution of parliamentary seats among the parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs shall be conducted by the district electoral commission through sequential division of the number of valid votes cast for each party, socio-political organization, and electoral bloc, by 1, 2, 3, 4... and so forth up to the figure that corresponds to the number of seats in the electoral districts.
2. From the results of all the divisions and the number of valid votes cast for independent candidates they shall select in declining order as many numbers as there are seats that are to be distributed in the electoral district. The quantity of numbers chosen in declining order at the disposal of the party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc shall correspond to the number of seats that are due to them.
3. An independent candidate shall be considered elected if the number of votes cast for him is included in the numbers selected in declining order.

ARTICLE 59.

1. The distribution of seats among candidates proposed by parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs shall be conducted according to the procedure of including them on lists beginning with the first number.
2. The candidates not elected shall be declared candidate deputies. A candidate deputy may be declared elected by the Constitutional Court if for any reason a deputy seat belonging to the party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc which he represents is released.
3. If the political party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc does not have a candidate deputy for the electoral district, partial elections shall be conducted in keeping with Article 65. Partial elections shall also be conducted in the event that the seat of an independent deputy remains vacant.

ARTICLE 60.

1. Within 24 hours after tabulation the results of the elections and distributing the seats in the electoral district, the district electoral commission shall send under police guard to the Central Election Commission a record containing the information specified by part 2 of Article 57 and also a list of deputies from each party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc and independent deputies.
2. Within 24 hours after tabulation the results of the elections and distributing the seats in the electoral district, the district electoral commission shall send to the Constitutional Court a report on conducting the elections to which is appended in one copy lists of candidates, the record, and all complaints for the electoral district accompanied by an account of the decisions adopted regarding them.
3. Within three days after summing up the results of the elections and distributing the seats, the district electoral commission shall publish in the press the figures contained in the record, and the audio-visual media shall convey the information on the same day.

ARTICLE 61.

1. The Constitutional Court shall study the records of the district electoral commissions and within 10 days of the day of receiving the report, the period established for considering statements and complaints about violations during the process of organizing and conducting the elections, shall provide a conclusion about the legality of the elections for each electoral district and within 24 hours send it to the Central Election Commission and the district electoral commission. After 10 days statements and complaints shall not be accepted for consideration.
2. If the Constitutional Court has established serious violations of this Law, which have affected the results of the voting, the Central Election Commission shall conduct a repeat vote in keeping with Articles 63 and 64.
3. In electoral districts in which the elections have been declared valid, the elected deputies shall be recognized as legally elected and the Central Election Commission shall issue them the corresponding certificates.

ARTICLE 62.

1. On the basis of the records received from the electoral districts the Central Election Commission shall compile a record which shall include:

   a) the overall number of voters on the voter rolls in the country as a whole;
   b) the overall number of voters who participated in the voting, including voters on supplementary lists;
   c) the overall number of valid votes;
   d) the overall number of electoral ballots declared invalid;
   e) a verification of the application by district electoral commissions of the provisions of Articles 58 and 59;
   f) the distribution of seats among parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates throughout the country;
   g) decisions regarding statements and complaints that were received.

2. The record should be signed by the chairperson and members of the Central Election Commission in whose presence it was drawn up, and within two days after the receipt of conclusions from the Constitutional Court, should be sent along with copies of the lists of candidates registered by the district electoral commissions, the records of the summing up of the results of the elections in all electoral districts, and Constitutional Court regarding recognition of the authority of deputies and the formation of the Parliament.
3. The Central Election Commission shall publish the results of the elections throughout the country.

CHAPTER X. REPEAT VOTING AND PARTIAL ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 63.

1. Elections shall be recognized as null and void if less than one-third of the voters of the district included on the voter list participated in them.
2. Elections in individual electoral districts may be declared invalid by the Central Election Commission, and for individual electoral precincts, by the district electoral commission, if during the course of the elections and when counting the votes there were violations of this Law which affected the distribution of the seats.

ARTICLE 64.

1. If elections in individual electoral districts or precincts have been declared null and void by a decision of the Central Election Commission, within two weeks repeat elections shall be conducted with the same candidates using the same voter rolls.
2. Candidates guilty of forgery shall be excluded from the lists for the repeat voting and may not be replaced by other candidates.
3. In the event of a repeat vote the results of the election for the electoral district shall be added to the results obtained in the country as a whole in keeping with this Law.
4. If even after the repeat vote the elections in the electoral district are declared null and void, further elections shall not be conducted and the seats shall remain vacant.
5. If after the repeat vote scheduled as the result of declaring the elections for individual electoral precincts or districts are again declared invalid, the corresponding precinct or district electoral commission shall be disbanded. In this case new elections shall be held within two weeks after the formation of the new commissions.

ARTICLE 65.

1. If a parliamentary seat has been released but there is no candidate deputy, partial elections shall be conducted.
2. Partial elections shall not be conducted for a parliamentary seat that is released during the 12 months before the expiration of the term of office of Parliament.
3. Partial elections shall be conducted in keeping with this Law within a period of no more than three months from the day the application is submitted to the president of the republic or the chairperson of Parliament.
4. If partial elections are conducted in only one electoral district, the Central Election Commission is not formed and its functions are performed by the district electoral commission.
5. Only voters living in the corresponding electoral district shall participate in partial elections.

CHAPTER XI. FINANCING THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 66.

Expenditures related to preparing for and conducting the elections shall be assumed by the state. A rough estimate of these costs shall be determined by the Government. The actual amount of the expenditures shall be established by the Central Election Commission and confirmed by the Government.

ARTICLE 67.

1. The Central Election Commission shall open a special "Elections" account in the Banca de Economii into which it shall transfer financial funds allotted for preparing and conducting the elections. The distributor of this money shall be the chairperson of the Central Election Commission.
2. The Central Election Commission shall determine the amount of money necessary for preparing for and conducting the elections in each electoral district and transfer it to the special accounts in the Banca de Economii branches in the places where the district electoral commissions we located. The distributor of the funds allotted to the district electoral commission shall be its chairperson.
3. The procedure for the expenditure of these funds and also the forms of reports on their expenditure shall be established by the Central Election Commission.
4. It shall be prohibited to spend the allotted funds for purposes not related to preparing for and conducting the elections or on excessive equipment for the premises for conducting the elections or the acquisition of costly supplies, equipment, and so forth.
5. Upon completion of the elections, the chairperson of the Central Election Commission shall submit to the Government a report on the expenditure of the funds allotted.
6. The unused funds shall be transferred into the state budget.

ARTICLE 68.

1. Political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates participating in the elections shall have the right to create for purposes of conducting their elections campaign election funds, including in them their own money, interest-free credit obtained from the state, and also subsidies from individuals and legal entities in their own country, for which an account entitled "Election Funds" shall be opened in the Banca de Economii.
2. The amount of their own money allotted for conducting the election campaign shall be determined by the leadership of the political party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate.
3. The amount of credit allotted from the state budget shall be determined by the Government.
4. Subsidies received from individuals and legal entities in their own country shall be used for conducting the election

campaign by the political party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate under the condition of preliminary public declaration.

5. Direct or indirect subsidization of the election campaign of any political party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate by foreign individuals or legal entities shall be prohibited. The sums obtained this way shall be confiscated and used as revenue for the state budget and the list of candidates form the corresponding party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate shall not be allowed to participate in the elections. If this violation is discovered after the elections, the deputies from the corresponding political party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate shall be deprived of their seat and partial elections shall be conducted.
6. The receipt of credit from the state budget and subsidies from individuals and legal entities for conducting an election campaign shall be allowed only through a financial authority especially designated by the leadership of the party, socio-political organization, or electoral bloc, or by the independent candidate.
7. The financial authority may be an individual or legal entity responsible along with the party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate that appointed him for the legality of the use of the subsidies granted and the observance of the provisions of Articles 69 and 70.
8. The status of the financial authority shall be recognized only after his official registration with the Ministry of Finance and a report of this in the press.
9. The maximum amount of the election fund shall be determined by the Central Election Commission. It must be sufficient to provide the political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates with everything they need during the period of conducting the election campaign.
10. The expenditure of funds for conducting the election campaign in excess of the sums envisioned by the electoral fund shall be prohibited.
11. The legality of the use of money from the election funds by parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates participating in the elections shall be monitored by the Central Election Commission, the district electoral Commissions and the Ministry of Finance.
12. Credit received from the state is fully or partially paid back by the state, depending on the overall number of valid votes cast for the corresponding political party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate in the given electoral district. The monetary sum, determined by dividing the sum of credit by the number of voters who participated in the voting and then multiplying the result obtained by the number of valid votes cast for the political party, socio-political organization, electoral bloc, or independent candidate, shall be subject to repayment.
13. Political parties, socio-political organizations, and electoral blocs that have not garnered 4 percent of the valid votes in the country as a whole and independent candidates who have not been elected as deputies shall return the credit received from the state budget within two months after the completion of the voting. The remaining political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, and independent candidates shall repay the credits within four months.

CHAPTER XII. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ILLEGAL ACTIONS WHEN CONDUCTING ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 69.

1. The following acts or attempts to commit them by individuals and also persons authorized to take actions related to the elections and officials of state administrative organs shall be recognized as crimes and punished in keeping with existing Law:

   a) using any means to prevent the of free exercise of the right to vote or be elected - incarceration for a period of from six months to five years, the same actions combined with causing serious bodily harm or threat to human life - incarceration for a period from six months to 10 years;
   b) falsifying the results of the voting in various ways - incarceration for a period from six months to four years;
   c) opening ballot boxes before the termination of the voting as established by this Law - incarceration for a period from six months to three years;
   d) attacking the premises of the electoral precincts by any means and in any form, stealing ballot boxes or electoral documents - incarceration for a period from three to 10 years unless the action is deemed to be more serious crime qualified as a state crime.

2. Criminal cases for crimes envisioned by part 1 shall be heard by prosecutors of the State.
3. The chairpersons of electoral commissions and other officials shall be obliged to inform prosecutors immediately of all crimes related to conducting the elections that are committed in the electoral district.

ARTICLE 70.

The following shall be recognized as administrative legal violations and punished in keeping with the existing Law if based on the law in part 1 of Article 69 they are not considered crimes:

a) destroying, smudging, or making unusable by other means voter rolls, posted election programs and platforms, or other posters and announcements pertaining to election campaigning;
b) posting campaign material in places other than those assigned;
c) officially organizing voter meetings with the sale and drinking of alcoholic beverages and failing to take measures for conducting these meetings in a normal manner;
d) deliberately entering on the voter lists individuals who do not have the right to vote in keeping with this Law and individuals who do not really exist or intentionally including the same individuals on several lists, and also unjustifiably refusing to accept and consider complaints pertaining to actions related to the elections;

e) agreeing for an individual to be entered on several lists of candidates;
f) failure on the part of members of the electoral commission to make public proposals for presentation of candidates;
g) using funds obtained from abroad or not publicly declaring them;
h) preventing people who have the right to vote from entering the polling place;
i) refusing to follow the instructions of the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission for providing for order in the polling place and the area adjacent to it;
j) unjustifiably failing to issue a ballot to a voter who is included on the lists or issuing one and the same individual more ballots than envisioned by law,
k) unjustifiable departure by members of the precinct electoral commission from the polling places before the results of the election are summed up and they have signed the record;
l) continuing to campaign on the day of elections;
m) taking the electoral ballot issued for voting out of the premises of the electoral precinct,
n) falsifying signatures on lists in support of an independent candidate.

ARTICLE 71.

The administrative legal violations specified by points a), b), d), e), f), i), k) and 1) of the Article 70 require a fine in the amount of from 10 to 20 times the minimum wage, and those specified by points c), h), j), m), and n) - from 15 to 25 times the minimum wage, and specified by g) - confiscation of the sums into the state budget and a fine in the amount of 30 times the minimum wage.

ARTICLE 72.

1. The establishment of administrative legal violations specified by points a), c), f), h), k), and 1) of Article 70 shall be effected with records drawn up by the prefect and administrative officials of the communes, cities, and municipalities, and points a), b), c), d), e), g), h), i), k), 1), m), and n) - records drawn up by chairpersons of electoral commissions, and points a), b), c), e), i), I) - records drawn up by officers, subofficers, and sergeants of police units performing duties for providing for actions involved in the elections.
2. Records conceding the establishment of administrative legal violations specified by the preceding part shall be sent to the court in the location of the population point in which the legal violation was committed.

ARTICLE 73.

1. During the period of the election campaign the courts shall immediately consider all statements, complaints, and other appeals related to organizing and conducting the elections. Decisions of higher judicial authority shall be final and subject to enforcement from the moment they are made.
2. The activity of the courts during this period shall be organized in such a way that the voters, political parties, socio-political organizations, electoral blocs and independent candidates shall have an opportunity to submit statements and complaints freely and without delay.

CHAPTER XIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 74.

1. The Government shall provide premises and everything necessary for the Central Electoral Commission, the prefects - for the district electoral commission, and the local administrative officials - for the electoral precincts.
2. The Government shall provide paper for manufacturing the ballots and other electoral documents, computing equipment, and other material and financial means necessary for conducting the elections, and it shall monitor the work of printing enterprises in order to promptly manufacture the electoral documents.
3. Local administrative organs shall assign to the electoral commissions for the entire period of their activity statisticians and technical service personnel who shall work under contract and be temporarily released from their duties in their main place of employment.

ARTICLE 75.

For the entire period of the elections the electoral commissions and courts shall provide for their constant functioning which is necessary for the citizens to exercise their right to vote.

ARTICLE 76.

Individuals being detained on the basis of an arrest order until a court sentence is handed down, individuals sentenced to incarceration under a court decision which has not taken legal force, and individuals serving terms for committing an administrative legal violation shall vote in keeping with the provisions of part 5 of Article 50.

ARTICLE 77.

During the period of the elections the Ministry of Internal Affairs shall provide for reliable preservation of public order, protection of the polling place, ballot boxes, and ballots, and accompaniment of officials of electoral commissions when transporting electoral materials and documents.

Poland

LAW
ON SEJM ELECTIONS

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

Election of deputies to the Sejm of the Republic of Poland are popular, direct, equal, and free, and conducted by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 2.

Under the principle of proportionality, 460 deputies are elected to the Sejm of the Republic of Poland with the reservation that:

1) 391 deputies are elected from district lists of candidates in multiseat electoral districts;
2) 69 deputies are elected from national lists of candidates linked to district lists of candidates.

ARTICLE 3.

Every voter has one vote.

ARTICLE 4.

1. The term of office of the Sejm commences on the day of its first session and continues until the deputies gather for the first session of the subsequent term of office of the Sejm.
2. The president of the Republic of Poland orders elections to take place no later than four months prior to the expiration of the Sejm's term of office, designating election day on a legal nonwork day during the last month of the expiring term of office of the Sejm. The president's order is published in DZENNIK USTAW RZECZPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ no later than 115 days before election day.
3. In the order referred to in Paragraph 2, the president simultaneously designates the dates on which the activities of the electoral calendar prescribed in this law expire.

ARTICLE 5.

1. In the event of dissolution of the Sejm, the president orders, no later than seven days from the date of the dissolution order, new elections to the Sejm, designating them on a legal work-free day within four months from the date the order to dissolve the Sejm is issued.
2. The president's order is published in DZENNIK URZEDOWY RZECZPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ "MONITOR POLSKI" no later than 100 days prior to election day; in this event the provisions of Article 4, Paragraph 3, apply correspondingly.

CHAPTER II. VOTING RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

ARTICLE 6.

1. The right to vote belongs to persons with Polish citizenship who have reached 18 years of age by election day (electoral franchise).
2. The right to vote also belongs to persons whose Polish citizenship has not been documented and who are not citizens of another country, provided that they have been permanently residing on the territory of the Polish Republic for at least five years.

ARTICLE 7.

The following persons are not eligible to vote:

1) those deprived of public rights by a valid court decision;
2) those deprived of voting rights by a ruling of the Tribunal of the State;
3) those declared entirely or partially incapacitated by a valid court decision due to mental illness or mental retardation.

ARTICLE 8.

To be elected to the Sejm a person must be a Polish citizen who is eligible to vote, and if on election day he/she has completed 21 years of age and if he/she has been permanently residing on the territory of the Polish Republic for at least five years.

CHAPTER III. VOTERS LIST

ARTICLE 9.

1. Names of persons eligible to vote are recorded on the voters list.
2. A voters' name may be recorded on only one voters list.

ARTICLE 10.

1. The voters list is prepared according to the updated registry of voters in a gmina, kept by the gmina office pursuant to guidelines defined in separate regulations.
2. Persons deprived of voting rights are deleted from the voters list with notices in accordance with notices from courts of law or from the Tribunal of State, transmitted by a procedure specified by the minister of justice.

ARTICLE 11.

1. The voters list is prepared in two copies separately for each electoral ward, according to the addresses of the voters.
2. The voters list specifies the voter's name and surname, father's name, date of birth, and address.
3. The voters list is prepared by the gmina office no later than 14 days before election day, as a task (instructed by the state).

ARTICLE 12.

1. Military personnel performing basic or periodic military service, serving as candidates for the career military, or undergoing exercises and military retraining, as well as labor-brigade members doing substitute military service in civil defense outside their home districts are registered on request in the voters list they select, prepared for the locality in which they are serving. The request is submitted 21 to 14 days prior to election day.
2. The provisions of Paragraph 1 apply correspondingly to police personnel from barracked units.
3. Commanders of military, civil-defense, and police units are obliged to provide military, labor-brigade, and police personnel with the conditions for exercising the rights arising from Paragraph 1.
4. The minister of national defense and the minister of internal affairs, upon consulting the State Electoral Commission, shall specify the manner in which the commanders are to perform their obligations referred to in Paragraph 3.

ARTICLE 13.

A voter lacking an address is registered on the voters list proper for the locality of his/her actual sojourn upon his/her request submitted to the gmina office preparing said list, no later than seven days prior to election day.

ARTICLE 14.

1. Voters lists for hospitals, social care institutions, penitentiaries, and detention centers are prepared by the concerned gmina offices on the basis of rosters of persons whose period of residence in these institutions includes election day.
2. Rosters of the persons referred to in Paragraph 1 are transmitted by directors of the institutions to the gmina offices no later than 14 days prior to election day.

ARTICLE 15.

1. Information about the inclusion in voters lists of persons residing temporarily (not longer than two months) in a given electoral ward as well as of the military, labor-brigade, and police personnel referred to in Article 12; and the persons staying at hospitals, social care homes, penitentiaries, and detention centers is transmitted to the gmina offices proper for the permanent addresses of these persons, so that their names may be deleted from their home voters lists.
2. A voter who changed his address after the voters list is prepared receives on demand from the gmina office preparing that list a certificate of the right to vote that authorized him to vote in his new electoral ward on election day.
3. The gmina office that prepared the list of voters deletes from that list the persons who were issued certificates of the right to vote owing to their change of address as well the persons concerning whom it has received official notice that they were registered in another electoral district.

ARTICLE 16.

1. The voters list is kept by the gmina office and is made available for public viewing.
2. The village head or city mayor notifies voters by the customary means of the preparation of the voters list and of the place and time of its availability for public viewing.

ARTICLE 17.

1. Polish citizens traveling abroad who can show a valid Polish passport are registered on the voters list prepared by the local consulate of the Republic of Poland.
2. The registration is performed on the basis of an application received from the interested party verbally, in writing, by telephone, by telegraph or by telefax. The application should contain name and surname, father's name, place of sojourn of the voter, and the number and place and date of issue of the valid Polish passport. The application can be submitted at the latest three days before election day.

3. The State Electoral Commission shall, in cooperation with the minister of foreign affairs, define the manner in which the voters list referred to in Paragraph 1 is to be prepared and updated.

ARTICLE 18.

1. Any citizen can submit to a gmina office, verbally or in writing, a claim about any irregularities in the preparation of the voters list, and in particular concerning:

   1) omission of a voter on the voters list;
   2) registration on the voters list of a person who lacks the right to vote;
   3) inclusion in the voters list of improper data about the voters registered.

2. The village head or city mayor is required to consider the claim within 48 hours from the date of its submission and make a decision concerning revisions of the voters list.
3. The decision is handed immediately to the claimant and, when it concerns other persons, and to those other persons as well.
4. Claims regarding a voters list which concern persons referred to in Article 17, Paragraph 1, are considered by the local Polish consul. The consul's decision on these claims are final.

ARTICLE 19.

1. A decision which disregards the claim or results in a deletion from the voters list may be appealed within 48 hours thereafter by the claimant or the person deleted from said list to the proper district court through the mediation of the village head or the city mayor. The appeal should be filed together with a copy of the decision in question and the file of the case.
2. The court considers the appeal in nonlitigious proceedings, in a panel of one judge and two lay-judges within three days from the date of filing. A copy of the court's ruling is handed to the appellant and to the village head or city mayor who prepared the voters list. The court's ruling is final.

ARTICLE 20.

The State Electoral Commission specifies, in cooperation with the Minister of Internal Affairs, the sample voters list, the manner of preparation and updating of the list, the sample notice of registration of a voter on the voters list of another electoral district, and the sample certificate of the right to vote.

ARTICLE 21.

The voters list is transmitted not latter than on the eve of election day to the chairman of the proper ward electoral commission.

ARTICLE 22.

The ward electoral commission adds to the voters list on election day:

1) persons presenting certificates of the right to vote, on attaching such certificates to the voters list;
2) persons omitted on the voters list if, by showing a notation in their identity card, can prove that they are registered permanent residents of the electoral ward concerned, and if the gmina office confirms that it had not been notified of the loss of their right to vote.

CHAPTER IV. VOTING

ARTICLE 23.

Voting can be done only in person.

ARTICLE 24.

Voting can be done only by a voter who is registered on the voters list, as well as by voters added to that list pursuant to the provisions of Article 22.

ARTICLE 25.

1. Voting takes place on the premises of the ward electoral commission without any intermission between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
2. In special cases, especially those warranted by a request of voters, the ward electoral commission may, upon consulting the district electoral commission, fix an earlier hour for the commencement of voting.
3. Voting in electoral wards abroad takes place between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time. If local time is such that voting would be completed on the day following the election day in Poland, voting is conducted on the day preceding election day.

ARTICLE 26.

1. Before voting commences, the ward electoral commission checks to see that the ballot box is empty whereupon it closes it and affixes thereto the commission's seal and determines the number of the ballots received.
2. Once the ballot box is sealed, it may not be opened until the voting is over.
3. From the moment voting commences until it ends, at least three persons belonging to the ward electoral commission should be present on the voting premises, with at least one of these persons being the commission chairperson or his/her deputy.

ARTICLE 27.

1. Before voting, the voter shows the ward electoral commission a document serving to verify his/her identity.
2. A voter who is registered on the voters list but lacks a document serving to verify his/her identity may call upon two credible witnesses known to the commission's members to confirm his identity. The commission's ruling on the confirmation of identity is final.
3. The voter receives from the commission a ballot. To prevent multiple voting, the voter confirms receipt of the ballot by signing his name in the appropriate column on the voters list.
4. The ward electoral commission issues a ballot that is additionally provided with the commission's own seal.

ARTICLE 28.

A voter who votes abroad receives a ballot only upon presenting the ward electoral commission with a valid Polish passport.

ARTICLE 29.

1. On receiving a ballot a voter enters a site that is screened off to assure secrecy of voting on the electoral premises.
2. On the ballot containing district lists of candidates for deputies the voter votes for a particular list by placing an "X" in the box to the left of the name of one of the candidates on that list, which thereby points to that candidate's priority in winning the mandate.
3. Next, the voter casts the ballot into the ballot box, on folding it so that its printed side would not be visible.

ARTICLE 30.

A disabled person may, at his/her request, be assisted in voting by other persons, with the exception of representatives of political parties.

ARTICLE 31.

1. Voting may not be interrupted. Should extraordinary happenings make voting temporalily impossible, the ward electoral commission may discontinue, prolong, or postpone it to the following day. This decision should be immediately made public and conveyed to the district electoral commission and the village head or the city mayor.
2. In the event of interruption or postponement of voting, the commission seals the opening of the ballot box and transmits it to the commission's chairperson for safekeeping. Before voting is recommenced, the commission verifies in writing that the seals remain inviolate.

ARTICLE 32.

1. Campaigning in voting premises is prohibited on election day.
2. Only official notices, and in particular those referred to in Article 73 and 78, may be posted in voting premises.
3. On election day, during all the activities of the ward electoral commission, representatives of electoral committees may be present on voting premises upon showing a certificate issued by an authorized member of the electoral committee.

ARTICLE 33.

Access to voting premises is prohibited to persons who bear arms.

ARTICLE 34.

1. The chairman of the ward electoral commission is responsible for maintaining peace and order during the voting. To this end, he/she has the right to demand of persons disturbing peace and order that they vacate the voting premises.
2. On the demand of the chairman of the ward electoral commission, the commander of the local police precinct is obligated to provide required assistance.
3. In the event of a disturbance of peace in electoral premises, the provision of Article 33 does not apply.

CHAPTER V. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND ELECTORAL WARDS

ARTICLE 35.

1. In order to conduct the elections, the national territory is subdivided into multiseat electoral districts, hereinafter referred to as "electoral districts", comprising the areas of one or several voivodship or parts of a voivodship.
2. The subdivision into electoral districts, their numbering and boundaries, and the number of deputies elected in each district, as well as the sites of the district electoral commissions, are defined in the Supplement to this law.

ARTICLE 36.

1. The boundaries of electoral and the number of deputies elected in each district are determined according to a uniform representation standard.
2. The representation standard is determined for electoral districts by dividing the country's population by the number of the deputies elected in electoral districts, that is, by 391.
3. The number of deputies elected in any electoral district as referred to in Paragraph 1 may not be less than seven deputies.

ARTICLE 37.

1. The State Electoral Commission presents to the Sejm recommendations concerning changes in the boundaries of electoral districts and in the number of deputies elected therein insofar as such need arises owing to changes in the basic territorial division of the country or in the population of individual electoral districts.
2. The recommendations referred to in Paragraph 1 are presented by the State Electoral Commission to the Sejm not latter than 12 months prior to the expiration date of the Sejm's term of office. The Sejm implements changes in the subdivision of the country into electoral districts no later than 9 months prior to the expiration of its term of office.

ARTICLE 38.

Information on subdivision into electoral districts is communicated to voters in the form of announcement on posters whose printing and affixing are ordered by the proper voivodes, no later than 90 days prior to election day.

ARTICLE 39.

Voting is conducted in electoral wards comprising from 500 to 3000 inhabitants each, formed on the area of gmina. In cases warranted by local conditions, electoral wards comprising a fewer or greater numbers of inhabitants may be formed.

ARTICLE 40.

1. Electoral wards are established in hospitals and social care homes if they house at least 50 voters each for a period comprising election day.
2. Electoral wards are established for voters residing in penitentiaries and detention centers. Failure to establish such a ward may occur solely in warranted cases upon the request of the director of the penitentiary or detention center.

ARTICLE 41.

1. Electoral wards are established by the gmina council on the recommendation of the village head or the city mayor, upon determining the boundaries and numbering of the wards and the sites of the ward electoral commissions.
2. Resolutions concerning the matters referred to in Paragraph 1 are immediately conveyed to the proper district electoral commission.

ARTICLE 42.

1. Electoral wards for Polish citizens traveling abroad are established by the minister of foreign affairs in coordination with the State Electoral Commission , on designating the sites of the ward electoral commissions.
2. The electoral wards referred to in Paragraph 1 are part of the electoral district proper for Warsaw-Downtown Gmina.

ARTICLE 43.

1. Information on the boundaries and numbering of electoral wards and the sites of the ward electoral commissions is made public by the village heads and city mayors, by putting up posters no later than 35 days prior to election day.
2. The obligation referred to in Paragraph 1 rests on consuls with respect to the electoral wards formed abroad with the proviso that this obligation should be implemented no later than 21 days prior to election day.

CHAPTER VI. ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 44.

Elections are conducted by:

1) the State Electoral Commission;
2) district electoral commissions;
3) ward electoral commissions.

ARTICLE 45.

1. Members of electoral commissions forfeit their membership on the day when they sign a consent form for candidacy to the post of a Sejm deputy.
2. Members of electoral commissions may not exercise the role of general or ward representatives of electoral committees.

3. Members of electoral commissions may not, during an electoral campaign, engage in campaigning on behalf of specific candidates or candidate lists.

ARTICLE 46.

1. Members of electoral commissions are entitled to receive per diems and reimbursement of travel expenses in accordance with the guidelines and amounts specified by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers in coordination with the State Electoral Commission.
2. Members of electoral commissions are paid a lump-sum salary for the time spent on conducting the voting and determining the results of the voting and the elections, in accordance with the guidelines and amounts specified by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers in coordination with the State Electoral Commission.
3. In connection with the performance of the activities referred to in Paragraph 2, members of electoral commissions are entitled to a 3-day unpaid work release from their normal occupations and professions upon retaining the right to all the attendant job benefits for that time.
4. The guidelines for and amounts of the remuneration of members of the State Electoral Commission are determined by the speaker of the Sejm.

ARTICLE 47.

Members of electoral commissions are entitled to the legal protection provided for civil servants.

SECTION 1. THE STATE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

ARTICLE 48.

The State Electoral Commission is a permanent body proper in matters of the preparation, organization, and conduct the elections.

ARTICLE 49.

The purposes of the State Electoral Commission include, in particular:

1) monitoring adherence to the electoral law;
2) taking the necessary organizational measured relating to the preparation and conduct of elections;
3) cooperating with the proper offices of the general and local administration with the object of an efficient preparation and conduct of elections;
4) appointing district electoral commissions;
5) examining complaints about the activities of district electoral commissions;
6) registering national lists of candidates for deputies;
7) monitoring the updating of voters lists and the preparation of these lists;
8) examining periodic reports of the National Electoral Office on changes in the basic territorial division of the country and in the population of electoral districts;
9) determining sample ballots and official forms and electoral printing as well as sample seals of district and ward electoral commissions;
10) determining and announcing the final results of elections to the Sejm;
11) issuing to elected Sejm deputies certificate of elections;
12) reporting to the Sejm on elections;
13) implementing other tasks specified in this law.

ARTICLE 50.

1. The State Electoral Commission performs its duties by acting directly of supervising the lower-level electoral commissions established for the period of elections.
2. To accomplish its duties, the State Electoral Commission adopts resolutions and issues guidelines and clarification binding on the lower-level electoral commissions and the offices of the central and local government administrations, as well as on their subordinate units which perform tasks relating to the conduct of elections.
3. The State Electoral Commission establishes its own operating rules as well as the rules binding on district and ward electoral commissions, upon specifying in particular:

   1) operating principles and procedure of the commissions;
   2) manner of exercising supervision over adherence to this law.
   3) manner of exercising supervision over adherence to this law.

4. To assure supervision over adherence to this law, the State Electoral Commission may establish its own inspection team.

ARTICLE 51.

1. The State Electoral Commission determines the guidelines and procedure for utilizing the electronic system for the transmission and processing of data on the results of voting and elections.
2. The Minister of Communication defines, on the recommendation of the State Electoral Commission , the guidelines and requirements for using telecommunications facilities and systems as well as the public telecommunication network for electoral purposes.

ARTICLE 52.

The State Electoral Commission is authorized to use an official seal as construed by the regulations governing state seals. The diameter of the seal is 35 mm.

ARTICLE 53.

1. The membership of the State Electoral Commission consists of:

   1) three justices of the Supreme Court appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
   2) three justices of the Constitutional Tribunal appointed by the Chief Justice of the Constitutional Tribunal.
   3) three justice of the Superior Administrative Court appointed by the chief justice of the Superior Administrative Court.

2. The president appoints the persons referred to in Paragraph 1 to membership in the State Electoral Commission.
3. Members of the State Electoral Commission elect among themselves the chairman and two deputy chairmen.
4. The membership of the State Electoral Commission is made public and announced in DZENNIK URZEDOWY RZECZYPOSPÓLITEJ POLDKIEJ "MONITOR POLSKI".

ARTICLE 54.

1. Changes in the membership of the State Electoral Commission occur owing to:

   1) resignation;
   2) a recommendation by the chief justice who had originally recommended a justice for membership in the Commission;
   3) expiration of the term of office of a member of the Constitutional Tribunal or cessation of employment as a judge.
   4) demise.

2. Membership in the State Electoral Commission is complemented in accordance with the provisions governing its establishment.

ARTICLE 55.

1. The permanent National Electoral Office is established.
2. The National Electoral Office assists the State Electoral Commission in accomplishing its objectives, providing support services thereto.
3. The director of National Electoral Office holds the post of Secretary of State Electoral Commission and attends its session in an advisory capacity.
4. The guidelines for the organizational structure and activities of the National Electoral Office are defined in its statute, conferred by the Speaker of the Sejm on the recommendation of the State Electoral Commission.
5. The National Electoral Office operates on the basis of funds allocated from the state budget in the line item concerning the Chancellery of the Sejm.

SECTION 2. THE DISTRICT ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 56.

1. The duties of district electoral commissions include in particular:

   1) supervising the adherence to provisions of this law by ward electoral commissions;
   2) examining complaints about the activities of ward electoral commissions;
   3) registering district lists of candidates for deputies;
   4) ordering the printing of electoral announcements and providing them to ward electoral commissions;
   5) determining the results of the voting and elections in the electoral district;
   6) assuring the proper preparation and conduct of elections in cooperation with the proper voivode and the village heads and city mayors;
   7) executing other duties specified in this law or recommended by the State Electoral Commission.

2. A district electoral commission may establish its own inspection team with the object of monitoring the activities of ward electoral commissions.

ARTICLE 57.

1. The membership of a district electoral commission consists of 12 judges from locally proper appellate, voivodship, and district courts, indicated by the presiding judges of these courts.
2. The State Electoral Commission appoints to membership in district electoral commissions the persons referred to in Paragraph 1 on the basis of a notice presented by the minister of justice, no later than 85 days prior to election day.
3. The first session of the district electoral commission is convened, on behalf of the State Electoral Commission, by the voivode proper for the site of the district electoral commission.
4. At their first meeting the members of the district electoral commission elect from among themselves a chairman and two deputy chairmen.
5. The district electoral commission appoints a commission secretary on the recommendation of the director of the voivodship electoral office proper for the site of the district electoral commission. The commission secretary attends session of the commission in an advisory capacity.
6. The membership of the district electoral commission is immediately made public by the conventional techniques.

ARTICLE 58.

1. Support services in implementing the purposes of the district electoral commission are provided by the permanent voivodship electoral office operating under the voivodship court, proper for the site of the commission.
2. The director of the voivodship electoral office is appointed and recalled by the voivode in consultation with the director of the National Electoral Office.
3. The organizational structure and operating procedure of the voivodship electoral office are defined by the voivode on the recommendation of the director of the National Electoral Office.
4. the voivodship electoral office operates on the basis of funds allocated from the state budget in the line item concerning the budget of the voivode.

ARTICLE 59.

1. Changes in the membership of the district electoral commission follow the procedure prescribed for the appointment of its members.
2. District electoral commissions are dissolved by the State Electoral Commission after accomplishing their prescribed purposes.

SECTION 3. WARD ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 60.

The duties of ward electoral commissions include;

1) conducting voting in the ward;
2) monitoring, on election day, adherence to this law at the time and place of voting;
3) determining the results of voting in the ward and making them public as well as transmitting voting records to the proper district electoral commission.

ARTICLE 61.

1. The ward electoral commission is appointed by the proper gmina council, no later than 21 days prior to election day, from among voters, on taking into account the recommendations of electoral committees.
2. The ward electoral commission in an electoral ward established abroad is appointed from among voters by the local Polish consul. The related procedure, guidelines, and schedule of appointment are determined by the State Electoral Commission in consultation with the minister of foreign affairs.
3. The ward electoral commission consists of the chairman, the deputy chairman, and four to eight members.
4. The membership of the ward electoral commission is immediately made public by the usual method.
5. Support services and assistance to the ward electoral commission in accomplishing its objectives are provided by the village head of or the city mayor.
6. The obligations refereed to in Paragraph 5 apply correspondingly to the services and assistance to be provided to directors of penitentiaries, detention centers, hospitals, and social care centers, as well as to consuls.

ARTICLE 62.

1. Changes in the membership of the ward electoral commission follow the procedure prescribed for appointments to such membership.
2. The ward electoral commission is dissolved by the district electoral commission after accomplishing its prescribed objectives.

CHAPTER VII. NOMINATING THE LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTIES

ARTICLE 63.

1. The right to nominate district lists of candidates for deputies belongs to voters, political parties and organizations, and social organizations, who and which establish for this purpose national or local electoral committees, hereinafter referred to as "electoral committees".
2. The electoral committees referred to in Paragraph 1 are correspondingly governed by the provisions of the law of 28 July 1990 political parties (Dz.U., No. 54, Item No. 312) - with the exception of Article 4 thereof - and by the provisions of other laws concerning political parties.

ARTICLE 64.

1. District lists of candidates for deputies are nominated by the electoral committees meeting the requirement defined in the present chapter.
2. National lists of candidates for deputies are nominated by the electoral committees which have registered lists of candidates in at least five electoral districts.

ARTICLE 65.

1. The electoral committees which intend to nominate lists of candidates in more than one electoral district notify accordingly the State Electoral Commission no later than 75 days prior to election day.
2. The notice referred to in Paragraph 1 is presented in writing and signed by three persons authorized by the electoral committee to make declarations on matters relating to its activities. The notice should specify:

   1) the full name of the electoral committee (and eventually its acronym) along with its site and exact address;
   2) the full name of the political or social parties and organizations, or of their electoral coalition, forming the electoral committee, of a description of the group of voters associating themselves to establish the electoral committee;
   3) a list of members of the electoral committee;
   4) name, surname, and address of the person representing the electoral committee vis-a-vis the electoral commissions.

3. The name of the electoral committee referred to in Paragraph 2, point 1, should distinguish it from other electoral committees.
4. The notice referred to in Paragraph 2 may also contain a sample logo or logos of the electoral committee, such as would distinguish it from other electoral committees.
5. The political or social parties or organizations forming a joint electoral committee (an electoral coalition), which intend to nominate a national list of candidates may not establish separate electoral committees for nominating district lists of candidates.

ARTICLE 66.

1. The State Electoral Commission, on receiving the notice mentioned in Article 65, Paragraph 2, acknowledges its receipt in writing and publishes information on such notices in a national daily.
2. In the event that the notice is defective, the State Electoral Commission immediately summons the representative of the electoral committee to rectify the errors in the notice within 48 hours. If said errors are not rectified, the State Electoral Commission declines to receive the notice. A decision on the matter together with a rationale is immediately handed to the appropriate electoral committee representative.
3. The decision of the State Electoral Commission referred to in Paragraph 2 may be appealed by the representative of the electoral committee to the Supreme Court within 48 hours from the date it is issued.
4. The Supreme Court considers the matter in a panel of three justices in nonlitigious proceedings within 3 days from the date the appeal is lodged. The Supreme Court arrives at a decision and issues it, together with a rationale, to the appellant and the State Electoral Commission. The ruling of the Supreme Court is final.

ARTICLE 67.

1. No later than 63 days prior to election day the State Electoral Commission casts lots for identifying numbers to be assigned to the lists of candidates for deputies nominated on behalf of the electoral committee referred to in Article 65.
2. The State Electoral Commission immediately notifies the proper district electoral commissions and the representatives of electoral committees of the resulting identifying numbers of lists of candidates for deputies.

SECTION 1. NOMINATING THE DISTRICT LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTIES

ARTICLE 68.

1. A district list of candidates for deputies is nominated to the district electoral commission no later than 55 days prior to election day.
2. The district list of candidates for deputies is nominated by the representative of the electoral committee or by a person he authorizes, hereinafter referred to as "the representative".

3. The number of candidates for deputies nominated on the list may not be fewer than three candidates, but it may not exceed the overall number of deputies standing for election in the given electoral district.
4. District lists of candidates should specify the name, surname, age, occupation, and address of each candidate. Names of candidates are placed on the list in the sequence determined by the electoral committee nominating the list.
5. Each list of nominations should be accompanied by written declaration of consent of the candidates for deputies to candidacy on the given list of candidates.
6. The representative of the electoral committee or a person he authorizes is empowered to provide explanation concerning the given list of candidates.
7. When presenting a list nominated the representative is obligated to provide the appellation of the list (in an abbreviation or acronym form that does not exceed 40 print characters) which is to be printed on the ballot next to the identifying number of the list.
8. The representative may also ask to designate on the list for individual candidates the names or abbreviations of names of the political or other parties or organizations supporting a given candidate. The related request is presented in writing prior to the expiration of the time limit for nominating district lists of candidates for deputies.

ARTICLE 69.

1. The nominated list of candidates for deputies for deputies should be signed by the representatives of the electoral committee or by a person he authorizes.
2. The nominated district list of candidates for deputies, registered in the name of the electoral committee, as mentioned in Article 65, is accompanied by a written authorization of the list's representative, signed by the representative of the electoral committee.
3. The nominated list of candidates for deputies for a single electoral district is accompanied by a notice that correspondingly meets the requirements of Article 65, Paragraphs 2-4.
4. The district list of candidates for deputies should be supported by personal signatures of at least 5,000 voters residing in the given electoral district.
5. A candidate may stand for election from only one district list and in only one electoral district.
6. The representative proposes designating the district list of the electoral committee by an appeal or its abbreviation and by an identifying number cast by lots pursuant to Article 67 and assigned to the lists nominated by the given committee.

ARTICLE 70.

1. If the combined number of voters supporting district lists of candidates for deputies nominated by the same electoral committee exceeds 50,000, or if the given electoral committee registers its district lists in at least five electoral districts, the presentation by the representative of a certificate from the State Electoral Commission attesting that the requirement of Article 69, Paragraph 4, does not apply to the district lists reported on behalf of that electoral committee will suffice to register the lists in additional electoral districts.
2. With regard to an electoral committee formed by an organization representing a national minority, the rights defined in Paragraph 1 apply once lists of candidates in at least two electoral districts are registered, or once at least 20,000 signatures of voters supporting a list of candidates registered in a single electoral district are gathered.

ARTICLE 71.

1. The proper district electoral commission immediately registers the districts the district list of candidates for deputies nominated in accordance with the provisions of this law prepares a record thereof, and notifies correspondingly the representative of the electoral committee or of the list.
2. If the list of nominations contains major errors that cannot be eliminated, the commission refuses to register it upon indicating the causes of its refusal and immediately notifies thereof the list's representative.
3. If the list of nominations contains major errors, the commisstion immediately calls on the representative to rectify them within three days. If the indicated errors are not rectified within three days, the electoral commission refuses to register the list in its entirety or with respect to individual candidates. In the latter case, the list is registered with respect only to those candidates who meet the standard, provided that the requirements of this law are satisfied.
4. The representative has the right to appeal withen three days to the State Electoral Commission the decision to refuse registering the list of individual candidates thereon. The ruling on the appeal is final.

ARTICLE 72.

1. After registering all the districts candidates for deputies, the district electoral commission casts lots no later than 42 days prior to electoral day. For the assignment of identifying numbers to the registered lists, with allowance for the sequence of numbers determined pursuant to Article 67.
2. The district electoral commission immediately notifies the electoral committee representatives about the identifying numbers thus assigned to the lists of candidates for deputies registered in a given electoral district.

ARTICLE 73.

1. The district electoral commission orders the printing of posters comtaining information on registrered lists of candidates, their appealls, and identifying numbers, as well as the personal information reported on the candidates.
2. The posters referred to in Paragraph 1 should be transmitted to the proper voivodship electoral offices, which attend to posting them in the area of a given electoral district no later than 30 days prior to election day. At the same time, one copy of each poster is transmitted to the State Commission.

ARTICLE 74.

1. The district electoral commission deletes from the registered list the names of candidates who:

   1) forfeit their eligibility;
   2) withdraw their consent to candidacy;
   3) pass away.

2. If deleting from the registered district list the name of a candidate who has passed away results in leaving fewer than three names of candidates for deputies on the list, the representative may nominate a new candidate within three days. The list is thus complemented no later than 10 days prior to election day. The provisions of Article 69, Article 4, do not apply here.
3. If deleting the name of a candidate from the list is due to a cause other than that mentioned in Paragraph 1, Point 3, or if the list is not complemented within the time limit referred to in Paragraph 2, and there are fewer than three names of candidates on the list, the district electoral commission invalidates the registration of that list. Its ruling on this matter is final.
4. The district electoral commission immediately notifies voters and the representative about deletion of candidates and the decision referred to in Paragraph 2 and 3.

ARTICLE 75.

1. After the registration of the district lists of candidates, but no later than 38 days prior to election day, representatives of the concerned electoral committees may submit a joint declaration to the district electoral commission concerning the summation of the votes to be cast for their lists in the electoral district, as the rationale for the joint participation of these lists in the allocation of seats in the Sejm (blocks of lists of candidates).
2. The declaration referred to in Paragraph 1 must be in writing. Unless the representatives decide otherwise in the declaration, the seats to be apportioned to joint candidate lists are allocated in direct proportion to the number of votes cast for each of these lists.
3. Information on such blocs of particular lists of candidates is made available to voters by means of the posters referred to in Article 73.

SECTION 2. REPORTING OF NATIONAL LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTIES

ARTICLE 76.

1. An electoral committee may nominate to the State Electoral Commission a national list of candidates for deputies no later than 35 days prior to election day.
2. An electoral committee which has registered district lists of candidates in at least five electoral districts is eligible to nominate a national list of candidates.
3. An electoral committee formed by an organization representing a national minority as referred to in Article 70, Paragraph 2, has the right to nominate a national list of candidates for deputies regardless of the number of district lists of candidates it has registered.
4. The candidates nominated on a national list may be only those who have been registered on district lists of candidates for deputies reported on behalf of given electoral committee. The national list presented for registration should provide information on the identifying numbers of the districts and the appellations and identifying numbers of the district lists on which the concerned candidates were registered.
5. A national list of candidates must contain at least 35 candidates, and a national list nominated by an electoral committee referred to in Article 70, Paragraph 2, must contain at least 10 candidates.
6. When nominated for registration, a national list of candidates for deputies should specify the appellation or acronym of the reporting electoral committee, and it should be signed by an electoral-committee representative who is authorized to make the related declarations.

ARTICLE 77.

1. The registration of national lists of candidates for deputies is correspondingly governed by the provisions of Article 71, Paragraphs 1-3. Decisions to refuse the registration of a national list may be appealed by the electoral-committee representative within three days afterward to the Supreme Court, which considers the appeal within three days in nonlitigous proceedings, applying the corresponding provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure. The ruling of the Supreme Court is final.
2. If it becomes necessary to revise the registered national list of candidates, the provisions of Article 74 apply accordingly.

3. Registered national lists of candidates are correspondingly governed by the provisions of Article 75 Paragraphs 1 and 2, with the exception that the time limit specified in Article 75, Paragraph 1, expires 30 days prior to election day.

ARTICLE 78.

1. After registering all the national lists of candidates for deputies, the State Electoral Commission makes public an announcement containing information on these list, their identifying numbers, the total number of candidates nominated on these lists, and information on not more that 70 candidates per list.
2. The announcement referred to in Paragraph 1 is made public no later than 21 days prior to election day, by being published in a national daily.
3. The announcement referred to in Paragraph 1 is transmitted to all ward electoral commissions.

SECTION 3. WARD REPRESENTATIVES

ARTICLE 79.

1. Representatives of all electoral committees may designate one ward representative each to the proper ward electoral commission upon issuing them suitable certificate in accordance with the sample form defined by the State Electoral Commission.
2. The list of the designated ward representatives referred to in Paragraph 1 is transmitted by the electoral committee representative to the district electoral commission no later than 7 days prior to election day. The list should specify the names and surnames of the ward representatives and name the ward electoral commissions to which the ward representatives are to be assigned.
3. The district electoral commission attends to notifying the ward electoral commissions about the designated ward representatives no later than on the eve of election day.
4. If the need arises to replace a designated ward representative after the expiration of the time limit referred to in Paragraph 2, the electoral-committee representative notifies accordingly the proper ward electoral commission and the district electoral commission no later than on the eve of election day.

CHAPTER VIII. NOMINATING PETITION FOR REPORTING DISTRICT LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTIES

ARTICLE 80.

1. A voter who signs the nominating petition for a district list of candidates for deputies also records his/her name, surname, address, and number of identity card or other documents serving to verify his/her identity.
2. Every page of signatures in the nominating petition should contain the appeall of the electoral committee nominating the district list of candidates for deputies, on specifying the identifying number of the electoral district for which the list of candidates is nominated.
3. The proper electoral commission receiving the nomination verifies in the presence of the electoral-committee representative that the number of signatures on the nominating petition for the district list meets the requirement and issues to said representative a confirmation in writing. After counting the signatures of voters the commission stores the lists of these signatures in a safe place, in closed and sealed packets.
4. A voter may sign nominating petition for more than one district list of candidates.

ARTICLE 81.

1. In the event of justified doubts as to the credibility of voters signatures, the district electoral commission has the right to verify them.
2. Finding that the number of signatures is below the required number results in refusal to accept for registration a district list of candidates, or in invalidating its registration for a given electoral district. The related decision is immediately communicated by the commission to the electoral-committee representative.
3. Doubts as to the credibility of the signatures may be announced no later than 45 days prior to election day.
4. The decision referred to in Paragraph 2 may be appealed within three days afterward by the electoral-committee representative to the territorially proper voivodship court.
5. The voivodship court examines the appeal referred to in Paragraph 4 within 24 hours in nonlitigious proceeding, in a panel of three judges. The court's ruling is final.

CHAPTER IX. BALLOTS

ARTICLE 82.

The ballot for district lists of candidates for deputies specifies the identifying numbers and appellations of all the lists of candidates registered in a given electoral district, along with the names and surnames of all the candidates registered on each of the district lists, plus the information referred to in Article 68, Paragraph 8.

ARTICLE 83.

The ballot should provide concise information about the voting procedure and the consequences of faulty voting (requirements for the validity of the ballot).

ARTICLE 84.

1. The ballot may be printed on one side only. The size and type of font should be the same for all the lists of candidates for deputies.
2. The seal of the proper district electoral commission is imprinted on the ballot.
3. Sample ballots and the procedures for preparing and delivering ballots to ward electoral commissions are determined by the State Electoral Commission.

CHAPTER X. DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF VOTING IN ELECTORAL WARDS

ARTICLE 85.

Immediately after the voting is ended the ward electoral commission determines the results of voting in the ward. Ward representatives of electoral committees may be present during that determination.

ARTICLE 86.

1. The commission determines on the basis of the voters list the number of elligible voters and the number of voters who were issued ballots.
2. The commission determines the number of unused ballots and places these ballots in sealed packets.
3. The commission chairman, in the presence of the commission, opens the ballot box and thereupon counts the ballots it contains.
4. Ballots torn completely in half or into more parts are not considered when determining the voting results.
5. Should the number of ballots in the urn exceed the number referred to in Paragraph 1, the commission states in a written record the probable cause of this discrepancy.

ARTICLE 87.

After the number of ballots cast is determined, the ward electoral commission begins to count the number of ballots cast for every individual district list of candidates for deputies, as well as for every individual candidate on these lists.

ARTICLE 88.

1. If, on the ballot for district lists of candidates, the symbol "X" is marked in the boxes to the left of the names of two more candidates from different lists, or if no such symbol is marked in the box next to the name of any candidate on any list, the ballot is considered invalid.
2. Also invalid are:

   1) ballots other than those officially determined;
   2) Ballots lacking the seal of the ward electoral commission.

3. If the symbol "X" is marked in the box to the left of the names of more than one candidate on the same list, the ballot is considered as cast in favor of the candidate for deputy whose name is printed first on that list.
4. Writing of additional identifying numbers, or list appeall, or of candidate names on the ballots, as well as other handwritten notation or marking on the ballot entail no legal consequences and do not affect the validity of the ballot.

ARTICLE 89.

1. The ward electoral commission prepares two copies of the record of the voting for district lists of candidates.
2. The record should specify the number of ballots dispensed, the number of unused ballots, and the number of:

   1) eligible voters;
   2) voters who were issued ballots;
   3) ballots cut;
   4) valid ballots
   5) invalid ballots;
   6) valid ballots cast separately for each list (combined number of votes cast for candidates on a given list, for each list);
   7) valid ballots cast for individual candidates on each list.

3. The record specifies the time of commencement and ending of voting and discusses the instruction and rulings issued as well as other major circumstances relating to the cours of the voting.

4. The record is signed by all the members of the ward electoral commission present during its preparation. The record is stamped with the seal of the commission.
5. Ward representatives of electoral committees have the right to incorporate their comments in the record, in making their criticism specific.
6. Immediately after the record is prepared the ward electoral commission makes public the results of the voting for district lists of candidates.

ARTICLE 90.

1. The chairman of the ward electoral commission transmits to the district electoral commission data on voting records by means of a public telecommunication network or through electronic data transmission, and at the same time immediately dispatches to the district electoral commission in a sealed envelope a copy of the record of the voting for district lists of candidates.
2. The procedure for the transmission and reception of the records referred to in Paragraph 1 is determined by the State Electoral Commission.

ARTICLE 91.

1. Upon completing the activities mentioned in Article 90, Paragraph 1, the chairman of the ward electoral commission transmits immediately to the proper village head or city mayor documents concerning the voting.
2. Documents from the electoral wards referred to Article 42 are stored by the local Polish consuls.

CHAPTER XI. DETERMINING THE ELECTION RESULTS IN AN ELECTORAL DISTRICT

ARTICLE 92.

1. The district electoral commission, on the basis of the information referred to in Article 90, Paragraph 1, determines the preliminary results of elections in the electoral district, whereupon, on the basis of the voting records received from ward electoral commissions, it begins to determine the number of votes cast for discrete district lists of candidates for deputies as well as to determine the final election results for the electoral district.
2. Representatives of the electoral committees which had nominated the lists of candidates for deputies in the electoral district may be present when determining the results of voting and elections in the district.

ARTICLE 93.

1. Upon determining the number of votes cast in the district for individual district lists, the district electoral commission prepares, on a suitable form, in two copies, a compilation of the number of valid votes cast for individual district lists and of the overall number of these votes.
2. On the basis of the compilation referred to in Paragraph 1 the district electoral commission begins to determine the number of Sejm seats to be apportioned to indvidual district lists. To this end, separately for each list, the number of the valid votes cast for each list in the electoral district is multiplied each time by the number of the deputies to be elected in the district and the resulting number is divided by the overall number of ballots cast for all the district lists. The quotient thus derived (in round of numbers) provides the number of the Sejm seats to be allocated to a given district list of candidates in an electoral district.
3. If, after completing the procedure referred to in Paragraph 2 separately for every individual district list of candidates, some Sejm seats still remain to be apportioned, the remaining seats are allocated to those district lists of candidates for which the computed quotient show the highest values after the decimal point, upon also making allowance for those lists which have not yet been allocated any seat.
4. If more seats are assigned to a district list than there are the candidates registered on that list, the vacant seats are assigned to other district lists, with priority given to the lists with the highest quotient, in descending order.
5. In the event of "bloc" lists (Article 75), when determining the assignment of seats among individual district lists, the number of votes cast for these lists is considered to be the overall number of votes for a single list.

ARTICLE 94.

1. After the number of seats for every individual district list of candidates is determined in accordance with Article 93, the district electoral commission allocates the seats linked to a given list in an electoral district to the candidates for deputies from that list in accordance with the principles defined in Article 95.
2. Before commencing the allocation of seats to candidates from discrete lists, the chairman of the district electoral commission reports to the State Electoral Commission through a public telecommunications network or an electronic transmission network, on the preliminary results of elections in the district concerning the apportionment of seats among the district lists.

ARTICLE 95.

1. Seats assigned to a given district list are allocated to the candidates who won the highest number of votes, in descending order.
2. If two or more candidates win the same number of votes authorizing them to be awarded a seat for a given list, the seat is awarded to the candidate whose name comes first on the list.

ARTICLE 96.

In the event of "bloc" lists (Article 75) first the number of seats to be apportioned to each list is determined according to the rules defined in Article 93, Paragraph 2 and 3, and then the provisions of Article 95 are applied correspondingly with respect to each list, with allowance for the declaration referred to in Article 75, Paragraph 1 and 2.

ARTICLE 97.

1. Following the final determination of election results in the electoral district, the district electoral commission prepares two copies of the record on elections of deputies to the Sejm in the electoral district.
2. The record should specify the number of the deputies being elected in the district, as well as the number of:

   1) eligible voters;
   2) voters who were issued ballots;
   3) ballots cast;
   4) invalid ballots;
   5) valid ballots;
   6) valid ballots cast for each list;
   7) seats apportioned to each list;
   8) valid ballots cast for individual candidates from each district list;
   9) names and surnames of the deputies who were allocated seats, upon specifying the identifying numbers of the lists from which they were allocated them.

3. The provisions of Article 89, Paragraphs 4 and 5, apply accordingly.
4. The record is accompanied by the compilation referred to in Article 93.
5. Immediately after preparing the record mentioned in Paragraph 2, the district electoral commission makes public the election results in the electoral district.

ARTICLE 98.

The record referred to in Article 97 is, together with appendices, immediately transmitted by the chairman of the district electoral commission to the State Electoral Commission by a procedure defined by the latter. Other election documents are stored by the director of the voivodship the electoral office proper for the seat of the district electoral commission until such time as suitable instructions arrive from the State Electoral Commission.

CHAPTER XII. DETERMINING ELECTION RESULTS FOR NATIONAL LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTIES ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF ELECTIONS TO THE SEJM

ARTICLE 99.

On the basis of the reports on preliminary results of the elections to the Sejm referred to in Article 94, Paragraph 2, as transmitted by the district electoral commissions, the State Electoral Commission makes public these results concerning the allocation of seats among district lists in electoral districts.

ARTICLE 100.

1. The State Electoral Commission, upon receiving the records from the district electoral commissions, and upon verifying the correctness with which the results of elections in electoral districts were determined, commences to allocate seats among national lists of candidates for deputies.
2. The seats to be allocated among the national lists of candidates for deputies are apportioned among those lists, nominated by electoral committees, which won seats for deputies in at least five electoral districts, or whose related district lists won overall at least 5 percent of the valid ballots cast for all the district lists in all the electoral districts.
3. In the case of "bloc" national lists (Article 75 and 77), when determining the allocation of seats among discrete national lists, the overall number of votes cast for the district lists linked to discrete and "bloc" national lists is considered to be the number of votes cast for a single list. After the overall number of seats to be allocated to the "bloc" list is determined, the allocation of seats among these lists is performed in accordance with the principles defined in Article 101.
4. The provisions of Paragraph 2 do not apply to the national lists of candidates for deputies nominated by the electoral committees referred to in Article 76, Paragraph 3.

ARTICLE 101.

1. Seats are allocated to discrete national lists of candidates for deputies in relation to the overall number of voter cast for the district lists linked to a given national list of candidates. The State Electoral Commission apportions the seats among the discrete national lists of candidates for deputies as follows:

   1) the number of valid ballots cast for the district lists of a given electoral committee which has registered a national list is divided successively by 1,4 (one and four-tenths); 3; 5; 7; and so forth through a sequence of odd numbers until the moment when the quotient thus derived can be used to rank successively as many highest numbers as there are seats to

be allocated among the national lists of candidates for deputies.

2) each national list of candidates is assigned as many seats as there are successively highest numbers for that list from among the sequence of quotient determined above.

2. If in several lists the quotients are equal to the last of the numbers ranked on the manner given above, and if there are more of those lists than there are seats available for apportionment, priority should be given to the national list of the electoral committee which has won the most seats in the districts. If two or more electoral committees won the same number of seats in districts, priority is given to the committee which wins a greater number of votes nationwide for the district lists it has reported.
3. Seats to be allocated for a given national list of candidates for deputies are won by the candidates from that list in the sequence in which their names are placed on the list - on excluding the candidates who have already won seats in electoral districts.
4. If a national list is assigned more seats than the number of candidates registered on that list, the remaining vacant seats are assigned to other lists, with priority given to the lists with the highest successive quotients.
5. The State Electoral Commission prepares a separate record of elections of deputies from national lists of candidates for deputies. In that record it reports:

1) the number of votes cast for individual lists;
2) a roster of national lists of candidates for deputies together with the number of votes casts in district for the lists of individual electoral committees, on specifying the districts in which these lists won seats and the proportion of votes they won nationwide, and also on naming the electoral committees whose lists are eligible for the allocation of seats among national lists of candidates for deputies:
3) the number of seats allocated to individual national lists of candidates for deputies;
4) names and surnames of the deputies who were allocated seats, on specifying the identifying numbers of the national lists from which they won these seats and of the electoral districts in which they had stood for elections.

ARTICLE 102.

1. The State Electoral Commission, after allocating seats among national lists of candidates for deputies, makes public in the form of an announcement the final results of elections to the Sejm.
2. The announcement referred to in Paragraph 1 must contain basic information from the election records reported by the district electoral commissions (Article 97) and from the record of elections of deputies from national lists of candidates for deputies (Article 101, Paragraph 4).
3. The announcement referred to in Paragraph 2 is immediately published at the expense of the State Electoral Commission in a national daily and printed in DZIENNIK URZEDOWY RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ "MONITOR POSLKI".
4. The State Electoral Commission published a statistical report containing specific information on the results of the voting and elections to the Sejm.
5. The State Electoral Commission determines the mode of the transmission, storage, and accessing of election documents, and in particular of those referred to in Article 91, Article 98, and Articles 100-101.

ARTICLE 103.

The State Electoral Commission issues certificates of election to the elected deputies to the Sejm.

ARTICLE 104.

The State Electoral Commission presents to the Sejm at its first session a report on the elections.

CHAPTER XIII. VALIDITY OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 105.

1. On the basis of the report on the elections presented by the State Electoral Commission, the Sejm affirms the validity of elections of deputies if said elections are not contested.
2. In the event of the election of a deputy is contested, he/she has the right to participate in the work of the Sejm until the matter is resolved.

ARTICLE 106.

1. The election of a deputy or the validity of elections may be contested on the ground of violation of the provisions of this law concerning voting, the determination of the results of voting or elections, or the perpetration of an electoral crime, if said violation or crime may have affected the results of election.
2. A complaint against the election of a deputy or deputies in an electoral district may be lodged by a voter who had been, on election day, registered on the list of voters in one of the electoral wards in the area of the electoral district in question.
3. The complaint against the results of elections from national lists of candidates for deputies may be lodged by any voter.
4. If the grounds for the complaint are an accusation of an electoral crime, or of a violation by the State Electoral Commission of the provisions of this law concerning voting or the determination of the results of voting or elections, the complaint may

be lodged by any voter.

5. The voting Supreme Court does not act on any complaints concerning matters with regard to which this law provides for the possibility of lodging a complaint with or appealing to a court of law or the State Electoral Commission, respectively, before election day.

ARTICLE 107.

1. The complaint is presented in writing to the Supreme Court no later than 7 days from the day on which the final results of elections are made public by the State Electoral Commission. The mailing of the complaint at a Polish post office within that time limit is tantamount to filing it with the Supreme Court.
2. The date on which final results of elections are made public is the day on which the announcement referred to in Article 102, Paragraph 2, is published in a national daily.
3. With regard to the voters mentioned in Article 42, Paragraph 1, the requirements referred to in Paragraph 1 are considered as satisfied if the complaint is presented to the local Polish consul.
4. The complainter should formulate in his/her written complaint accusations or present or indicate the evidence on which he/she bases his/her accusations.

ARTICLE 108.

1. The Supreme Court does not consider complaints filed by persons who are not eligible under Article 106, or if the complaint is filed following the expiration of the lime limit specified in Article 107, Paragraph 1.
2. If a complaint does not meet the requirements referred to in Article 107, Paragraph 1, the Supreme Court does not act on it.
3. If the complaint contains an accusation of an electoral crime, the Supreme Court immediately notifies the Prosecutor General.

ARTICLE 109.

1. The Supreme Court considers the complaint in a panel of three justices, in nonlitigous proceedings, upon applying the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure.
2. The parties in the proceeding are, by virtue of law, the complainter, the chairman of the concerned electoral commission or his deputy, and the Prosecutor General.
3. The Supreme Court issues an opinion on the complaint and transmits it, together with the dossier of the case, to the Sejm.

ARTICLE 110.

1. On examining the accusations contained in the complaint and the opinion of the Supreme Court, the Sejm decides on the validity of the election of the deputy.
2. In declaring the elections of a deputy to be invalid, the Sejm at the same time decides on the conduct of by-elections and the extent of the invalidation.

ARTICLE 111.

1. By-elections are held by the procedure and in accordance with the guidelines prescribed in this law, within three months from the date the Sejm passes a resolution for conducting the by-elections.
2. The president's order for by-elections is announced no later than 10 days after the Sejm passes the resolution referred to in Paragraph 1.
3. In ordering the by-elections the president specifies the election timetable, in which he may specify, with respect to discrete electoral activities, shorter time limits than those prescribed in this law.

ARTICLE 112.

Voting in by-elections is conducted solely on national territory.

CHAPTER XIV. EXPIRATION OF A DEPUTY'S MANDATE AND COMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF SEJM

ARTICLE 113.

1. A deputy's mandate expires due to:

   1) invalidation of his/her election;
   2) refusal to swear the deputy's oath;
   3) loss of electoral rights;
   4) resignation of mandate;
   5) demise.

2. The expropriation of a deputy's mandate is confirmed by the Sejm.

ARTICLE 114.

1. In the event of the expiration of mandate of a deputy elected from a district list of candidates the Sejm, in confirming the expiration of the mandate, passes a resolution for replacing the deputy with a candidate from the same list who won the next highest number of votes and has not forfeited his/her electoral rights. If there is a tie, the preferred candidate is the one who won the higher number of the district list. In the case of a national list of candidates, the preferred candidate is the one named first on the list.
2. A candidate may relinquish his/her priority right to occupy the seat in favor of another candidate from the same list who won the next highest number of votes. The declaration of relinquishment of priority should be presented to the speaker of the Sejm within seven days from the date the candidate is notified of being awarded the seat.
3. If, in the event of expiration of a deputy's mandate, the adoption of a Sejm resolution to replace him/her with another candidate from the same list is impossible owing to absence of eligible candidates, the seat in question remains vacant until the end of the term of office.

CHAPTER XV. THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND ITS FUNDING

ARTICLE 115.

The electoral campaign begins on the day the president's order designating the date of elections is issued and is subject to termination 24 hours prior to election day.

ARTICLE 116.

1. Voter meetings organized with the object of gathering nominating petitions for lists of candidates for deputies and convened and held as part of the electoral campaign waged on behalf of these candidates are not subject to the provisions of the law of 5 July 1990 Concerning Assemblies (Dz.U., No. 51, Item No. 297).
2. Any voter can collect nominating signatures for the lists of candidates for deputies presented by electoral committees and disseminate electoral programs, campaign in favor of the lists of candidates or individual candidates for deputies, and also organize voter rallies.
3. The signatures for nominating petitions referred to in Paragraph 2 may be collected at a place and time and in a manner precluding the application of any pressures whatsoever ixtended to extort signatures.

ARTICLE 117.

Starting with the 7th day prior to election day, until voting is ended, the publicizing of the findings of pre-election polls of public opinion concerning the expected conduct of voters and results of elections is prohibited, as well as publicizing of the findings of voters polls conducted on election day.

ARTICLE 118.

1. All election posters, slogans, or flyers containing an explicit notation of their origin or identifying their distributor are subject to legal protection.
2. The posting of election posters is exempt from the provisions of Article 63a of the Code of Petty Offenses.

ARTICLE 119.

1. Election posters and slogans may be affixed to walls or of building and to partitions solely with the consent of the owner or administrator of the real estate.
2. Posting election posters and slogans outside and inside the buildings or central and local government administrations and courts of law, as well as on the territory of military units, civil defense units, and barracked police units, is prohibited.
3. The village head or the city mayor may prohibit, by means of an executive order, the posting of posters and slogans to certain public buildings or specified parts of public areas for reasons relating to the protection of landmarks or environment.
4. The installation of private sound-magnifying facilities with the object of waging the electoral campaign is subject to the applicable regulations governing public order.
5. Posters should be posted in a manner facilitating their subsequent removal without causing damage.
6. The police are required to remove posters and slogans affixed in a manner that may endanger life or health, safety of property, or road traffic.

ARTICLE 120.

1. In the event that election posters, slogans, flyers, or other forms of campaigning contain untrue or imprecise data and information, any concerned person has the right to file with a district court a request for ruling in favor of the confiscation of such materials or issuing a prohibition or some appropriate temporary order against the publication of such data and information.
2. The district court considers the request referred to in Paragraph 1 within 24 hours, in nonlitigous proceedings in a panel of one judge. The ruling that terminates the proceedings in such a case is immediately communicated by the court to the complainant referred to in Paragraph 1, the proper district electoral commission, and the person or organization required to enforce the court's ruling. The ruling of the district court can be appealed within 24 hours to the voivodship court, which is

obligated to consider the appeal within 24 hours also. A valid court ruling is subject to immediate enforcement.

ARTICLE 121.

1. Electoral campaigning is prohibited on the area of workplaces and public institutions in a manner and forms interfering with their normal operations.
2. Electoral campaigning is prohibited in the area of military units and other organizational units under the jurisdiction of the minister of national defense as well as among civil-defence units and barracked police units.

ARTICLE 122.

1. Electoral committees which registered lists of candidates for deputies are guaranteed equal access to state mass media, pursuant to the provisions of this law.
2. The Polish Press Agency and Polish Radio and Polish Television present, on principles of equality and without charging a fee, during the period between 50 and 31 days prior to election day, the program assumptions of the electoral committees nominating the lists of candidates for deputies in more than one electoral district.
3. In the last 30 days prior to election day, until the ending of the electoral campaign, Polish Radio and Polish Television grant to the electoral committees which had registered lists of candidates in more than one electoral district, free time slots on national or regional programs for their campaign broadcasts.
4. The chairman of the Committee for Radio and Television shall determine no later than 65 days prior to election day:

   1) the terms and scope of the free use of the services of Polish Radio and Polish Television to produce the campaign broadcast referred to in Paragraph 3 and Article 124, Paragraph 1;
   2) a price list and rules for using additional services rendered by Polish Radio and Polish Television with the object of notifying voter audiences.

5. The representative referred to in Article 123, Paragraph 2, shall, no later than 65 days prior to election day, notify the representatives of electoral committees about the technical specifications defined by Polish radio and Polish Television to which must correspond the election broadcasts produced outside these institutions, and he also shall specify the terms and conditions for the utilization of the equipment adapting these broadcasts to the broadcasting standards mandatory at Polish Radio and Polish Television.
6. During the period referred to in Paragraphs 2 and 3 Polish Radio and Polish Television are obligated, in their background programs about the electoral campaign, to present in equal proportions information on the activities of the various electoral committees which registered their candidate lists in more than one electoral district.

ARTICLE 123.

1. In national programs of Polish Radio and Polish Television the combined time of disseminating free campaign broadcasts for the period starting 30 days before election day and ending with the day on which the electoral campaign is terminated, may not be:

   1) shorter than 25 hours or longer than 30 hours, for Polish Television;
   2) shorter than 50 hours or longer than 60 hours, for Polish Radio.

2. The allocation of broadcasting time among the electoral committees referred to in Article 70 is performed by the representative for campaign broadcasts, appointed no later than 75 days prior to election day by the chairman of the Committe for Radio and Television.
3. The representative referred to in Article 2 rules on the allocation of broadcasting time after consulting a council, no later than 48 days prior to election day.
4. The council referred to in Paragraph 3 consist of representatives of the electoral committees referred to in Article 70, one each from each committee.

ARTICLE 124.

1. In regional programs of Polish Radio and Polish Television the combined time allocated at no charge for campaign broadcasts, for the entire period starting 30 days prior to election day and ending with the day on which the electoral campaign is terminated, may not be:

   1) shorter than 8 hours or longer than 10 hours, in Polish Television;
   2) shorter than 25 hours or longer than 30 hours, in Polish Radio.

2. The allocation of broadcasting time among electoral committees which had registered lists of candidates for deputies in the electoral districts to which extends the radius of the radio or television broadcasting of a given Polish Radio or polish Television station, or performed by regional representatives for campaign broadcasts, appointed, no later than 70 days prior to election day, by the management of the regional stations.
3. Broadcasting time is allocated among electoral committee in proportion to the number of the candidates they register.

4. The representative referred to in Paragraph 2 rules on the allocation of broadcasting time after consulting a council, no later than 38 days prior to election day.
5. The council referred to in Paragraph 4 consists of the representatives of the electoral committees referred to in Paragraph 2, one each from each committee.

ARTICLE 125.

1. Irrespective of the broadcasting time granted to it at no fee, any electoral committee which has registered a list of candidates for deputies may additionally broadcast for a fee, twice daily, via Polish Radio or Polish Television, electoral programs lasting for one minute.
2. The combined time of the electoral broadcasting referred to in Paragraph 1 may not exceed 10 minutes of the combined time assigned to a given electoral committee for broadcasting electoral programs at no fee.
3. The director of the national program of Polish Radio or Polish Television and the directors of regional centers of Polish Radio or Polish Television may not refuse broadcasting for a fee the electoral programs referred to in Paragraph 1.
4. The amount of the fees charged for electoral broadcasts as referred to in Paragraph 1 may not exceed 50 percent of fees charged for broadcasting commercials and must be the same for all and determined according to the price list binding on the day on which elections were ordered.
5. The programs referred to in Paragraph 1 are broadcast on the same principles as those applied to commercials by Polish Television.
6. Broadcasting time slots for the programs referred to in Paragraph 1 are determined by the representatives referred to in Article 123, Paragraph 2, and Article 124, Paragraph 2, may be appealed within 48 hours afterward to the State Electoral Commission. The ruling of the State Electoral Commission is final.

ARTICLE 127.

Electoral committees have the right to utilize the archival resources of Polish Radio or Polish Television, on following the rules applicable in these institutions.

ARTICLE 128.

Information, press releases, and electoral appeals and slogans published in the mass media (the print media, or radio, or television) at the expense of an electoral committee, a political party, or another social organization supporting candidates for deputies, and also at the expense of these candidates themselves, must specify the name of the payor and meet the requirements of Article 118, Paragraph 1.

ARTICLE 129.

1. Irrespective of the provisions of Articles 31-34 of the Press Law of 24 January 1984 (Dz.U., No.5. Item No. 24,1984; No.41, Item No.324, 1988; and No.34, Item No.187, 1989), untrue or clearly imprecise information concerning the elections and linked to the electoral campaign, when published in the press and in nonperiodical publications, requires immediate rectification, and the time limit for publishing the rectification is 48 hours.
2. In the event of refusal of rectification, the complainant has the right to request a district court to issue an appropriate ruling, and the court is obligated to consider the request within 24 hours in nonlitigious proceedings in a panel of one judge. The related ruling of the court is immediately conveyed to the complainant and to the person obligated to publish the rectification. The ruling of the district court can be appealed, within 24 hours to the voivodship court, which is obligated to consider the appeal within 24 hours also. A valid ruling of the court is subject to immediate enforcement.
3. Regarding the rectification of reports printed in periodical publications, the court names the daily newspaper in which the rectification in to be published, at the expense of the defendant, within 48 hours.
4. In the event of refusal or failure to publish the rectification by the defendant or by a party named in the court's ruling, on the motion of the complainant the court orders publishing the rectification in executive proceedings as detailed in the court's ruling.

ARTICLE 130.

The exercise of the rights ensuring from this law does not restrict the possibility of the filing of claims for the exercise of these rights by wronged or injured parties pursuant to the provisions of other laws, and in particular of the Penal Code, the Civil Code, and the Press Law - against persons whose actions during the electoral campaign infringed upon the personal or property rights of others.

ARTICLE 131.

1. The expenses of nominating lists of candidates and waging the electoral campaign on their behalf come from the funds of the electoral committees nominating these lists.
2. Legal entities and individuals may donate funds for the electoral campaign to representatives of electoral committees.
3. The funds donated by legal entities for the electoral campaign can only derive from profits. this also applies to the provision of services at no charge.
4. Funds for the electoral campaign may not be donated if they drive from:

   1) the state budget and state organizational units;

2) the budget of gminas [township], local government unions, and municipal associations;
3) state economic entities;
4) foreign sources.

ARTICLE 132.

1. Representatives of electoral committees may organize public collections of funds for the electoral campaign.
2. The organization of a public collection does not require a permit.

ARTICLE 133.

1. The funding of the electoral campaign is made public
2. An electoral committee which has registered lists of candidates in more than one electoral district submits, within three months from election day, to the State Electoral Commission a financial report containing information on the expenditures incurred in waging the electoral campaign and on the sources of the funds obtained for that purpose.
3. The obligation referred to in Paragraph 1 [i.e., Paragraph 2], also applies to the electoral committee which has registered its list of candidates in only one electoral district. That committee submits its financial report to the appropriate district electoral commission.
4. The State Electoral Commission shall determine the format of the financial report to be submitted by electoral committees.
5. The reports referred to in Paragraph 2 are made public and published in DZIENNIK URZEDOWY RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ "MONITOR POLSKI", while the reports referred to in Paragraph 3 are made available for public inspection.

ARTICLE 134.

1. The expenses referred to in Article 131, Paragraph 1 may not exceed, for any registered district list of candidates in an electoral district, the equivalent of 60 times the average monthly wage paid in the six basic subdivisions of the manufacturing sector for the month preceding the announcement of the president's order designating the date of elections.
2. In the event the ceiling for the expenses referred to in Paragraph 1 is exceeded, the Treasury office proper locally for the seat of the electoral committee imposes a fine amounting to five times the amount exceeded.
3. The ruling imposing the fine and the collection of that fine from the representative of the electoral committee is governed by the corresponding regulations concerning the levying and collection of taxes from physical persons.

ARTICLE 135.

1. The State Electoral Commission or a district electoral commission may, on its own initiative or on the proposal of the concerned electoral committee, apply to the locally proper Treasury office with a request to audit the expenditures relating to the electoral campaign waged by electoral committees.
2. The audit referred to in Paragraph 1 is conducted after the proper electoral commission receives a financial report submitted by the electoral committee, or in the event of failure to receive that report within the legally defined time limit.
3. Expenditures of electoral committees are audited in conformity with the corresponding regulations governing tax audit.
4. Representatives of electoral committees are obligated to keep documents connected to the funding of the electoral camping for at least 6 months after election day.

CHAPTER XVI. SPECIAL, INTERIM AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 136.

1. Whoever posts election posters and slogans in violation of the provisions of Article 116 or violates the provisions of Article 121 is subject to the penalty of a fine.
2. Proceedings in the cases referred to in Paragraph 1 are governed by the regulations on proceedings in cases of petty offenses.

ARTICLE 137.

1. The expenses of the organization of preparations for elections and of the conduct of elections are defrayed from the state budget.
2. In connection with elections, the state budget earmarks funds relating to:

   1) implementation of the objectives of the State Electoral Commission as prescribed in this law and the provision of support services thereto by the National Electoral Office;
   2) implementation of other electoral objectives by the central and local agencies of state administration;
   3) implementation of the purposes of the district electoral commissions and the provision of support services thereto by voivodship electoral offices;
   4) operations of ward electoral offices and the implementation of centrally assigned electoral duties by village heads or city mayors;
   5) the provision of free broadcasting time at no charge and assistance in the production of campaign broadcasts by Polish Radio and Polish Television pursuant to Articles 122-124.

3. Each year the state budget earmarks funds for the operation of the State Electoral Commission, the National Electoral Office, and voivodship electoral offices, as well as for the conduct and updating of permanent registers of voters by village heads and city mayors, and, during the electoral campaign, for the activities of Polish Radio and Polish Television.
4. A report on the expenditures defrayed from the state budget as relating to the conduct of elections is made public by the State Electoral Commission within four months from election day.

ARTICLE 138.

The corresponding provisions of laws governing the establishment, revision, and dissolution of employment relationship and the remuneration and other benefits based on that relationship apply to persons employed by the National Electoral Office and the voivodship electoral offices. Also applicable thereto are the provisions of laws governing the rights and responsibilities of persons appointed to executive posts in the state administration under special regulations, and the provisions of the law on employees of state offices.

ARTICLE 139.

All writing and legal and administrative proceedings concerning electoral matters are fee-exempt.

ARTICLE 140.

1. The provisions of Article 37 do not apply to the first elections ordered on the basis of this law.
2. In the first elections to the Sejm ordered on the basis of this law. Polish citizens who are permanent foreign residents and prove their Polish citizenship by showing document other than a valid Polish passport are admitted to voting.

ARTICLE 141.

1. The State Electoral Commission that was established under the Law of 7 April 1989 Governing Elections to the 10th Sejm of the People's Republic of Poland for the years 1989-93 (Dz.U., No.19, Item No. 102; and No.36, Item No. 198) is hereby abolished.
2. In the first elections to the Sejm conducted pursuant to the provisions of this law the president shall, within seven days from the date of publication of this law, appoint the persons referred to in Article 53 to membership in the State Electoral Commission and convene its first session.

ARTICLE 142.

1. The voivodship electoral offices established under this law also perform duties ensuing from the Law of 8 March 1980 Governing Elections to Gmina Councils (Dz.U., No.16 Item No.96) relating to the conduct of elections to gmina councils.
2. The guidelines for performing the duties referred to in Paragraph 1 are established by the General Elections Commissioner in consultation with the director of the National Electoral Office.

ARTICLE 143.

Computerized findings on the results of voting and elections remain unofficial in nature until their confirmation by the concerned electoral commissions in the form of records prepared in accordance with the provisions of this law.

ARTICLE 144.

Whenever this law refers to the expiration of the time limit for filing a complaint or an appeal with a court of law or an electoral commission, it should be construed to mean the day on which the complaint or appeal is lodged with a court or a commission.

ARTICLE 145.

1. In the Law of 10 May 1991 Governing Elections to the Senate of the Republic of Poland the following amendments are incorporated:

   1) in Article 12:

      a) in Paragraph 1 the reference to "Article 69 and Article 71" is deleted;
      b) in Paragraph 2 "referred to in the Sejm Electoral Law" is deleted.

   2) in Article 18, Paragraph 2 the references to "Articles 118-125" are replaced with references to "Articles 105-112";
   3) in Article 21, Paragraph 1, the reference to "Articles 129-149" is replaced with a reference to "Articles 115-135"

2. The president of the Republic of Poland shall order the publication of the text of the Law Governing Elections to the Senate of the Republic of Poland in a form incorporating the amendments referred to in Paragraph 1.

ARTICLE 146.

The Law of 7 April 1989 Governing Elections to the 10th Sejm of the People's Republic of Poland for the years 1989-93 (Dz.U., No.19, Item No.102; and No.36, Item No.198) is hereby declared null and void.

ARTICLE 147.

This law takes effect on the day of its publication.

Romania

LAW № 68/1992
ON THE ELECTION TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND THE SENATE

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate shall be elected by universal, equal, direct, secret, and freely expressed suffrage, under the conditions of the present law.

ARTICLE 2.

Each voter has the right to cast a single vote for the election to the Chamber of Deputies and a single vote for the election of the Senate.

ARTICLE 3.

1. Deputies and Senators shall be elected in constituencies on the basis of a list system and independent candidatures, according to the principle of proportional representation.
2. The norm of representation for the election to the Chamber of Deputies shall be of one Deputy to seventy thousand inhabitants.
3. The norm of representation for the election to the Senate shall be of one Senator to one hundred and sixty thousand inhabitants.
4. The number of Deputies and Senators which will be elected shall be determined by relating the number of inhabitants of each constituency to the norms of representation provided under paragraphs (2) and (3), to which it shall be added one Deputy or Senator seat for what exceeds half the representation norm, without the number of Deputies being smaller than four, and that of Senators smaller than two.
5. The number of inhabitants taken into account, according to paragraph (4), shall be that existing on July 1 of the preceding year, published in the Statistical Year Book of Romania. If, at least five months before the date of elections, a general census of the population takes place, the number of inhabitants taken into account shall be that resulting from the census, and published by the National Committee for Statistics.
6. The numbering of the constituencies, and the number of Deputies and Senators which are to be elected in each constituency are provided in Schedule No. 1.

ARTICLE 4.

1. Legally constituted organizations of citizens belonging to a national minority, which in the elections have not obtained at least one Deputy or Senator mandate shall have the right, together, according to Article 59, paragraph (2) of the Constitution, to a deputy mandate, if they have obtained throughout the country at least five per sent of the average number of validly expressed votes throughout the country for the election of one Deputy.
2. The organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities participating in the elections shall be, as far as electoral operations are concerned, juridically equivalent to political parties.
3. Organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities which have participated in the elections on the common list of these organizations shall also benefit by the provisions under paragraph (1); in this case, if no candidate from the common list has been elected, a Deputy mandate shall be assigned for all the organizations which have proposed the list, under the observance of the provisions under paragraph (1).
4. The provisions under paragraph (3) shall not apply to an organization of citizens belonging to a national minority which has participated in the elections on the common list with a party or another political formation, or both on common lists, according to paragraph (3), and on their own separate lists.
5. The Deputy mandate assigned according to paragraph (1) or (3) shall be granted over and above the total number of Deputies resulting from the norm of representation.

ARTICLE 5.

1. The candidacies for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate shall be proposed on separate lists of candidates only by parties and other political formations constituted according to the law.
2. The number of candidates on each list can be greater than the number of mandates resulting from the norm of representation by two to one quarter of these mandates; fractions shall be rounded up to the figure one.
3. In the same constituency, a party, a political formation, or a coalition of these ones shall be allowed to propose, for each of the Chambers of Parliament, only a single list of candidates. Coalitions of parties and of political formations shall be allowed to be made only at the national level. Parties and political formations from electoral coalitions shall be allowed to participate in elections only on the lists of the coalition. A party or a political formation can belong only to a single electoral coalition.
4. The lists of candidates shall also specify the political affiliation of the candidates, as the case may be.
5. An independent candidate can participate in elections only individually, and if he or she has the support of at least 0.5% of the total number of voters registered in the permanent lists of the localities situated in the constituency in which he or she has put up their candidature. Independent candidatures on lists of candidates proposed by parties or political formations, or by coalitions of these ones shall not be permitted, nor shall be permitted lists of independent candidates.

6. One person may stand as candidate either for a Deputy mandate, or for a Senator one, and only in a single constituency.
7. Candidatures on several lists of candidates, or both on lists and as independents shall be void.

ARTICLE 6.

1. The date of elections shall be settled, and publicly announced by the Government, at least sixty days before the election day, and up to the passage of five days since the date when the terms provided under Article 60, paragraph (2) of the Constitution start to be counted.
2. Elections shall take place in a single day, which shall be only Sunday.
3. The sequential number of the ballot on the voter's card shall be established and announced publicly by the Government at the same time as the date of elections.
4. The public announcement shall be made through the "Monitorul Oficial" of Romania and through the press.

CHAPTER II. VOTER LIST AND VOTER'S CARDS

SECTION 1. VOTER LIST

ARTICLE 7.

The voter lists shall include the citizens with the right to vote. They shall be permanent or special.

ARTICLE 8.

1. The permanent voter lists shall be drawn up for each locality, and they shall include all the citizens with the right to vote who have their domicile in the locality for which these lists were prepared. Romanian citizens residing abroad may, at their request, be registered in the permanent voter lists of the locality where they were born, or where they had their last domicile in the country. The request shall be presented to the Diplomatic Mission of Romania in the country where they reside, or to the local council directly.
2. The permanent voter lists shall be drawn up by the mayors of the communes, towns, municipalities, or of the territorial-administrative subdivisions of the municipalities.
3. The permanent voter lists shall be drawn up at communes by villages, and at towns, municipalities, and territorial-administrative subdivisions of municipalities, by streets.
4. The permanent voter lists shall specify the name and surname, date of birth, and residence of the voters, according to the running number of the buildings in which they live, as well as the number of the constituency.
5. The permanent voter lists shall be drawn up in two official fair copies signed by the mayor and the secretary of the local council, and they shall be filed in two special registers with detachable leaves, one of which shall be kept by the secretary of the local council and the other by the court of first instance in whose territorial area the respective locality is situated.
6. The mayor shall compulsorily inform the court of any changes in the voter lists.

ARTICLE 9.

1. The permanent voter lists shall be updated by the mayors, every year in January as well as within fifteen days at the most after the date established as polling day.
2. Deceased persons shall be struck off from the voter list on the basis of a notification received from the local public service where the demise was recorded. The notification shall be transmitted within twenty four hours.
3. Persons who have lost the Romanian citizenship shall be struck off from the voter list on the basis of a notification from the Ministry of Justice.
4. Disfranchised persons shall be struck off from the voter list on the basis of a notification, ex officio, from the judicial instance.

ARTICLE 10.

1. Each voter shall be registered only in a single permanent voter list.
2. The registration in the permanent voter lists is compulsory. In case of change of domicile, the authority competent to effect the change shall be compelled, ex officio, to communicate to the mayor the necessary data for the registration of the respective citizen in the voter list at the new domicile and for correspondingly striking him off from the voter list of the locality of the former domicile.

ARTICLE 11.

Special voter lists shall be drawn up in the cases provided by the present law, and they shall specify the name and surname, domicile, date of birth, number and series of the identity paper of the voter. The lists shall be signed by the president of the electoral commission of the polling station where they were drawn up.

ARTICLE 12.

1. The voters have the right to verify their registration in the voter lists. Objections against omissions, wrong registrations, and against any possible errors in the lists shall be presented to the authorities which have drawn up the lists, and these shall be compelled to settle the objection by an order within three days at the most after the date of registration.

2. Complaints of the orders passed shall be settled within three days at the most after their registration, by the court of first instance in whose territorial area the voter resides, or, in the case of those recorded in special lists, by the court of first instance in whose territorial area the electoral commission of the polling station which has drawn up the list is situated. The judgment delivered shall be executory. Against the judgment passed an appeal can be made within forty eight hours after its declaration. The appeal shall be settled within three days after its registration.
3. Objections formulated with regard to the special lists from abroad shall be settled by the head of the diplomatic mission or by his deputy. Complaints of the dispositions given by the head of the diplomatic mission or by his deputy shall be registered at the seat of the mission and shall be sent for settling to the court of first instance of the first district of the municipality of Bucuresti, the provisions of paragraph (2) being correspondingly applied.

ARTICLE 13.

1. The mayors who have drawn up the permanent voter lists shall send a copy of the lists, including the voters in each polling station, to the electoral commission of the polling stations, within twenty four hours from their setting up.
2. Modifications that have taken place after the copies of the voter lists have been sent shall be notified to the court of first instance and to the electoral commission of the polling station within twenty four hours.

SECTION 2. VOTER'S CARDS

ARTICLE 14.

1. The right to vote shall be exercised only on the basis of a voter's card, issued under the terms of the present law. Romanian citizens from abroad can also vote without a voter's card.
2. The form of the voter's card is presented in Schedule No. 2.
3. Each voter shall receive only one voter's card.

ARTICLE 15.

1. The voter's cards shall be permanent and they shall be valid for all electoral consultations with a national character, according to the number of polls provided in their content, and they shall be handed over to the voters registered in the permanent voter lists of the locality in which they leave their domicile.
2. The voter's card shall be kept and used only by the holder.

ARTICLE 16.

1. The voter's card shall be drawn up by the mayor of the locality where the voter resides.
2. The voter's card shall be handed over on the basis of the identity paper only to the holder, under his signature, by:

   a) the mayor who has drawn it up;
   b) the mayor of the locality where the voter has his residence, within ten days after the voter's request; the mayor to whom the request was directed shall ask the mayor of the locality where the voter has his residence to send the voter's card, and the latter, in sending the card, shall make the adequate mention in the permanent voter list of the locality;
   c) the electoral commission of the polling station of the locality where the voter has his residence, for voter's cards which have not been taken over; to this end, the voter's cards which have not been taken over shall be handed over by the mayor, three days before the election day, to the electoral commission of the polling station, on the basis of an official report stating the number of voter's cards, the names, surnames, and residences of the holders.

3. The domicile or place of residence shall be proved only with the identity paper.
4. After the voter lists have been updated according to Article 9, paragraph (1), the voter's cards for citizens who shall be eighteen years of age by January, or who shall reach this age up to the election day inclusive shall be drawn up and handed over according to the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2).
5. Complaints and objections concerning the drawing up and the delivering of the voter's cards shall be made with the observance of the provisions of Article 12, which shall apply accordingly.
6. An account of the voter's cards shall be kept by the secretary of the local council.

ARTICLE 17.

1. In case of loss or destruction of the voter's card, regardless of the motive, a duplicate may be issued by the mayors provided under Article 16, paragraph (2), sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), who shall make a mention of this on the permanent voter list of the locality.
2. The duplicate shall be issued at the request of the holder and on his responsibility. The original declared lost or destroyed shall be void de jure.

CHAPTER III. POLLING STATIONS

ARTICLE 18.

1. Polling stations shall be organized in localities, as follows:

   a) in localities with a population over two thousand inhabitants, one polling station for each lot of one thousand to two thousand inhabitants;
   b) in communes with under two thousand inhabitants, one single polling station.

2. Polling stations can also be organized in villages or clusters of villages with a population of up to one thousand inhabitants, located farther than five kilometers from the polling station in the residence of the commune.

ARTICLE 19.

1. Separate polling stations can be organized in military units as well as in hospitals, maternity hospitals, sanatoria, invalid homes, and homes for aged people, having at least fifty voters.
2. Polling stations can also be organized in railway stations, bus terminals, ports, and airports, for voters who, on election day, are traveling.
3. For regular day students and for schoolboys and schoolgirls who have the right to vote, and whose residence is not in the locality in which they are educated, a polling station shall be organized in each student's or pupil's hostel, for a number starting from five hundred to two thousand voters.
4. At the polling stations organized in military units there shall vote only the military belonging to the respective unit, and at those for students and pupils, only the students and pupils from the affiliated teaching units.

ARTICLE 20.

1. A polling station shall be organized at each of Romania's diplomatic mission and consular office for the voters that are members of these representations and their families as well as for Romanian citizens traveling or living abroad who on election day shall be in the respective countries. These polling stations shall be part of the constituency of the municipality of Bucuresti.
2. On ships flying the Romanian flag, which are navigating on election day, polling stations shall be organized, belonging to the constituency of the place where the ship is registered.

ARTICLE 21.

Voters shall vote both for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate at the same polling station.

ARTICLE 22.

1. The delimitation of the polling stations shall be established by the local councils of the communes, towns, municipalities, or territorial-administrative subdivisions of the municipalities.
2. All polling stations from a constituency shall be numbered, regardless of the localities, starting with the residential locality of the county, respectively with that of the Ilfov Agricultural District, and continuing with those from the municipalities, the other towns, and then with those from the communes, in alphabetical order; in municipalities with territorial-administrative subdivisions, the numbering shall be made under the observance of the order of these subdivisions, provided by the law.
3. The prefects are obliged to carry out the numbering of all polling station within ten days after the fixing of the election date, and to give public notice of this numbering and of the delimitation of each polling station, indicating also the place where the voting will take place.
4. The mayors of the localities and the secretaries of the local councils shall ensure all the data, information, and support necessary for the prefects to fulfill the obligations provided under paragraph (3).

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 23.

1. For the purpose of the proper conduct of electoral proceedings, the Central Electoral Commission, constituency commissions, and electoral commissions of polling stations shall be set up for each voting, under the conditions of the present law.
2. The electoral commissions shall be formed only of citizens which have a vote; candidates cannot be members of the electoral commissions.
3. In achieving the attributions incumbent upon the electoral commissions, all members which they are formed of shall be deemed to exercise a function which implies State authority. The correct and impartial exercise of this function is compulsory.

ARTICLE 24.

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall be formed of seven judges of the Supreme Court of Justice and sixteen representatives of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions, participating in the voting.
2. The designation of the seven judges shall be made in a public sitting, within five days after the fixing of the election date, by the president of the Supreme Court of justice, by drawing lots, from among all the active judges of the Court. The result

of the lots shall be recorded in a minute signed by the president and the head adviser of the Supreme Court of Justice, which shall also constitute the act of investiture. The date of the sitting shall be made publicly known through the press by the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, at least forty eight hours in advance.

3. Within twenty four hours after the investiture, the designated judges shall elect among them, by secret ballot, the president of the Central Electoral Commission. In this organization, the Central Electoral Commission shall exercise all the attributions that are incumbent upon it, according to the present law, and it shall next be completed with the representatives of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions.
4. Within two days from the date up to which nominations can be made, the parties, political formations, and their coalitions participating in the election shall communicate in writing to the Central Electoral Commission the number of the lists of candidates from all the constituencies, as well as the name and surname of their representatives. Notifications transmitted after this term shall be disconsidered.
5. The designation of the representatives of the parties, political formations or of their coalitions to the Central Electoral Commission shall be made in decreasing order of the share of the number of lists of candidates notified by each party, political formation or their coalitions, according to paragraph (4), in the number of the constituencies throughout the country. A party, political formation, or a coalition of them cannot have more than five representatives.
6. Persons having the quality of representatives of a party, political formation, and their coalitions in the Central Electoral Commission shall be established in the order mentioned in the notification provided under paragraph (4).
7. In case more parties, political formations and their coalitions have handed in the same number of lists, the designation of their representatives shall he made by casting lots, by the president of the Central Electoral Commission, in the presence of the persons delegated by the parties, political formations and their coalitions involved.
8. The completion of the Central Electoral Commission with the representatives of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions shall be made within twenty four hours after the expiration of the term provided under paragraph (4), by the president of the Central Electoral Commission, assisted by three judges, in the presence of the persons delegated by the parties, political formations, and their coalitions which have notified the representatives. The minutes drawn up by the president regarding the way in which the representatives were established shall constitute the act attesting to their quality as members of the Central Electoral Commission.

ARTICLE 25.

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall have the following attributions:

   a) it shall supervise the updating of the voter lists; it shall follow up the application of the legal provisions regarding the elections throughout the country's territory; it shall ensure their uniform interpretation;
   b) it shall settle objections referring to its own activity and complaints with regard to the proceedings of the constituency commissions;
   c) it shall receive from the constituency commissions the minutes stating the number of validly expressed votes for each list of candidates, and it shall establish if there are parties, political formations, and their coalitions which have not accumulated at least three per cent of the votes validly expressed throughout the country; it shall notify within twenty four hours from the finding, the constituency commissions and make public the parties, political formations, or their coalitions which are in this situation;
   d) it shall verify and record the result of the voting; it shall calculate the votes that were not taken into account throughout the country for each party, political formation, and their coalitions fulfilling the condition provided under sub-paragraph (c); it shall ensure the centralized distribution and spreading by constituencies of the mandates which are their due;
   e) it shall attest to the allotment of a Deputy mandate to organizations of citizens belonging to the national minorities which have met the conditions provided under Article 4; it shall issue a certificate attesting the Deputy designated on this basis;
   f) it shall cancel the voting in a constituency in case the voting and the returns have taken place by fraud of a nature to modify the allotment of the mandates, and it shall order the voting to be repeated;
   g) it shall carry out any other obligations which devolve upon it in accordance with the present law.

2. In case the settling of a complaint shall require verifications of facts, these shall be carried out in the presence of a judge from the Central Electoral Commission. Such verifications cannot be made on election day.
3. A complaint for the voiding of the voting in a constituency can be presented only by the parties, political formations, and their coalitions, or by independent candidates participating in the election, within forty eight hours after closure of the polling station, under sanction of the loss of this right. The request must be motivated and it shall be presented together with the proofs on which it is based. The petition may be admitted only if the party having signed is not involved in the fraud. The dispositions of paragraph (2) shall apply correspondingly. The petition shall be settled by the Central Electoral Commission up to the date when the election returns shall be published in the "Monitorul Oficial" of Romania.
4. The decisions of the Central Electoral Commission shall be made known in a public meeting.

ARTICLE 26.

1. The constituency commission shall be constituted of three judges and not more than eight representatives of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions, participating in the voting in the constituency in which the electoral commission operates.

2. The designation of the three judges shall be made in a public sitting, within five days after the fixing of the election date, by the president of the tribunal, by drawing lots from among the active judges of the county tribunal or of the tribunal of the municipality of Bucuresti. The date of the sitting shall be made publicly known through the press by the president of the tribunal, at least forty eight hours in advance. The result of the drawing of lots shall be recorded in a minute signed by the president, which shall constitute the act of investiture. Within twenty four hours from their designation the judges shall, by secret ballot, elect the president of the constituency commission. The commission thus constituted shall fulfill all the duties incumbent upon it according to the present law, and it shall be completed with the representatives of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions, participating in the elections.
3. Within two days from the date up to which the candidatures can be put forward, the parties, political formations, and their coalitions shall notify in writing to the constituency commissions the number of the candidatures on the lists of candidates registered in the respective constituency as well as the name and surname of the representatives. Notifications transmitted after this term shall not be taken into consideration.
4. The designation of the representatives of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions in the constituency commission shall be made in the decreasing order of the share of the number of candidates notified by each party, political formation, and their coalitions, according to paragraph (3), in the total number of candidates from the notifications received. A party, political formation, or their coalition cannot have more than three representatives.
5. The completion of the electoral commission with the representatives of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions shall be made according to the provisions of Article 24 paragraphs (6) and (8), which shall apply accordingly. In the event that several parties, political formations, and their coalitions have proposed the same number of candidates, the designation of candidates shall be made by lots, by the president of the constituency commission in the presence of the delegates of the parties, political formations, and coalitions involved.

ARTICLE 27.

1. The constituency commissions shall have the following attributions:

   a) they shall follow up the application of the statutory provisions regarding the voting in the constituency in which they operate, and they shall supervise the timely organization of the polling stations;
   b) they shall record the candidatures put forward and shall certify their final character;
   c) they shall make the necessary publications and postings provided by the law with regard to the lists of candidates and independent candidatures;
   d) they shall settle the objections regarding their own activity and the complaints regarding the proceedings of the electoral commissions of the polling stations within the framework of the constituencies in which they functioning;
   e) they shall distribute to the electoral commissions of the polling stations the ballot papers, control stamp, and the stamps with the mention "Voted";
   f) they shall add up the election returns from the polling stations, and send to the Central Electoral Commission the minutes including the number of votes validly expressed for each list of candidates;
   g) on the basis of the findings of the Central Electoral Commission with regard to the parties, political formations, and their coalitions which have not received at least three per cent of the votes validly expressed throughout the country, they shall ascertain the election returns for the constituency, and issue to the Deputies or Senators, as the case may be, a certificate attesting their election;
   h) they shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission the minutes including the election returns as well as the objections, complaints, and minutes received from the electoral commissions of the polling stations;
   i) they shall fulfill any other attributions incumbent upon them according to the law.

2. The decisions of the constituency electoral commission shall be made known in a public sitting.

ARTICLE 28.

1. The electoral commissions of the polling stations shall be formed of a president, a deputy-president and not more than seven members.
2. The president and his deputy shall, as a rule, be magistrates or jurists who do not belong to any party or political formation, and are designated by the president of the county tribunal or of the tribunal of the municipality of Bucuresti fifteen days before election day, by lots from a list set up by the prefects and notified by them to the president of the tribunal at least five days before drawing lots.
3. In case the number of jurists is insufficient, the list shall be completed with other persons of blameless reputation and who do not belong to any party or political formation.
4. The list proposed by the prefect shall include a number of persons by ten per cent greater than the necessary one, the excess being a reserve at the disposition of the president of the tribunal; the list shall specify the names and surnames, addresses, telephone numbers and signatures of acceptance of the persons proposed.
5. The grouping in the list of the persons, in order to draw lots, shall be made by taking into consideration the necessity for their homes to be as close as possible to the seat of the electoral commission of the polling station.
6. The electoral commissions of the polling stations shall be constituted at the date of designation of their members.
7. The members of the electoral commissions of the polling stations shall be drawn from one representative of each party, political formation, and their coalitions, participating in the ballot, in decreasing order of the number of candidates put forward in the respective constituency.

8. To this end, the president of the constituency commission shall notify the presidents of the electoral commissions of the polling stations, within twenty four hours after their designation, according to paragraph (2), of the number of candidates proposed by each party, political formation, and their coalitions. Likewise, each of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions shall be compelled to notify the president of the electoral commission of the polling station within the same term of the name and surname of their representative.
9. If two or more parties, political formations or their coalitions have the same number of candidates, their representatives shall enter into the composition of the electoral commission of the polling station within the limit of the seats not occupied by the representatives of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions, which, according to paragraph (7), shall be in a more favorable situation; if, by application of this provision, it shall not be possible for all representatives to be included in the composition of the electoral commission, its president shall proceed to the drawing of lots, with the observance of the provisions of Article 26, paragraph (5), which shall apply correspondingly.
10. In the event the parties, political formations, and their coalitions should not have designated their representatives, or the number of their representatives should be insufficient, the completion of the electoral commissions of the polling stations shall be made by the president of the tribunal with persons from the list provided under paragraph (4), by drawing lots.
11. The designation of the members of the electoral commission of the polling station shall be made by its president, on the basis of the notifications provided under paragraph (8) or, as the case may be, of the provisions under paragraph (9), by a document specifying the method used in establishing the representatives, which shall constitute the document attesting their quality as members in the electoral commission of the polling station; the drawing up of the minute shall be made within twenty four hours after the expiry of the term provided under paragraph (8), with participation of the interested parties, political formations, and their coalitions, if to this end they have sent one delegate each.

ARTICLE 29.

The electoral commissions of the polling stations shall have the following attributions:

a) they shall receive the copy of the voter lists notified according to Article 13, paragraph (1), and the voter's cards that have not been claimed according to Article 16, sub-paragraph (c), and from the constituency commissions, the ballot papers for the voters that are to vote at the polling station, the control stamp, and the stamps with the mention "voted";
b) they shall conduct the polling, and shall take all the necessary measures for keeping order in and around the building of the polling station;
c) they shall count the votes and record the voting returns;
d) they shall settle the objections with reference to their own activity;
e) they shall submit to the constituency commissions the minutes attesting to the voting returns, together with the electoral complaints presented and the documents to which they refer;
f) they shall hand over, with a protocol, the cast and uncontested ballot papers as well as the voided ones, the stamps and other materials required for the voting to the court of first instance in whose territorial area they have their seat; the special voter lists from the polling stations constituted in military units shall be transmitted to these units under military guard, and they shall be preserved by the commander of the unit.

ARTICLE 30.

The electoral commissions shall sit in the presence of the majority of the members of whom they are composed, and they shall take decisions by the vote of the majority of the present members.

ARTICLE 31.

The representatives of the parties, political formations, and of their coalitions in the electoral commissions cannot receive other accreditations provided by the present law.

ARTICLE 32.

1. The parties and political formations participating in the voting, as well as the independent candidates may question the mode of formation and the composition of the electoral commissions within forty eight hours at the most after the expire of the term for their setting up or for the completion of these commissions, as the case may be.
2. Complaints shall be settled by the constituency commission, if they concern the electoral commission of the polling station, by the Central Electoral Commission, if they concern the constituency commission, and by the Supreme Court of Justice, if they concern the Central Electoral Commission, within two days after their filing. The decision shall be final.

CHAPTER V. NOMINATIONS

ARTICLE 33.

1. Nominations of candidates shall be made by constituencies, and they shall be presented to the constituency commissions not later than thirty days before the election day.
2. Nominations of candidates shall be made in writing, in four copies, by the parties and political formations participating in the voting, and they shall be signed by their leadership or the persons designated to sign, and in the case of independent candidates, on the basis of the list of supporters.
3. The list of supporters shall specify the polling date, the name and surname of the candidate, the name and surname, date of birth, address, series and number of the identity paper, and signature of the supporters as well as of the person having

drawn up the list.

4. The list of supporters shall constitute a public document involving all the consequences provided by the law.
5. Supporters can be only citizens who have the right to vote.
6. One supporter can give his support only to a single candidate for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate.
7. The adhesions of the supporters shall be given on their own responsibility.
8. The nominations of candidates provided under paragraph 2 shall specify the name, surname, domicile, place and date of birth, occupation and profession of the candidates, and they shall be attended by the declaration of acceptance of the candidacy, written, signed, and dated by the candidate.
9. The declaration of acceptance shall specify the name, surname, political affiliation, profession and occupation of the candidate, his express consent to stand as a candidate as well as the specification that he meets the conditions provided by the law in order to be nominated for election.

ARTICLE 34.

1. Persons who, at the date of nomination, do not fulfill the conditions provided by Article 35 of the Constitution in order to be eligible, shall be disqualified for standing as candidates.
2. Likewise, prefects, sub-prefects, and heads of the public services and of other governmental authorities decentralized in territorial-administrative units shall be disqualified from standing as candidates in the constituencies constituted in the territorial-administrative units in which they exercise or have exercised their functions for the past six months previous to the election date.
3. The President of Romania, in case he is elected Senator or Deputy, shall be required to choose between the quality of Member of Parliament or president up to the date of validation.

ARTICLE 35.

1. The constituency commission shall examine the observance of the legal conditions for a person to be able to stand as candidate, and it shall register the nominations which meet these conditions.
2. Two copies of the nomination for candidate shall be kept at the constituency commission, another shall be registered at the tribunal whose territorial area covers the constituency, and a fourth, certified by the commission, shall be returned to the person who has made the registration.

ARTICLE 36.

1. Up to and including twenty days before election day, the citizens, parties, and other political formations may question the nominations.
2. To this end, within twenty four hours after the registration of the nomination, one of the copies of the nomination proposal shall be posted at the seat of the constituency commission.
3. Petitions questioning the registration or rejection of the nominations shall be settled by the tribunal whose territorial area covers the constituency within two days at the most after the filing of the petition. The decision shall not be notified.
4. An appeal may be entered with the court of superior instance against the decision on the questioning within twenty four hours after the decision was delivered. The appeal shall be settled within two days after its filing.
5. The complaint shall specify the name, surname, address, and the capacity of the contestant, the name and surname of the candidate, a statement of the grounds for the questioning, the date and signature of the person entering the petition, and of the person designated to represent him or her, as the case may be.
6. The questioning and appeal shall be entered with the competent instance under sanction of nullity.
7. After expiry of the terms provided under paragraphs (1), (3), and (4), the constituency commissions shall draw up a document declaring the nominations final, and they shall post up the final nominations at their seat and order the printing of the ballot papers.

CHAPTER VI. BALLOT PAPERS

ARTICLE 37.

The ballot papers shall be printed, and the necessary stamps for the voting shall made under observance of the forms provided in Schedule No. 3.

ARTICLE 38.

1. The size of the ballot paper shall be established by the constituency commission, taking into account the number of the lists of candidates, and of the independent candidates, as well as the space required for their printing.
2. The ballot papers shall be printed on white and sufficiently thick paper so that the printed name and the vote cast should not be distinguishable on the back.
3. A sufficient number of quadrilaterals shall be printed on the pages of the ballot paper to include the names of all the candidates, except on the last page which shall remain blank, for the control stamp; the pages shall be numbered.
4. The ballot papers shall be stapled.
5. The quadrilaterals shall be printed parallel to one another, in two columns on the same page.
6. In the upper left hand corner of the quadrilateral there shall be printed the name of the party, political formation, or of their coalition participating in the voting, or, as the case may be, the mention "Independent Candidate", and in the upper right

hand corner, the electoral sign.

7. In the quadrilaterals of each ballot paper the lists of candidates shall be printed in the order resulted from the drawing of lots carried out by the constituency commission; the candidates shall be identified on the list by name and, as the case may be, by the political affiliation.
8. For each independent candidate, a distinct quadrilateral shall be printed in the final part of the ballot paper, in the registration order of the nominations.

ARTICLE 39.

1. Electoral signs shall be established by each party, political formation or their coalition, or by each independent candidate, and it shall be notified to the Central Electoral Commission within three days from its establishment.
2. The electoral signs used in the preceding elections cannot be used by other parties, political formations, their coalitions or by independent candidates unless they have the assent of those to whom they belonged, respectively of the parties which formed the initial coalition.
3. In case the same electoral sign should be requested by several parties, political formations, their coalitions, or by independent candidates, the allotment shall be made to the benefit of the party, political formation, their coalitions, or independent candidate having first registered the respective sign, or in case of concomitant registration, or of impossibility to establish the priority, by drawing lots, by the president of the Central Electoral Commission, within twenty-four hours after the expiry of the term provided under paragraph (1).
4. The electoral signs cannot be contrary to the legal order.
5. The Central Electoral Commission shall ensure the publication of the electoral signs on the next day after expiry of the term provided under paragraph (1).

ARTICLE 40.

A coalition of parties having participated in previous elections under a certain denomination can preserve it only if no change has occurred in its initial composition. Likewise, the respective denomination cannot be used by another coalition.

ARTICLE 41.

1. For the entire constituency, the ballot papers shall be printed with letters of the same size and type, and with the same ink, in as many copies as there are voters in the constituency with a supplement of ten per cent.
2. The printing of the ballot papers shall be ensured by the constituency commissions, through the agency of the prefects. The prefects shall be responsible for all the necessary ballot papers to be printed, at least ten days before the date of elections.

ARTICLE 42.

1. The ballot papers shall be handed over to the president of the constituency commission, who shall distribute them to the presidents of the electoral commissions of the polling stations at least two days before the date of elections. The handing over and the distribution shall be made in sealed parcels of one hundred copies, on the basis of minutes.
2. Two copies of the ballot papers, initialed and canceled by the president of the constituency commission, shall be posted one day before polling at the seat of the law courts of first instance as well as at the seat of each polling station.

ARTICLE 43.

At the request of the parties, political formations, their coalitions, or of the independent candidates participating in the voting, the constituency commission shall deliver two initialled and cancelled ballot papers to each of them.

CHAPTER VII. ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 44.

1. The electoral campaign shall start when the date of elections has been made public and it shall be closed two days before polling day.
2. In the electoral campaign, the candidates, parties, political formations, all the social organizations, and citizens shall have the right to express their opinions freely and without any discrimination, through meetings, assemblies, the use of radio and television, of the press and of all the other means of mass information.
3. The means used in the electoral campaign shall not violate the law.
4. Any commercial advertising procedure through the press, radio and television for purposes of electoral propaganda shall be prohibited.
5. The organization of the electoral campaign activities in military units shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE 45.

1. The parties and political formations participating in the electoral campaign may, by special law, receive funds from the State budget. The classes of activities carried on within the framework of the electoral campaign which can thus be financed shall be established by the law on the granting of funds. The parties and political formations which have not obtained at least five per cent of the votes validly expressed throughout the country shall return the funds within two months after the election day.

2. The funds received after the opening of the electoral campaign from natural or legal persons in the country, except the subventions provided under paragraph (1), can be used for the electoral campaign of a party or political formation only if they have previously been declared publicly.
3. The funds of the electoral campaign, either directly or indirectly, by natural or legal persons from abroad shall be prohibited. The sums thus received shall be confiscated and paid in as revenue to the State budget.
4. The funds of the electoral campaign of a party, political formation, their coalition, or of an independent candidate by a public authority, a public institution, self-managing public company, or a company in which the State holds most or all of the capital shall be prohibited.
5. Funds for the electoral campaign from the State budget or from other legal or natural persons shall be received only through an authorized financial agent designated for this purpose by the leadership of the party or political formation involved.
6. The authorized financial agent shall be accountable jointly with the party or political formation by which he or she was designated for the lawfulness of the expenses incurred from the subventions granted, and for the observance of the provisions under paragraph (2).
7. The authorized financial agent can be a natural or legal person.
8. A party or political formation can have several authorized financial agents; in this case, the authorization by which they are designated shall specify the limits of their mandate.
9. Several parties or political formations shall be permitted to use the services of one and the same authorized financial agent.
10. The capacity of the authorized financial agent shall be obtained only after official registration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and publication in the press.
11. The provisions of the present article shall also apply correspondingly to independent candidates who receive funds from natural and legal persons from the country.

ARTICLE 46.

1. The access to the public services of radio and television broadcasting within the framework of the electoral campaign shall be guaranteed under the conditions of the present article.
2. The parties, political formations, and independent candidates represented in Parliament shall have access to the public services of radio, and television broadcasting subventioned from the State budget. The remaining parties, political formations, and independent candidates shall have access to the respective services on the basis of contracts concluded by the authorized financial agents representing them with the corresponding institutions of the Romanian Radio and Television Broadcasting Companies, unique tariffs per unit of broadcasting time being charged.
3. The parties and political formations participating in the elections shall be under the obligation, forty-eight hours before the date established for polling day, to apply to the management of the public services of radio and television broadcasting, for the granting of broadcasting time. Requests after this term shall not be taken into account.
4. The time-table for the electoral campaign and the allotment of broadcasting time shall be established by a special parliamentary commission together with representatives of the public services of radio and television broadcasting within not more than five days after the opening of the electoral campaign. The allotment shall be made by taking into account that the broadcasting time allotted to the parties and political formations represented in Parliament, under the conditions of paragraph (2), must be twice as long as that allotted to the other parties and political formations, and that it must be proportional to their parliamentary share.
5. After the conclusion of the period for nominations, a new time-table and a new allotment of broadcasting time shall be made, according to paragraph (4), proportionally to the number of the lists of candidates handed in throughout the country. The parties, political formations, and their coalitions which have not handed in lists of candidates in at least ten constituencies shall forfeit the right to broadcasting time over the central radio and television broadcasting stations. Proof of the nominations shall be made with a certificate issued by the constituency commission.
6. Independent candidates shall exercise their right to broadcasting time only once, equally, for a duration from five minutes to one hour, depending on the established time-table and on their number.
7. Interviews, feature reports, and other similar radio and television broadcasting services of general interest for the information of the citizens shall not be included in the right to broadcasting time.

ARTICLE 47.

1. The mayors shall have the obligation, within five days after the beginning of the electoral campaign, to establish special places for the electoral posting up, taking into account the number of parties, political formations, and their coalitions which declare that they will put up lists of candidates, and of persons who declare that they will stand in the elections as independent candidates.
2. The mayors shall ensure that the special places for electoral posting up is stipulated in market places, streets, and other public places frequented by citizens, without hindering the circulation on public roads and other activities in the respective localities. As a preliminary matter, the mayors shall ensure that any posters, graffiti, and signs left over from previous electoral campaigns are removed.
3. The use of places for electoral posters shall be permitted only for parties, political formations, and their coalitions, and for independent candidates participating in the polls.
4. The use by a party, political formation, their coalition, or by independent candidates of the special places for electoral posters so as to prevent their use by another party, political formation, their coalition, or independent candidate shall be prohibited.
5. In places other than those established according to paragraph (1) the posting of electoral bills shall be permitted only with the agreement of the owners or of the holders, as the case may be.

6. On an electoral panel, each party, political formation, coalition of these, or independent candidates shall not put up more than a single electoral poster.
7. The size of an electoral poster shall not exceed 500 mm by 300 mm, and that for summoning an electoral meeting, 400 mm by 250 mm.
8. Electoral posters combining colors so as to evoke the flag of Romania or that of other countries shall be prohibited.
9. The police are under an obligation to ensure the integrity of the panels and electoral posters.

ARTICLE 48.

1. The constituency commissions shall supervise the correct conduct of the electoral campaign in the constituency in which they function, settling the complaints that are presented to them with regard to the obstruction of a party, political formation, coalition of these, or an independent candidate to carry on their electoral campaign under the conditions provided for by the law and by observing electoral ethics.
2. If the constituency commission shall consider, when settling a complaint, that administrative measures or the application of contraventional or penal sanctions are necessary, they shall notify the competent authorities.
3. A petition questioning the settlement by the constituency commission may be presented to the Central Electoral Commission; the settlement of this contestation shall be final.
4. The settlement of complaints and contests shall be made within three days after their registration, and the decisions given shall be published in the press and visibly posted at the seat of the electoral commission by which they were issued.

CHAPTER VIII. CONDUCT OF THE VOTING

ARTICLE 49.

1. Each polling station shall have a sufficient number of polling-booths, ballot-boxes, and voting stamps, proportional to the number of voters on the lists notified by the mayors.
2. The polling-booths and ballot-boxes shall be placed in the same room with the president's office. The polling-booths, ballot-boxes, stamps, and other materials required by the electoral commission of the polling station shall be ensured and provided by the mayors of the communes, towns, municipalities, and of the territorial-administrative sub-divisions of the municipalities, together with the prefects.
3. The stamps and other materials required by the electoral commissions of the polling stations shall be handed over by the mayors to the presidents of the polling stations on the basis of minutes at least two days before the date of elections. After taking over the ballot papers and the stamps, the president of the ballot station shall ensure their safe storage.
4. The printed forms and other printed matter necessary for the voting shall be handed over to the electoral commission of the polling station on the basis of a document specifying the kind and number of copies of each printed matter.
5. The president of the electoral commission of the polling station shall be present at the seat of the polling station on the eve of election day, at 18:00 hours, and it shall be his duty immediately to take the necessary measures for ensuring order and correctness of voting.
6. The president shall order the fixing of the watch-posts around the polling station.

ARTICLE 50.

1. On election day, at 5:00 hours, the president of the electoral commission of the polling station, in the presence of the other members of the commission, shall verify the ballot-boxes, the existence of the voter lists, of the ballot papers and stamps, after which he shall close and seal the ballot-boxes by applying the control stamp of the polling station.
2. The president shall then make sure that the control stamp is also applied on the ballot papers.

ARTICLE 51.

1. The president of the electoral commission of the polling station shall take the necessary measures for the polling to proceed in good conditions.
2. His powers in this respect shall also extend outside the building of the polling station, in its yard, to the entries into the yard, around the building of the polling station as well as in the streets and public open places, within a radius of five hundred meters.
3. Except members of the electoral commission of the polling station, candidates and accredited delegates, no other person shall remain in the public places from the polling zone or in the polling station more than the necessary time for voting.
4. Accreditation of the delegates shall be made by the Central Electoral Commission for the Romanian press, films, radio and television, and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the foreign press, films, radio and television, and for representatives of certain soliciting international organizations. Infringement of the conditions of accreditation shall, de jure, cancel the accreditation.
5. Accredited observers may attend the voting only if they produce the accreditation document. They shall in no way intervene in the organization and proceeding of the voting, having only the right to inform the president of the electoral commission in case irregularities of which they have become aware. Any act of propaganda for or against a party, political formation, coalition of these ones, or individual candidates or to attempt to influence the voter's option, as well as the violation in any way, of the conditions set out in the accreditation document shall involve application of legal sanctions, suspension of the accreditation by the electoral commission which has ascertained the violation, and, on polling day, the immediate removal of the respective person from the polling station.

6. For keeping order, the president of the electoral commission of the polling station shall use the necessary agents provided by the prefects together with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
7. For the duration of the polling, members of the electoral commissions and accredited persons shall be prohibited from wearing or exhibiting any badges, or other signs of electoral propaganda.

ARTICLE 52.

Voting shall start at 6:00 a.m., and it shall take place up to 9:00 p.m., when the polling station shall be closed. The president of the electoral commission of the polling station can extend the voting after 9:00 p.m., but not later than 12:00 a.m., subject to the approval of the constituency commission.

ARTICLE 53.

1. The voters may vote at the polling station where they have their place of permanent residence or at the polling stations organized according to Articles 19 and 20 above. Voters voting at polling stations organized according to Articles 19 and 20 shall be registered in special voter lists.
2. The voters who, on polling day shall be in another locality than that in which they are registered in the lists of voters, can exercise their right to vote on the basis of their voter's card at any polling station, where they shall be registered in a special voter list by the electoral commission of the polling station.
3. The provisions of paragraph (2) above shall also apply to Romanian citizens residing abroad who, 'on polling day, shall be in the country, on the basis of their passport.

ARTICLE 54.

1. The access of the voters to the polling room shall take place in series corresponding to the number of polling booths. Each voter shall present the voter's card and the identity paper to the electoral commission of the polling station; after checking the voter's registration in the voter list or, as the case may be, in the special voter list provided under Article 53, the voter shall be given the ballot papers and the polling stamp, under signature in the voter list. If an voter presents a duplicate of the voter's card, the electoral commission of the polling station shall mention this in the voter list.
2. The voters who, according to Article 16, paragraph (2), sub-paragraph (c) have received their polling card from the polling station shall confirm the receipt by signing in the minutes drawn up by the mayors when handing over the unclaimed voter's cards.
3. If an voter, for reasons found by the president of the commission of the polling station, is not able to sign the voter list, this shall be mentioned in the list, and confirmed under signature by a member of the electoral commission.
4. The voters shall vote separately in closed polling-booths, by applying the stamp bearing the mention "Voted" within the quadrilateral of the ballot paper which includes the list of candidates or the name and surname of the independent candidate whom they wish to vote.
5. The stamp with the mention "Voted" shall be of smaller size than that of the quadrilateral.
6. After voting, the voters shall fold the ballot papers so that the white page bearing the control stamp shall remain on the outside, and they shall introduce them into the ballot-box, taking care that they shall not unfold.
7. The wrong folding of the ballot paper does not entail the voiding of the vote.
8. In case the ballot paper opens by mistake, at the voter's request it shall be made void, and it shall be replaced by a new ballot paper only once, a corresponding mention being made in the minutes of the polling proceedings.
9. The stamp entrusted to the voter for the voting shall be returned to the president of the polling commission, after which the said president shall apply it on the voter's card in the place corresponding to the number of suffrage.
10. The president can take measures that an voter's stay in the polling-booth shall not be unduly extended.

ARTICLE 55.

The presidents and members of the electoral commissions of the polling stations as well as the persons whose duty is to maintain order shall vote at the polling station where they carry on their activity, after their registration in the special voter list provided under Article 53 above.

ARTICLE 56.

1. The candidates as well as any other voter shall have the right to question the identity of the person reporting to the polls. In this case, the person's identity shall be established by the president making use of any lawful means.
2. In case the questioning is found to be justified, the president shall prevent the questioned voter from voting and enter the incident in the minutes, while informing the police authorities of this incident. .

ARTICLE 57.

1. The president of the electoral commission of the polling station can, for good reasons, suspend the voting.
2. The suspension cannot exceed one hour, and it shall be announced by posting a bill at the door of the voting building at least one hour earlier. The total duration of the suspensions cannot exceed two hours.
3. During the suspension, the ballot boxes, stamps, polling papers, and other documents and materials of the electoral commission shall remain under permanent guard, while members of the electoral commission shall not leave the polling room all at the same time.

4. Persons who shall assist at the voting, as stipulated in Article 51, paragraph (3), cannot be compelled to leave the polling room during this time.

ARTICLE 58.

1. The presence of any person in the polling-booth except that of the voter shall be prohibited.
2. A voter who, for good reasons, found by the president of the electoral commission of the polling station, cannot vote alone shall have the right to call into the polling-booth an attendant of his or her own choice for helping him. This person cannot be one of the observers or Members of the electoral commission of the polling station.

ARTICLE 59.

For the voters who are not capable of being removed for reasons of illness or invalidity, at the request of those who are in this situation, or of the administration bodies of the health or social protection institutions in which those who are not capable of being removed are confined, the president of the electoral commission of the polling station shall designate, from among members of the commission, a number of persons to go with a special ballot-box and the necessary material for voting to the place where the voter is confined so that the polling may be effected.

ARTICLE 60.

At 9:00 p.m. or at the time up to which the extension of the polling should have been approved under the terms of Article 52, the president of the electoral commission of the polling station shall declare the voting concluded and shall order the polling station to be closed.

CHAPTER IX. COUNTING AND TABULATION OF THE VOTES

SECTION 1. TABULATION OF VOTES AT THE POLLING STATIONS

ARTICLE 61.

1. After conclusion of the voting, and in the presence of the members of the commission and, as the case may be, of the candidates and persons accredited to assist in the voting, the president of the electoral commission of the polling station shall proceed to make an inventory of and seal the stamps with the mention "Voted", and to count and cancel the ballot papers left unused, to verify the seals on the ballot-boxes, and after conclusion of these operations, to open the ballot-boxes.
2. On opening each ballot paper, the president shall read aloud the list of candidates which was voted or, as the case may be, the name and surname of the independent candidate voted and will show the ballot paper to those present. The opened ballot papers shall be arranged by parties, political formations, and their coalitions as well as by independent candidates, and they shall be counted and bound up separately.
3. Ballot papers which do not bear the control stamp of the polling station, ballot papers of another form than the lawfully approved one, ballot papers which do not bear the stamp "Voted", or in which the stamp is applied on two or more quadrilaterals shall be void. The vote shall also be valid in case that, although the stamp applied has exceeded the limits of the quadrilateral, the option of the voter is obvious.
4. The voided ballot papers shall not enter in the calculation of the validly expressed votes.
5. The result of the voting for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate shall be recorded in two separate tables. Each of the tables shall be drawn up by a separate member of the electoral commission of the polling station designated by the president. If, at the recording of the results, the candidates are also present, they too shall have the right to draw up a table for each of the Chambers of Parliament.
6. In the tables provided under paragraph (5) above shall be recorded the void votes, the lists of candidates or names and surnames of the independent candidates and the validly expressed votes for each of them.

ARTICLE 62.

1. After opening the ballot-boxes and counting the votes, the president of the electoral commission of the polling station shall draw up minutes in two copies, one for the Chamber of Deputies and one for the Senate, which shall specify:

   a) the number of voters according to the permanent voter lists;
   b) the number of voters that have participated in the voting; the breakdown of this number into voters from the permanent voter list and from the special list;
   c) the total number of validly expressed votes;
   d) the number of void votes;
   e) the number of votes validly expressed in favor of each list of candidates or of each independent candidate;
   f) a brief statement of the objections and questions and the manner of their settlement as well as of the questions presented for settlement to the constituency's commission;
   g) the state of the seals on the ballot boxes at the conclusion of the voting;
   h) the number of ballot papers received;
   i) the number of unused and voided ballot papers.

2. The minutes shall be signed by the president and by the members of the commission, and they shall have the control stamp applied on them. The signatures shall be put opposite the name, surname, and, as the case may be, political affiliation of each member.
3. On request, a duplicate certified by all those who have signed the minutes shall be issued to all members of the electoral commissions of the polling station who have signed the first copy, the request shall be made before the minutes is drawn up.
4. Missing signatures of some members of the commission shall not affect the validity of the minutes. The president shall mention the reasons which have prevented them from signing.

ARTICLE 63.

1. Throughout the duration of the electoral proceedings and opening of the ballot boxes, objections and questions can be made with regard to these proceedings by the candidates, members of the electoral commission as well as voters (up to the conclusion of the polling).
2. Questionings shall be made in writing, and they shall be presented to the president of the electoral commission of the polling station, who shall issue a certificate of receipt .
3. The president of the electoral commission of the polling station shall decide forthwith on the questions whose settlement suffers no delay.

ARTICLE 64.

1. For the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate a file shall be created for each which shall include the minutes and the petitions questioning the electoral proceedings of the polling station as well as the void ballot papers and the questioned ones. The sealed files and the stamps shall be forwarded to the constituency commission by the president of the electoral commission of the polling station and by the members of the commission, under military guard, within not more than twenty-four hours after the closure of the polling station.
2. Within twenty-four hours after the receipt of the file, the constituency commission shall send one copy of the minutes to the tribunal in whose territorial area of competence the constituency lies; the parties and political formations as well as the independent candidates may obtain authenticated copies of the minutes.

SECTION 2. TABULATION OF VOTES IN THE CONSTITUENCIES

ARTICLE 65.

1. After receiving the minutes with the results of the counting of the votes, the constituency commission shall draw up separate minutes for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate specifying the votes validly expressed for each party, political formation, or their coalition, which they shall forward within twenty-four hours to the Central, Electoral Commission.
2. After receiving from the Central Electoral Commission the report with regard to the parties political formations, or their coalitions which have not obtained at least three per cent of the votes validly expressed throughout the country, the constituency commission shall proceed, according to Article 66, to assign the mandates of Deputy, respectively of Senator.
3. Candidates and accredited persons shall also have the right to assist at the proceedings of the constituency commission.

ARTICLE 66.

1. The assignment of mandates to the candidates on the lists shall be made by having in view only the parties, political formations, or their coalitions which have obtained throughout the country at least three per cent of the votes validly expressed separately for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate.
2. The assignment of the mandates shall be made only after the communication of the Central Electoral Commission with regard to the parties, political formations, and their coalitions which have obtained at least three per cent of the total number of validly expressed votes throughout the country, distinctly for the Chamber of Deputies, and for the Senate.
3. The distribution and assignment of the Deputy and Senator mandates shall be carried out in two stages: at the level of each constituency, and at the level of the whole country.
4. At the level of the constituency, the electoral commission shall establish the electoral coefficient of the constituency separately for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate, by dividing the number of Deputies and Senators that are to be elected in that constituency into the total number of votes validly expressed for all the lists of candidates, political formations, and their coalitions which meet the condition provided under paragraph (1) and also for the independent candidates; to each list as many mandates shall be assigned as many times the electoral coefficient of the constituency is included in the votes validly for that list; the assignment of mandates shall be made by the constituency commission in the order of registration of the candidates on the list; a mandate shall also be assigned to each independent candidate having obtained a number of votes validly expressed at least equal to the electoral coefficient for Deputies or Senators, as the case may be. The remaining votes, that are those that have not been used, or are inferior to the electoral coefficient, obtained by the lists of candidates of the parties, political formations, and their coalitions which do not meet the condition provided under paragraph (1) above, as well as the mandates that could not be assigned by the constituency commission shall be communicated by it to the Central Electoral Commission to be centrally assigned.
5. The Central Electoral Commission shall total the unused votes and those less than to the constituency coefficient from all constituencies, for each party, political formation, or their coalition which meet the condition provided under paragraph (1), throughout the country, for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate separately; the number of votes thus obtained for each party, political formation or their coalition shall be divided by 1,2,3,4, etc., making as many divisions as there are mandates which could not be assigned at the level of the constituencies; the quotients resulting from the division, regardless

of the list from which they come, shall be classified in decreasing order down to the number of non-assigned mandates; the smallest of these quotients shall constitute the electoral coefficient throughout the country for Deputies and, seprate for Senators; as many mandates of Deputy or, as the case may be, of Senators shall be assigned to each party, political formation or their coalition as many times the electoral coefficient throughout the country shall enter into the total number of votes validly expressed for the respective party, political formation or coalition, resulting by totalling the unused votes and those less than the constituency coefficient.

6. The spreading of the mandates distributed by the constituencies shall be made by the Central Electoral Commission as follows:

   a) For each party, political formation or their coalition, which shall have received mandates according to paragraph (5), the number of unused votes or of those lower than the constituency coefficient, from each constituency, shall be divided by the total number of votes validly expressed for that party, political formation or coalition considered in distributing the mandates throughout the country.

      The result thus obtained for each constituency shall be multiplied by the number of mandates due to the party, political formation, or their coalition. The data obtained shall be classified in decreasing order at country level, and in separately decreasing order within the framework of each constituency.

      For each constituency, the first parties, political formations or their coalitions shall be taken into account within the limit of the mandates that have remained undistributed in the respective constituency. The last number in this operation shall represent the distributor of that constituency.

      The next step shall be the distribution of the mandates by constituencies in the order of the parties, political formations, their coalitions as well as of the constituencies on the ordered list for the entire country as follows: the first number from the ordered list for the whole country shall be divided by the distributor of the constituency from which it originates, resulting the number of mandates that are due to the respective constituency. The procedure shall be continued in the same way with the following numbers from the ordered list for the whole country.

      If the number of mandates due to a party, political formation, or their coalition from a constituency have been exhausted, the operation shall be continued without these.

      If the number from the ordered list for the whole country is less than the constituency distributor, a mandate shall be granted.

   b) In case the granting of mandates in the order resulting from the provisions under sub-paragraph (a) should not be possible, the Central Electoral Commission shall take into account the constituency in which the party, political formation, or their coalition have the greatest number of candidates or one candidate to whom no mandates were assigned, and if, in this way too, there should have remained mandates unindividualized by constituencies, it shall take into account the constituency in which the party, political formation, or the respective coalition have the greatest number of unused votes, or the greatest number of votes inferior to the constituency coefficient.

   c) If after application of the provisions under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) there shall have remained mandates not spread over the constituencies, the Central Electoral Commission shall establish, on the basis of an agreement, the parties, political formations, or their coalitions to which these mandates shall be due according to paragraph (5), and failing an agreement, by drawing lots, within twenty-four hours after the previous operations were dosed.

7. The mandates spread over the lists of candidates according to paragraph (6) shall be assigned by the constituency commission to candidates in the order of their registration in the list.
8. Within twenty-four hours after the closing of each assignment operation, the constituency commission shall issue a certificate attesting to the election of the Deputies and Senators to whom mandates have been assigned.
9. The candidates registered in the lists who have not been elected shall be declared alternate candidates on the respective lists. In case of vacancy of the mandates of Deputies or of Senators elected on lists of candidates, the alternate candidates shall occupy the places that have become vacant, in the order in which they are registered in the lists, if up to the date of validation for the occupation of vacant seats, the parties or political formations on whose lists the alternate candidates have been nominated shall confirm in writing that they belong to them.

ARTICLE 67.

1. The constituency commission shall draw up minutes, separately, for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate with regard to all the electoral operations, centralization of the votes, counting and returning of the votes, and assigning of the mandates.
2. The minutes shall specify:

   a) the number of the voters from the constituency, according to the permanent voter lists;
   b) the total number of voters having participated in the polls; the breakdown of this number by voters on the permanent lists and on the special ones;
   c) the total number of votes validly expressed;
   d) the total number of votes validly expressed on each list of candidates and for each independent candidate;
   e) the number of void votes;
   f) the manner of assigning the mandates according to Article 66, the name and surname of the elected candidates as well as the party, political formation, or their coalition which has proposed them, as the case may be;
   g) the mandates that could not be assigned at the level of the constituency as well as the votes validly expressed that are to be total, according to Article 66, throughout the country;

h) a brief account of the objections and questioning petitions received, and of the decisions taken by the constituency commission.

3. The minutes, together with the objections, questionings, and the minutes received by the electoral commissions of the polling stations, forming a file, closed, sealed, and signed by the members of the electoral commission shall be forwarded, under military guard, to the Central Electoral Commission, within forty-eight hours at the most after receiving the communication from the Central Electoral Commission referring to the spreading by constituencies of the mandates centrally distributed throughout the country.

ARTICLE 68.

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall settle the objections and questions presented, after which they shall draw up separate minutes for the Chamber of Deputies and for the Senate, specifying for the entire country:

   a) the total number of voters according to the permanent voter lists;
   b) the total number of voters having participated in the polls;
   c) the total number of votes validly expressed;
   d) the total number of void votes;
   e) the finding with regard to the manner of application by the constituency commissions of the provisions under Article 66, paragraph (4);
   f) the allotment throughout the country of the mandates according to Article 66, paragraph (5) and their spreading by constituencies according to paragraph (6) of the same article;
   g) the organizations of citizens belonging to the national minorities which, although they have participated in the elections, have not obtained a Deputy or Senator mandate; the totality of the votes validly expressed for the lists of each of these organizations, and the finding of the organizations to each of which a Deputy mandate is due according to Article 4; the name and surname of the first candidate on the list entitled to a Deputy mandate, who has total the greatest number of votes; in the case in which the lists of the organization have obtained an equal number of votes, the designation shall be made by drawing lots;
   h) the manner of settling the questionings and objections received.

2. The minutes shall be signed by the president and the other members of the commission in whose presence they were drawn up, and they shall be forwarded to the Chamber of Deputies and to the Senate, in view of the validation of the elections, together with the files set up by the constituency commissions.
3. In view of the validation, the Deputies and Senators shall present to the senior president or acting president, as the case may be, a declaration on the wealth they possess. The declaration shall be confidential, and it shall be presented against a receipt of presentation.
4. The program used by the Central Electoral Commission for the centralized allotment of the mandates and their spreading by constituencies shall be approved by the Central Electoral Commission, and it shall constitute an appendix to the official report which shall be forwarded for the validation of the mandates.

ARTICLE 69.

The Central Electoral Commission shall publish the results of the elections in the press and in the "Monitorul Oficial" of Romania, in due time, for the observance of the provisions of Article 60, paragraph (3) of the Constitution.

CHAPTER X. BY-ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 70.

1. In the event elections should be voided in a constituency, according to Article 25, paragraph (1), sub-paragraph (as well as in the case in which a mandate of Deputy or senator should have become vacant and cannot be occupied by the alternate candidate on the list, by-elections shall be organized.
2. No by-elections shall be organized if the vacancy of a Deputy or Senator mandate has occurred in the last twelve months previous to the expiration of the mandate of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate, provided under Article 60, paragraph (1) of the Constitution.

ARTICLE 71.

1. If the by-elections take place as a result of the voiding of elections in a constituency, they shall be held on the basis of the same candidacies, electoral commissions, and at the same polling stations, on the third Sunday after the initial elections were voided.
2. Candidates guilty of fraud shall not participate in the new elections.
3. By-elections organized in case of vacancy of a mandate of Deputy or Senator shall take place under the conditions of an adequate application of the present law, within not more than three months after the notification of the Government by the president of the Chamber of Deputies or, as the case may be, by the president of the Senate, regarding the fulfillment of the conditions provided under Article 70.

4. In case the by-elections provided under paragraph (3) above are organized in a single constituency, no Central Electoral Commission shall be constituted, its duties being fulfilled by the constituency commission.
5. In by-elections shall participate only the voters from the permanent voter lists of the localities within the framework of the constituency where the elections shall be organized.

CHAPTER XI. PETTY AND CRIMINAL OFFENSES

ARTICLE 72.

The following deeds, unless according to the law they are criminal offenses, shall constitute petty offenses:

a) the knowingly registration of an voter in several voter lists in the locality of residence, the registration in the voter lists of fictitious persons or of disfranchised persons, the signing of the list of supporters in violation of the provisions under Article 33 as well as the violation of the provisions referring to the posting up of the lists of candidates and of independent candidates, or to the use of the electoral signs;
b) the unjustified refusal to hand over a voter's card at the written request of the interested person, or to draw up the voter's card within the established terms;
c) the omission, by the organizers, to take the necessary measures for the normal proceeding of the electoral meetings as well as the distribution and consumption of alcoholic drinks during these meetings;
d) the destruction, deterioration, soiling, writing over, or spoiling in any way whatsoever of the posted voter lists, planks, political platforms, or of any printed electoral propaganda posters or notices;
e) the posting up of electoral propaganda materials in other places than those allowed or in violating the provision of the present law;
f) the acceptance by a citizen to be registered in several lists of candidates;
g) the omission, by members of the constituency commissions, to bring the proposed nominations to public notice;
h) the refusal to allow access in the polling to the candidates or persons accredited to assist at the polling proceedings;
i) the refusal to obey the orders of the president of the electoral commission of the polling station concerning the ensuring of order in the polling station and in its surroundings;
j) the unjustified refusal to register an voter in the special list, or to hand over the ballot paper and voting stamp to an voter who has signed the voter list: the handing over of the ballot paper to an voter who does not show the voter's card and the identity paper or who refuses to sign for their receipt in the voter list in which he is registered;
k) the drawing up of official reports by the electoral commission of the polling stations in violating the provisions of the present law;
l) the continuation of electoral propaganda after its closure as well as advising the voters on polling day, at the seat of the polling stations or in the places provided under Article 51, paragraph (2), to vote for or against a certain party, political formation, their coalition, or an independent candidate;
m) the receipt of funding for the electoral campaign other than through an authorized financial agent or in violating, by such an agent, of the obligations that incumbent upon him, according to Article 45, paragraph (4);
n) the wearing of badges, or other electoral propaganda insignia by members of the commission of the polling stations the duration of the voting;
o) the failure, by members of the electoral commissions, to comply with the obligation to participate in the activity of these commissions.

ARTICLE 73.

Petty offenses provided under Article 72, Paragraphs (d), (e), (h), (n), and (o) shall be sanctioned with a fine from 5,000 to 15,000 lei, those under paragraphs (f), (g), (k), (1), and (m), with a fine from 15,000 to 45,000 lei, and those under paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (i), and (j), with a term of imprisonment from one month to six months, or with a fine from 45,000 to 100,000 lei.

ARTICLE 74.

1. The finding of the petty offenses provided under Article 72 shall be made by an official report drawn up by:

a) police officers and non-commissioned officers for the deeds provided under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (1), and (m);
b) mayors and their authorized representatives for the deeds provided under paragraphs (d), (e), and (m);
c) the president of the constituency for the deeds provided under paragraphs (f), (k), (1), (n), and (o).

2. As for the petty offenses provided under Article 72, paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (k), (1), (m), (n), and (o), in his official report, the finding agent shall also settle the fine applied.
3. The provisions of the Law No. 32/1968, except Article 26, shall apply to the petty offenses provided under the previous paragraph.
4. The official report on the finding of the petty offenses provided under Article 72, paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (i), and (j) shall be presented to the law court of first instance in whose territorial area the petty offense was committed, and which shall apply the sanction, taking into account the provisions of the Law No. 61/1991.

ARTICLE 75.

1. The interference by any means with the free exercise of the right to elect or to be elected shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to five years, and interdiction of certain rights.
2. In case that, by the deed provided under paragraph (1) above, an injury to the corporal integrity or health has been caused which requires medical care for a period exceeding sixty days, or which has caused one of the following consequences: loss of a sense or organ, their failure to function, a permanent physical or psychical infirmity, disfigurement, abortion, or endangering the life of a person, the punishment shall be imprisonment from three to ten years.
3. The attempt at the petty offense provided under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be punished.

ARTICLE 76.

1. The violation by any means of the secret ballot by members of the electoral commission of the polling station or by other persons shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to three years.
2. The attempt shall be punished.

ARTICLE 77.

1. The promise, offer, or giving of money or other advantages for the purpose of inducing the voter to vote or not to vote for a certain list of candidates or an independent candidate as well as their receipt by an voter, to the same end, shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to five years.
2. If the deed provided under paragraph (1) has been committed by an internal observer, the punishment shall be imprisonment from two to seven years.
3. The punishment provided under paragraph (1) shall also be applied to a person voting without having a vote, or to an voter voting more than once on the election day. The attempt shall be punished.

ARTICLE 78.

1. The use of a voided voter's card, or of a forged voter's card or ballot paper, the introduction into the ballot box of an additional number of ballot papers than those which an voter is entitled to, or the forging by any means of the documents from the electoral commission shall be punished with imprisonment from two to seven years.
2. The attempt shall be punished.

ARTICLE 79.

1. The attack by any means on the building of the polling station, the theft of the ballot box, or of the electoral documents shall be punished with imprisonment from two to seven years, unless the deed shall constitute a heavier offense.
2. The attempt shall be punished.

ARTICLE 80.

The opening of the ballot box before the hour established for the closure of the polling shall be punished with imprisonment from one year to five years.

ARTICLE 81.

For the offenses provided under Articles 75 to 80, the criminal proceeding shall be started ex officio.

ARTICLE 82.

The goods intended for, used for, or resulted from the petty offenses provided under Article 72 or from the offenses provided under Article 75 to 80 shall be confiscated.

CHAPTER XII. TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 83.

1. Any costs or expenses incurred for carrying out the election proceedings shall be paid out of the State budget.
2. The seat and equipment of the Central Electoral Commission shall be provided by the Government; those of the constituency commissions, by the prefects, and those of the polling stations, by the mayors, together with the prefects.
3. Any deeds drawn up in exercising the electoral rights provided in the present law shall be stamp-tax exempt.

ARTICLE 84.

1. In support of the activity of the electoral commissions, the Government of Romania shall provide the necessary supporting staff and trained statisticians.
2. For the duration in which the electoral commissions shall be operating, their members, the statisticians, and the supporting staff, who at their work places are employed under a contract, shall be considered temporally transferred.

ARTICLE 85.

1. The trial in court of objections, questionings, or any other petitions provided by this law shall be made according to the rules settled by law for presidential orders, with the compulsory participation of the public prosecutor.
2. No proceedings may be instituted against final decisions passed by courts of justice according to the present law.

ARTICLE 86.

1. The timetable provided in the present law shall be calculated including the first and last day, even if they should not be working days.
2. For the whole duration of the elections, the electoral commissions and courts of justice shall be permanently on duty in order to enable the citizens to exercise their franchise.

ARTICLE 87.

1. Persons disfranchised by a final sentence shall not participate in the voting and shall not be counted in establishing the total number of voters.
2. The provision of Article 59 regarding the special ballot box shall be applied correspondingly to persons under arrest before trial or convicted for an infringement.

ARTICLE 88.

1. The prefects shall verify the correct fulfillment by the mayors of their obligations provided by the present law, and if electoral frauds are found, they shall notify the lawful bodies.
2. Likewise, in case the prefects find that an voter has not been registered in or struck off from the voter lists, according to the law, or that the constituency or polling station commissions have not been lawfully constituted, they shall formulate objections and questionings that shall be settled in agreement with the provisions of the present law.

ARTICLE 89.

For the purpose of the present law, identification paper shall mean the identity paper, the certificate replacing the identity paper, or the diplomatic or service passport, and in the case of conscripts and students at military schools, the military service card.

ARTICLE 90.

Elections for the constitution of a new Parliament shall take place at the date that is to be settled by law.

ARTICLE 91.

For the 1992 elections, in the case of electoral coalitions, to the threshold of three per cent provided under Article 66, paragraph (1) shall be added one per cent of the total validly expressed votes throughout the Country for each member of the coalition, beginning with the second party or political formation, without exceeding eight per cent of these votes.

ARTICLE 92.

1. For the 1992 elections, voting shall be done on the basis of the voter lists used in the local elections, updated within fifteen days from the date when the polling day shall be settled as well as on the basis of the identification paper on which the control stamp of the polling station shall be applied over the endorsement, written in ink, stating the polling date.
2. The Government shall provide by December 31, 1992 the printing, drawing up and issue of all voter's cards to all citizens having the right to vote from the voter lists of the localities where they have their residence.
3. The voter's cards of conscripts shall be sent by the mayor to the commanders of the military units, who shall hand them over against a signature.
4. For the 1992 elections, if the stapling of the ballot papers is not possible, these shall be introduced into the ballot box after the voter has introduced them into envelopes corresponding to their size, provided by the electoral commission of the polling station.

ARTICLE 93.

1. The provision of Article 51, paragraph (3) shall also apply to the delegates accredited by the Central Electoral Commission as internal observers only for the 1992 elections. As internal observers there can be accredited only voters authorized by a non-governmental organization whose single aim is to defend the rights of man, lawfully constituted by the opening date of the electoral campaign.
2. The persons designated as internal observers cannot be members of a party or of a political formation. Their accreditation shall be made for a single polling station. The Central Electoral Commission may accredit to a polling station only one internal observer, on the basis of his or her written declaration to strictly observe the conditions of the accreditation. The declaration shall be given on his or her own responsibility, and it shall constitute a public document, with all the consequences provided by the law. The conditions of the accreditation shall be specified in the accreditation deed; if several persons are authorized for one and the same polling station, the accreditation shall be decided by lots.
3. The provisions of Article 45, paragraph (3), and of Article 51 paragraph (5) shall be correspondingly applicable to non-governmental organizations provided under paragraph (1).

ARTICLE 94.

As for the Constituency no. 42, the competencies provided by the present law for the county tribunal shall be exercised by the Tribunal of the Municipality of Bucuresti.

The present law was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies and by the Senate in the joint session of June 17, 1992, duly observing the provisions under Article 74, paragraph (1), and Article 76, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of Romania.

LAW No. 69/1992
ON THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

1. The President of Romania shall be elected through universal, equal, direct, secret and freely expressed suffrage, under the conditions of this law.
2. A voter has the right to a single vote, on each ballot organized for the election of the President of Romania, according to Art. 81 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

ARTICLE 2.

1. In the territorial-administrative units, the electoral proceedings for the election of the President of Romania shall be carried out in constituencies and polling stations, under the control of the electoral commissions provided for by law for the election to the Chamber of Deputies and to the Senate, on the basis of the same voter lists.
2. The Constitutional Court, according to Art. 144, paragraph d from the Constitution, ensures that the provisions of this law are respected over all the country and confirms the results of the ballot.

ARTICLE 3.

1. Party candidates, political formations, or independent candidates may participate in the elections for the President of Romania. The parties and political formations may nominate, either separately or together, only one candidate.
2. Both the nominated candidate by parties or political formations, and the independent candidates may by registered only if they are supported by at least 100,000 voters. Voters may vote for only one candidate.

ARTICLE 4.

1. The election date is established and made public by the Government, at least 60 (sixty) days previous to voting day, and within 5 (five) days from the expiration of the President's term of Commission, or from the date when the term provided by Art. 96 paragraph 2 of the Constitution begins.
2. The elections are to take place on one day and will be held only on Sunday.

CHAPTER II. ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. THE DUTIES OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 5.

The Central Electoral Commission has the following duties:

a) Oversees up to date voter lists and ensures that the legal dispositions regarding the election of the President of Romania are upheld all over the country and ensures their uniform application;
b) ensures that the provisions of the law are respected and records the candidates which meet the qualifications;
c) communicates to the constituency commissions and makes known through the press the candidates;
d) resolves the contestats for its own activity and the contestats sent by voter constituency commissions; the resolutions are definitive;
e) centralizes the election results, ascertains the elected candidate and presents to the Constitutional Court the necessary documentation for the validation of the mandate for the President of Romania;
f) carries out other obligations which shall devolve upon it according to this law;

ARTICLE 6.

The constituency commissions have the following duties:

a) within 2 (two) days from receipt of notice, to publish and post those candidates registered with the Central Electoral Commission, and to make the publications and posting;
b) to resolve the contests to its own activity and the contestats regarding the operations of the electoral commissions of the voter sections;
c) to distribute the ballots, control stamps and stamps with imprinted "voted" on it, to the electoral commissions and sections;
d) to centralize the election results for the voter constituency and forward them to the Central Electoral Commission. The official reports containing these results, as well as the contests, complaints and official reports received from the electoral commissions of voting;
e) to carry out other obligations provided by law.

ARTICLE 7.

The electoral commissions of the voting carry out adequately, the prerogatives according to the law for electing the Parliament.

ARTICLE 8.

The electoral commissions work with one half of the staff, plus one, from the total number of staff and make decisions with a majority of present members.

SECTION 2. NOMINATIONS

ARTICLE 9.

1. The proposals for candidates for election of the President of Romania are to be filed at the Central Electoral Commission no later than 30 (thirty) days previous to the election date.
2. The proposals are to be made in writing and will be accepted only on the condition that they;

   a) are signed by the leadership of the party or political formation or their leadership, which has nominated the candidate, or the independent candidate, as the case may be;
   b) contain the first and last name, occupation and the profession of the candidate;
   c) are followed by the declaration of acceptance of the candidate, written, signed, and dated by the candidate, as well as the lists of supporters (at least 100,000); the list or lists of supporters must contain first and last names of the candidates, as well as the first and last name, address, the ID number and signature of those who support the candidature.

3. The supporters list is a public right. The agreement of the supporters is their own responsibility.
4. The proposal for candidacy is presented in 4 (four) copies, 2 (two) of them which are to kept at the Central Electoral Commission, another is registered at the Constitution Court, and the fourth, certified by the President of the Central Electoral Commission and handed back.

ARTICLE 10.

Persons who do not fulfill the conditions provided by Art. 35 of the Constitution or have been elected President of Romania twice, may not qualify. The incumbent President of Romania, can qualify only if he has served one previous term.

ARTICLE 11.

1. Within 24 hours from the registration, the Central Electoral Commission shall make public the candidates through the press and posting at its headquarters.
2. Up to 20 days prior to the election date, citizens, parties and other political formations can contest the candidacy.
3. The contests regarding the admission or rejection of the candidacy are resolved by the Constitutional court within 24 hours. The decision of the court is final and published in MONITORUL OFICIAL of Romania.
4. The next day after the deadline for resolving the disputes, provided for in sub paragraph 3, the Central Electoral Commission communicates to the constituency electoral commissions the final list of candidates, in order of registration.

SECTION 3. THE BALLOTS

ARTICLE 12.

1. The ballots are to be printed according to the model stipulated in the appendix.
2. The dimensions of the ballots will be established by the Central Electoral Commission, taking into consideration the number of candidates and space for printing and are to be transmitted to constituency commissions, with the communication of the candidates.
3. the printing of the ballots is ensured by the constituency electoral commission, upholding the legal provisions referring to ballot printing for Parliament elections. The prefects are held responsible that all ballots are printed at least one day before election day.

ARTICLE 13.

1. The electoral marks are declared to the Central Electoral Commission with the candidature.
2. If the elections for the President of Romania take place at the same time as the elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, only the marks used for Parliament's section may be used. If the elections for the President of Romania take place on a date different than pardiamentary elections, only marks established in the last election for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate may be used. As for the parties or political formations which have not participated in these elections as well as for electoral coalitions, the provisions of the Law on the Election of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate referring to signs and denominations shall be applied.

ARTICLE 14.

The statutory provisions for the election to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, referring to the stamps of the polling stations, and to the handing, distribution and posting of the ballot papers, or to the issue of initialled and voided ballot papers, shall also apply to the elections for President of Romania.

SECTION 4. THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 15.

1. The electoral campaign and its development for the President of Romania are conducted according to the legal dispositions regarding the election to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, with the exceptions provided for in this section.

2. The president in office may participate in the electoral campaign of the party or political formation which has nominated him or which supports his candidacy, according to Article 9.

ARTICLE 16.

1. For the candidates for President of Romania access to public radio and TV shall be equal and free of charge.
2. The schedule for the electoral campaign and the designation of broadcast space for free access of the candidates is made after the registration of the candidates by the both Chambers of the Parliament, together with the representatives of public radio and TV and the participation of the candidates.
3. If the election of the President takes place at the same time as the election to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, the schedule and repatriation of broadcast time for the electoral campaign of Parliament will be taken into consideration.

ARTICLE 17.

Against the decision given by the constituency commission on the complaints entered with regard to the prevention of a party or political formation, or of a candidate to conduct his electoral campaign, complaints shall be resolved by the Constitutional Court within three days after their presentation.

ARTICLE 18.

1. If the elections for President take place simultaneously with those of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, persons accredited to observe the elections of deputies and senators can participate in the elections of the President as well.
2. In case the elections for President take place after parliamentary elections, the accreditation of press delegates, cinematography, radio, TV, Romanian or foreign, or representatives of international organizations, must be performed by the Central Electoral Commission.
3. In the situation provided for by *sub*paragraph 2, the parties or political formations who have nominated a candidate may send one delegate for each polling station or constituency commission who shall attend to the perfomance of the electoral proceedings. The designation has to be made by communicating the first and last name and the address, and signed by the leadership of the party or the political formation. If a group of parties or political formation have proposed the same candidate they can designate one common representative.

ARTICLE 19.

1. The voter will vote by applying the stamp "voted" within the square form printed with the first and last name of the candidate.
2. If the elections for President of Romania take place simultaneously with the parliament elections, the stamp is to be applied on one numbered ballot for both elections.
3. If the elections for President of Romania take place on a different date than those for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, then the stamp is to be applied on one numbered ballot made public by the government on the voting date.
4. **At the second suffrage round, the stamp shall be applied on the next suffrage number.**

CHAPTER III. THE DETERMINATION OF THE ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 20.

1. The electoral procedure for determining the results of the elections at the election station as well as the handling of the legal disputes related to those and the opening of the ballot boxes are to be conducted in accordance with the legal provisions regarding the election of the the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.
2. The results of the election at the election station is to be recorded in writing.
3. The candidates of the parties or political formations who have been proposed for both Parliament or the Presidency, have the right to put together a written record, as well. The delegates of the parties of political formations have the right to do so in such case where the election for President of Romania does not take place at the same time with the elections for Parliament.
4. The written records will contain both the null votes, and valid ones, as well as the first and last name of the candidates.

ARTICLE 21.

1. After the opening of the ballot boxes and the counting of the votes, the president of the electoral section will make 2 copies of an official report which contains:

   a) the number of voters according to the permanent lists;
   b) the number of voters present at the ballot boxes. The number will be broken down in reference to the voters from the permanent list and those from the special lists;
   c) the total number of freely expressed votes;
   d) the number of null votes;
   e) the number of freely expressed votes for each candidate;
   f) a brief presentation of the legal disputes and the manner of resolving them.

2. The official reports are signed by the president and the commission staff.
3. The lack of some commission staff signatures does not impede the validity of the official report. The president will mention the reasons which impeded the signature.
4. The official report together with all the legal disputes regarding the electoral operations of the polling station, as well as the null ballots and the contested ones are to be sealed and stamped and will be handed to the constituency electoral commission under military escort within 24 hours.
5. The constituency electoral commission will send one of the official reports to the territorial Court; the parties or political formation candidates may obtain a notarized copy upon request.
6. Within the twenty-four hours after receiving the file, the constituency commission shall present one of the copies of the minutes to the tribunal in whose territorial area the constituency is included; the candidates or parties and political formations by which they had been nominated shall be entitled to receive authenticated copies of the minutes.

ARTICLE 22.

1. Upon receipt of all official reports from the electoral commissions of the sections and after the legal disputes have been solved, the constituency electoral commission will conclude an official report containing;

   a) the number of voters of the constituency according to the electoral permanent lists;
   b) the number of voters present at the ballot boxes, "the number will be broken down in reference to the voters from the permanent lists and those from the special lists;
   c) the number of freely expressed votes;
   d) the number of null votes;
   e) the number of freely expressed votes for each candidate within the constituency electoral commission;
   f) a brief presentation of the legal disputes and the decisions taken by the constituency electoral commission.

2. The provisions of Art. 21 subparagraphs 2 and 3 are to be applied adequately.
3. The official report, together with the legal disputes, contestats, and the official reports received from the electoral commissions of the voting sections, forming a folder, will be closed, sealed and signed by the electoral commission staff and handed over to the Central Electoral Commission under military escort, within 48 hours, at the most, from the receipt of the last official report from the voting at the electoral commission.

ARTICLE 23.

1. The Central Electoral Commission resolves the legal disputes and presented contests, its decision being final. Afterward an official report will be made, containing;

   a) the total number of the voters according to the voter lists of the locality where the voters reside;
   b) the total number of the voters presented at the ballot boxes;
   c) the total number of null votes;
   d) the total number of freely expressed votes, from throughout the country, for each candidate, and the statement of carrying out the conditions provided by Art. 81 of the Constitution; in case these conditions are not met, the first and last name of the candidates that will participate in the second ballot;
   e) the centralization of the results of the second ballot according to the provisions of subarticles a - d, which are to be applied adequately, the first and last name of the elected candidate.
   f) the way of resolving the legal disputes;

2. The provisions of Art. 21, subArt. 2 and 3, are applied adequately.
3. The official report, for each ballot, together with the constituency electoral commissions folders, received according to Art. 22, Subart. 3, are handed over under military escort, to the Constitutional Court, within 24 hours from the registration of the last folder.

ARTICLE 24.

1. The Constitutional Court shall declare the elections void in case the voting and returning of results have taken place by fraud in the nature of modifying the assignment of the mandate, or as the case may be, the order of the candidates who may participate in the second voting. In this situation, the Court shall order the voting to be repeated on the third Sunday after the date when the elections were decleared voided.
2. The petition for the voiding of elections can be presented by the parties, political formations, and candidates that have participated in the elections, within three days at the most after the end of the voting; the petition shall be motivated and attended by the proofs on which it is based.
3. The petition can be admitted only if the petitioner is not involved in the fraud.
4. The petition shall be decided by the Constitutional Court up to the date provided by law for making the result of elections publicy known.

ARTICLE 25.

1. The Constitutional Court will publish the results of the elections in the press and MONITORUL OFICAL of Romania for each ballot and validates the election result for the elected President.
2. The validation document is made in 2 copies, one of which is handed to Parliament for the oath, as provided by Art. 82 paragraph 2 - Constitution.

ARTICLE 26.

1. The second ballot takes place under the conditions provided by Art. 81 paragraph 3 of the Constitution in two weeks from the first ballot, in the same voting sections and electoral constituencies, under the leadership of the same electoral commissions, based on the same voter lists from the first ballot.
2. The two candidates who have obtained the highest number of freely expressed votes all over the country in the first ballot will participate in the second ballot. The confirmation of this number is to be done by the Constitutional Court within 24 hours from the receipt of the official reports, provided by Art. 23, subArt. 3, which makes public the first and last names of both candidates among which will participate in the second ballot and the established election day according to subArt. 1.
3. The electoral campaign for the second ballot starts from the date of bringing to public knowledge of the election day.
4. The schedule for the public radio service, TV, and the allocation of broadcast time, will be established according to Art. 16 and applied adequately within 2 days of the opening of the electoral campaign.
5. The persons accredited to assist in the electoral operations for the first ballot, are righteously accredited for the second ballot as well.

CHAPTER IV. TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 27.

The sanctions and penalties provided by the law, for infringing the legal dispositions regarding the election of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate, are to be applied for the election of the President as well.

ARTICLE 28.

1. The legal provisions for the Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate election, referring to electoral expenses, legal fees, the government support for electoral commissions and the trial for legal disputes or any other requests, are applied as well for the Presidential election.
2. If the elections for Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate and the President of Romania take place at the same time, the expenses for electoral operations, including the funding for parties and political formations from the state budget are supported from the funds allocated for Parliament election.
3. In the case the elections for President of Romania take place at a different date from that of the parliamentary elections, the funding of the electoral campaign of the parties and political formations which have nominated candidates shall be established by a special law. The parties and political formations which have not obtained at least ten per cent of the validly expressed votes throughout the Country for the candidate which they have nominated shall refund the funding within two months after the date when the electoral campaign has ceased.

ARTICLE 29.

1 The elections for the President of Romania in 1992 shall take place at the same time as the ones for the Chamber of Deputies and Senate.
2. For the elections under paragraph (1) above, internal observers may also be accredited to attend the electoral operations. Under the conditions provided by the Law on the Election to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

ARTICLE 30.

1 The Executive Order No. 92/1990 on the Election of the Parliament and of the President of Romania shall be abrogated.
2. This law was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies and by the Senate in the joint session of June 8, 1992, duly observing the provisions under Article 74, paragraph (1) and Article 76, paragraph (2) of the Constitution of Romania.

Russian Federation

FEDERAL LAW ON ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES OF THE STATE DUMA OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Adopted by the State Duma on June 9, 1995.

CHAPTER I. GENERAL

ARTICLE 1. Basic Principles of Participation of Citizens of the Russian Federation in the Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as deputies of the State Duma, shall be elected by citizens of the Russian Federation on the basis of the universal, equal and direct electoral right by way of secret ballot. Participation of a citizen of the Russian Federation in elections is voluntary.

ARTICLE 2. Legislation on Elections of deputies of the State Duma

Legislation on elections of deputies of the State Duma is constituted by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation", this Federal Law and other federal laws.

ARTICLE 3. Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation

A citizen of the Russian Federation, who has reached the age of 18 years on the day of election, is entitled to elect deputies of the State Duma.

A citizen of the Russian Federation, who has reached the age of 21 years on the day of election, is entitled to be elected deputy of the State Duma.

A citizen of the Russian Federation, who resides or stays outside the Russian Federation during the period of preparation and conduct of election, has all the electoral rights in elections of deputies of the State Duma.

A citizen of the Russian Federation found incapable by a court of law or imprisoned under a decision of a court of law has no right to vote or to be elected.

ARTICLE 4. Setting of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

In compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, elections of deputies of the State Duma of new convocation shall be set by the President of the Russian Federation. The first Sunday after the expiration of the constitutional term, for which the State Duma of the previous convocation was elected, shall be the day of elections. The term from the day of setting the election and the day of the election shall be no less than four months.

In the event the President of the Russian Federation should fail to set elections of deputies of the State Duma within the term set forth by Paragraph 1 of this Article, the date of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be announced by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation on first Sunday of a month, which follows the month in which State Duma stops its authority.

In the event of dissolution of the State Duma in cases and under the procedure stipulated by the constitution of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation shall simultaneously set elections of deputies of the State Duma of the new convocation. In this case the last Sunday before expiration of three months after the day of dissolution of the State Duma shall be the day of election, conducted by the State Duma.

In the event the President of the Russian Federation should fail to set elections of deputies of the State Duma of the new convocation after the dissolution of the State Duma, the day of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be announced by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 5. Election to the State Duma

In compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the State Duma consists of 450 deputies:

225 deputies of the State Duma are elected in single-mandate (one district - one deputy) electoral districts on the basis of the standard quota of voters' representation in single-mandate electoral districts, except for electoral districts established in subjects of the Russian Federation where the number of voters is less than the standard quota of voters' representation in a single-mandate electoral district, which is defined by way of division of the total number of voters in the Russian Federation by 225 single-mandate electoral districts;

225 deputies of the State Duma are elected in the federal electoral district in proportion to the number of votes given for federal lists of candidates for deputy nominated by electoral associations or electoral blocs.

ARTICLE 6. The Right to Nominate Candidates for Deputy

The right to nominate candidates for deputy belongs to the voters and electoral associations or electoral blocs.

ARTICLE 7. Preparation and Conduct of Elections by Election Committees

Election committees shall be entrusted with the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and control over adherence to electoral rights of citizens.

During the preparation and conduct of elections, election committees shall be independent of the bodies of state power and local government within the scope of their powers set forth by federal laws.

Decisions of election committees adopted within the scope of their powers shall be binding upon state bodies, bodies of local government, state enterprises, institutions and organizations, as well as for officials thereof.

ARTICLE 8. The Right to Pre-Election Campaign

The State shall provide citizens of the Russian Federation and public associations with free conduct of pre-election campaigns in compliance herewith.

Citizens of the Russian Federation, public associations may in any form allowed by the law legally perform activities encouraging the voters to vote for or against one or another candidate or federal candidates list of an electoral association or electoral bloc.

Equal conditions of access to state mass media shall be guaranteed to candidates for deputies, electoral associations and electoral blocs.

ARTICLE 9. Financing of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

Financing of measures related to preparation of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be performed at the expense of federal budget funds.

Candidates for deputy, electoral associations, electoral blocs shall create their own election funds for financing pre-election campaign.

ARTICLE 10. Publicity in Preparation and Conduct of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

Preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be performed openly and publicly.

All decisions of election committees, bodies of state power and bodies of local government related to preparation and conduct of elections shall be subject to publication.

CHAPTER II. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS

ARTICLE 11. Establishment of Electoral Districts

In order to conduct elections of deputies of the State Duma, 225 single-mandate electoral districts shall be established, which must comply with the following requirements:

1) equal number of voters in electoral districts within one subject of the Russian Federation with a permissible mutual deviation of no more than 10 per cent, and no more than 15 per cent in regions with difficult of access and remote regions;
2) an electoral district shall constitute a single territory: establishment of an electoral district of non-adjacent territories is not allowed.

One electoral district shall be established on the territory of a subject of the Russian Federation with a number of voters lower than the standard quota of representation.

Electoral districts shall be established by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation on the basis of the data provided by bodies of executive power of subjects of the Russian Federation indicating the number of voters residing on territories of respective subjects of the Russian Federation. The scheme of electoral districts shall be approved by a federal law subject to promulgation no later than 110 days prior to the day of elections.

In the event of dissolution of the State Duma or in the event of failure to approve the electoral district scheme within the term stipulated by Paragraph 3 of this Article, elections of deputies of the State Duma of the new convocation shall be conducted in the electoral districts of which scheme was approved during the election of the State Duma of previous convocation.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation must officially publish the list of single-mandate electoral districts no later than 108 days prior to the day of elections.

ARTICLE 12. Establishment of Polling Stations

Polling stations shall be established to provide voting and calculation of votes at elections of deputies of the State Duma.

Polling stations shall be established by the head of the local administration with coordination of a respective district election committee no later than 60 days prior to the day of elections with due regard to local and other conditions for the purpose of creation of maximum conveniences for voters.

Polling stations shall be established with regard to the following requirements:

1) no more than 3000 voters per polling station;
2) following the borders of administrative and territorial division in the subject of the Russian Federation;
3) inadmissibility of crossing of polling station borders by electoral district borders.

In sanatoriums, spas, rest homes, hospitals, other stationary medical institutions and other places of temporary stay of voters, in regions difficult of access or remote regions, on navigating vessels and at polar stations, polling stations may be established within the term specified in Paragraph 2 hereof, and no later than 5 days prior to the day of election in exclusive cases. Such polling stations shall be attached to the electoral districts on the basis of their location or the place of vessel's registration.

Militarymen shall vote at common polling stations. By way of exception, establishment of polling stations in military units located in detached regions far from settlements is allowed. In such cases polling stations shall be established by commanders of military units on the decision of a respective district election committee. Access to the voting premises must be granted to all members of the election committee, observers, candidates and their attorneys if they produce a relevant document.

Polling stations for citizens of the Russian Federation staying on the territory of a foreign state shall be established by heads of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Russian Federation on the territory of their country of stay.

The issue of attachment of polling stations established outside the territory of the Russian Federation to a single-mandate electoral district shall be resolved in compliance with Paragraph 3, Article 11 hereof. The number of voters in a district to which polling stations established outside the territory of Russian Federation are attached shall be less than the standard quota of representation. The number of voters at polling stations established outside the territory of the Russian Federation shall not exceed 10 per cent of the number of voters residing on the territory of the single-mandate electoral district to which these polling stations have been attached.

Polling station lists indicating borders thereof, and addresses and telephone numbers of polling station election committees shall be published in the local press no later than 40 days prior to the day of election.

CHAPTER III. LISTS OF VOTERS

ARTICLE 13. The List of Voters and Procedure of Compilation thereof

The list of voters shall be compiled by the polling station election committee on the basis of information provided by the head of local administration in a standard form. The head of local administration shall from time to time revise lists of registered voters as of January 1 and July 1 annually. The head of local administration shall forward data of voters to the election committee no later than 40 days prior to the day of election.

The list of voters shall be compiled in alphabetical or other order (on the basis of settlements, streets, houses, or addresses of voters). The list shall indicate last names, first names, second names, year of birth (day and month of birth additionally for the age of 18 years) and address of permanent residence of voters.

The list of military voters staying in the military unit, their family members and other voters, if they reside in the region where the military unit is located, shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by commander of the military unit within the term stipulated by Paragraph 1 herein.

Militarymen residing outside military units shall be put on the lists of voters at the place of residence on common grounds.

Lists of voters staying on the day of election in sanatoriums, spas, rest homes, hospitals, other stationary medical institutions and other places of temporary stay of voters shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by chiefs of the said institutions.

The list of voters of a polling station established either on a vessel navigating on the day of elections or at a polar station shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by the captain of the vessel or the chief of the polar station.

The list of voters of a polling station established outside the territory of the Russian Federation shall be compiled on the basis of data provided either by the head of a respective diplomatic mission, consular office of the Russian Federation, or by commander of the military unit located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

The list of voters shall be made in duplicate according to the form approved by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation and shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the polling station election committee. One copy of the list of voters shall be left at the polling station election committee at the second copy being handed over to the respective territorial election committee no later than 16 days prior to the day of elections.

ARTICLE 14. Procedure of Entering Citizens on the Lists of Voters

All citizens of the Russian Federation, who possess the active electoral right in accordance with Article 3 of this Federal Law, shall be entered on the list of voters.

The grounds for entering of a citizen on the list of voters at a certain polling station shall be the fact of his/her residing on the territory of this polling station established in accordance with the federal law that determines the rights of citizens of the Russian Federation to freedom of movement, choice of place of stay and place of residence on the territory of the Russian Federation.

A voter may be entered on the list of voters at one polling station only.

Voters staying on the day of election in sanatoriums, spas, rest homes, hospitals, other stationary medical institutions and other places of temporary stay of voters shall be entered on the list of voters of the place of their stay.

Students and post-graduate students of the day form of study residing in dormitories shall be entered on the list of voters at the place of the dormitory location.

Citizens of the Russian Federation residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation or staying on long-term business-trips abroad, provided that they hold an external passport of citizen of the Russian Federation, shall be entered on the list of voters of the polling station established outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

Citizens of the Russian Federation arriving in foreign states under private invitations, on service, business and tourist trips, shall be additionally entered on the list of voters provided that they apply to the polling station election committee and hold an external passport of citizen of the Russian Federation.

Voters who have settled on the territory of the polling station after the list of voters had been submitted for general familiarization, as well as voters for any other reason not entered on the list of voters shall be additionally entered by the polling station election committee on the list of voters on the basis of documents of identification and documents confirming the place of residence on the territory of this polling station.

ARTICLE 15. Familiarization of Voters with the Lists of Voters

Lists of voters shall be submitted for general familiarization no later than 30 days prior to the day of election.

Each citizen shall be entitled to file a complaint with the polling station election committee for the failure to put him/her on the list of voters, as well as of any other mistake or inaccuracy in the list of voters.

The polling station election committee must review the complaint (application) and revise the mistake or inaccuracy, or give a written answer to the applicant indicating the reason for denying the application within 24 hours. Decisions of the election committee may be appealed in a higher election committee or in court, which are required to adjudicate the complaint (application) within three days, or immediately if the complaint is filed, three days prior to the election or on the day of election. In the event of a decision in favor of the applicant, the polling station election committee shall immediately make the necessary corrections in the list of voters.

Introduction of amendments into list of voters after the beginning of the calculation of votes is not allowed.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTION COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 16. The System of Election Committees

Preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be arranged by election committees:

1) the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation;
2) election committees of the subjects of the Russian Federation;
3) district election committees;
4) territorial (rayon, city and other) election committees;
5) polling station election committees.

ARTICLE 17. The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation formed in compliance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation" shall lead the activities of election committees that provide preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

Electoral associations and electoral blocs which have registered a federal list of candidates for deputy in the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation are entitled to appoint one member to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with the right of deliberative vote.

ARTICLE 18. Procedure of Formation of the Election Committee of a subject of the Russian Federation

According to the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation", the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be formed by the legislative (representative) and executive bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation with due regard to suggestions of public organizations, elective bodies of local government, meetings of voters at places of work, service, studying and residence.

The election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall consist of 10 to 14 members, no less than half of the members of the election committee being appointed by the legislative (representative) body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation.

Chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be elected by secret ballot at the first session from the members of the election committee and, as a rule, must have a higher legal education.

The election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation shall be formed no later than 30 days after this Federal Law has entered into force.

Electoral associations and electoral blocs which have registered a federal list of candidates in the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation are entitled to appoint one member to the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each election committee of subjects of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 19. Procedure of Formation of District Election Committees

District election committees shall be formed in each single-mandate electoral district.

District election committee shall be formed by the legislative (representative) and executive bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation no later than 92 days prior to the day of election in the number of 8 to 14 members. Half of the members of the district election committee shall be appointed by legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the other half being appointed by the executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation.

In nomination of candidatures for the district election committee, the legislative (representative) and executive bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation shall take into consideration suggestions of elective bodies of local government, public associations, meetings of voters at places of work, service, studying and residence.

Chairman, vice-Chairman and secretary of the district election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be elected by secret ballot at the first session from the members of the district election committee. Chairman of the district election committee, as a rule, must have higher legal education.

In the event that legislative (representative and executive bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation should fail to appoint members of the district election committee within the term stipulated in Paragraph 2 herein, the district election committee shall be formed by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

Electoral associations, electoral blocs which have registered a federal list of candidates in the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation are entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each district election committee. A candidate for deputy is entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to the district election committee of the single-mandate electoral district where this candidate is registered.

If the subject of the Russian Federation has only one single-mandate electoral district, forming of a district election committee is not necessary. In this case the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation may entrust the election committee of this subject of the Russian Federation with powers of the district election committee.

ARTICLE 20. Procedure of Formation of Territorial (Rayon, City and other) Election Committees

Territorial (rayon, city and other) election committees shall be formed no later than 60 days prior to the day of election in the number of 5 to 9 members. Members of the territorial election committee shall be appointed by the elective body of local government. Chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the territorial election committee shall be elected by secret ballot at the first session from the members of the territorial election committee. On the decision of district election committee coordinated with the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, several territorial election committees shall be formed within one administrative territorial unit with a large number of voters.

When nominating candidatures for the territorial election committee, elective bodies of local government shall take into consideration suggestions of public associations, meetings of voters at places of work, service, studying and residence.

In the event that the elective body of local government should fail to appoint members of a territorial election committee within the term stipulated by Paragraph 1 herein, or there is no elective body of local government on this territory, the territorial election committee shall be formed by the district election committee.

Electoral associations, electoral blocs which have registered a federal list of candidates in the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation are entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each territorial election committee. A candidate for deputy is entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each territorial election committee of the single-mandate electoral district where this candidate is registered.

ARTICLE 21. Procedure of Formation of Polling Station Election Committees

Polling station election committees shall be formed by elective bodies of local government no later than 44 days prior to the day of election in the number of 5 to 10 members.

When nominating candidatures for the polling station election committee, elective bodies of local government shall take into consideration suggestions of public associations, meetings of voters at places of work, service, studying and residence. Chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the polling station election committee shall be elected by secret ballot at the first session from the members of the polling station election committee.

In the event that the elective body of local government should fail to appoint members of a polling station election committee within the term stipulated by Paragraph 1 herein, or there is no elective body of local government on this territory, the polling station election committee shall be formed by a respective territorial or district election committees.

Members of the polling station election committee at a polling station established either at a polar station or on a navigating vessel shall be appointed by the chief of the polar station or the captain of the vessel within the term stipulated by Paragraph 1 herein, or no later than five days prior to the day of election in exceptional cases.

Members of the polling station election committee at a polling station established outside the territory of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by head of a respective diplomatic mission or consular office of the Russian Federation, or by commander of the military unit located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

Electoral associations, electoral blocs which have registered a federal list of candidates in the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation are entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each polling station election committee. A candidate for deputy is entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each polling station election committee of the single-mandate electoral district where this candidate is registered. On the day of election a candidate for deputy, electoral association, electoral bloc are entitled to appoint one observer, who shall have the right to stay in the voting premises from the beginning of voting to the end of processing of documents on election results and receive certified copies thereof, to respective polling station election committees.

ARTICLE 22. Status of an Election Committee Member

Members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote are entitled to be present at all sessions of the committee.

Election committees may not include candidates for deputy, their attorneys, spouses and close relatives of the candidates, as well as persons directly subordinate to them.

A member of an election committee, having the right both to deciding and deliberative vote has the following rights:

1) to be informed of meetings of a respective election committee in advance;
2) to speak at the meetings of the election committee, make suggestions on the issues within the scope of competence of a respective election committee, and demand voting on them;
3) to ask other participants to the session questions according to the agenda and receive reasonable answers to them;
4) to familiarize himself/herself with any documents and materials of the respective and subordinate election committees and receive certified copies thereof.

When the election committee takes a decision, members of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote shall not take part in the voting.

Members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote may be relieved of the duties of a member of election committee before expiration of the term of his/her powers on the decision of the body, which had appointed the member, in the following cases:

1) submission by a member of the election committee of a written application for resignation;
2) loss of citizenship of the Russian Federation by the member of the election committee;
3) entry of an indictment in respect of the member of the election committee into legal force;
4) recognition by the decision of the court of law, which has entered into force, of the member of the election committee incapable, restricted in capability, missing or dead.

The payment for work of members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote relieved of main work for the period of preparation and conduct of the election shall be effected at the expense of funds allocated for conduct of the election. Within the term of their powers they may not be dismissed from the job or transferred to another job without their consent on the initiative of the administration (employer).

During the period of conduct of the election members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote may not be prosecuted or subject to measures of administrative punishment imposed by the court without consent of a respective public prosecutor.

Power of members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation and district election committees with the right of deliberative vote related to preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall continue till the end of registration of candidates at the time of elections of deputies of the State Duma of the next convocation provided that the electoral association, electoral bloc or candidate, who had appointed them, received deputy's mandates. Powers of other members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation and district election committees with the right of deliberative vote shall expire in 30 days after the publication of common results of the election. The term of powers of members of territorial and polling station election committees with the right of deliberative vote shall simultaneously expire with the term of powers of these election committees.

ARTICLE 23. Powers of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation

During preparation and conduct of the election, within the scope of its powers set forth by federal laws, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall:

1) guide the activities of election committees in elections of deputies of the State Duma;
2) exercise control over adherence to the legitimacy in the preparation and conduct of the election and provide uniform application of this Federal Law;
3) make suggestions on assigning voters, including militarymen staying outside the territory of the Russian Federation, to single-mandate electoral districts on the territory of the Russian Federation on the basis of data provided by respective ministries and departments of the Russian Federation;
4) issue instructions and other normative acts on the questions of application of this Federal Law binding upon all election committees performing preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma;
5) register electoral blocs;
6) register federal lists of candidates and lists of candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral districts by electoral associations or electoral blocs;
7) register attorneys of electoral associations and electoral blocs;
8) provide for equal legal conditions in the pre-election activities for all electoral associations, electoral blocs which have registered federal lists of candidates, and for all candidates registered in single-mandate electoral districts;
9) issue certificates of a standard form to candidates registered with federal electoral districts and attorneys of electoral associations and electoral blocs;
10) hear information of ministries and departments, and other bodies of executive power and bodies of local government on the issues related to preparation and conduct of elections;
11) set the form of ballots, list of voters and other electoral documents;
12) approve the text of the ballot in Russian for voting in federal electoral districts;
13) approve seals of election committees and the order of shipment and storage of electoral documents;
14) distribute funds allocated from the federal budget for financial support of the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, support of the activities of election committees for the term of their powers, control over targeted use of the said funds;
15) control over provision of election committees with premises, transport, communication and consider other issues of material and technical support of the election;
16) adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions of subordinate election committees and adopt reasonable decisions thereon;
17) establish a uniform procedure of processing of the results of voting and defining the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma;
18) define persons elected deputies of the State Duma in a federal electoral district and issue certificates of election to them;

19) establish the general results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma in the Russian Federation and publish them in the press, and provide for transfer of documents related to preparation and conduct of the election to archives;
20) compile lists of persons elected deputies of the State Duma and transfer these lists and necessary documents to the State Duma;
21) organize elections of deputies of the State Duma to replace the withdrawn deputies and repeated elections of deputies of the State Duma;
22) realize other powers in compliance with this the Federal Law and the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation".

Decisions of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation adopted within the scope of its powers shall be binding upon all state bodies, bodies of local government, public associations, state enterprises, agencies and organizations, as well as their officials.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall publish its own official gazette.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall be a legal entity and act on a permanent basis.

ARTICLE 24. Powers of the Election Committee of a Subject of the Russian Federation

The election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall:

1) coordinate activities of election committees of the subject of the Russian Federation;
2) provide for interaction of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with bodies of state power in the subject of the Russian Federation;
3) exercise control over legitimacy of conduct of the election on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation;
4) provide for printing of voting ballots in the federal electoral district and single-mandate electoral districts established on the territory of the respective subject of the Russian Federation and distribution thereof to district election committees;
5) distribute among district election committees monetary resources allocated for preparation and conduct of the election, and exercise control over targeted use of these resources on the territory of a subject of the Russian Federation;
6) establish a uniform numeration of the polling stations on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation;
7) adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions of other election committees in this subject of the Russian Federation and adopt reasonable decisions thereon;
8) realize all other powers on behalf of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

The term of powers of the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be four years.

Election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation shall be legal entities and act on a permanent basis.

ARTICLE 25. Powers of the District Election Committee

The district election committee shall:

1) exercise control over fulfillment of this Federal Law on territories of electoral districts;
2) coordinate the activities of territorial election committees and polling station election committees, adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions of these committees and adopt reasonable decisions on the said complaints (applications);
3) register candidates for deputy and their attorneys, issue certificates of a standard form to them;
4) provide for equal legal conditions of pre-election activities for all candidates for deputy;
5) dispose of monetary resources allocated for preparation and conduct of the election in the electoral district, distribute part of these resources among territorial election committees, exercise control over targeted use thereof on the territory of the electoral district;
6) approve the text of the voting ballot for voting in the single-mandate electoral district;
7) provide supplies of territorial election committees with voting ballots in the federal and single-mandate electoral district;
8) estimate and publish the results of voting and election in the single-mandate electoral districts and forward data of the results of voting in the federal electoral district on the respective territory to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation;
9) control over provision of territorial election committees and polling station election committees with premises, transport, communication and considers other issues of material and technical support of the election;
10) organize elections of deputies of the State Duma to replace the withdrawn deputies and repeated elections of deputies of the State Duma;
11) realize other powers in compliance with this Federal Law.

District election committees shall act until the expiration of the term of powers of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 26. Powers of the Territorial (Rayon, City and other) Election Committee

The territorial (rayon, city and other) election committee shall:

1) exercise control over the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma on the respective territory, inform the population of addresses and telephone numbers of the polling station election committees;
2) coordinate the work of polling station election committees on the relevant territory, adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions of these election committees and adopt reasonable decisions on the said complaints (applications);
3) dispose of monetary resources allocated for preparation and conduct of the election, distribute them among polling station election committees;
4) provide for equal legal conditions of pre-election activities for all candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs along with the district election committee;
5) organize delivery of voting ballots and other documents to the polling station election committees;
6) render organizational and technical assistance to polling station election committees in the conduct of voting at the polling stations;
7) organize voting ahead of time in the premises of the territorial election committee;
8) estimate the results of voting on the respective territory, give them to the mass media and hand over protocols of voting results to the district election committee;
9) provide for transfer of documents related to preparation and conduct of the election to an archive or higher election committee;
10) realize other powers in compliance with this Federal Law.

The term of powers of the territorial election committee shall expire after the official publication of the common election results, including the results of elections in the respective electoral district.

ARTICLE 27. Powers of the Polling Station Election Committee

The polling station election committee shall:

1) notify the population of the address and the telephone number of the polling station election committee, its working hours, as well as the day and the place of voting;
2) compile lists of voters at the polling station;
3) familiarize voters with lists of voters, adjudicate complaints about mistakes and incorrectness in the list of voters and solve the issue of introduction of relevant corrections thereto;
4) provide for preparation of voting premises, ballot-boxes and other equipment;
5) control over adherence to the regulations on placing of pre-election propaganda materials on the territory of the polling station;
6) organize voting at the station on the day of the election, as well as voting ahead of time;
7) arrange calculation of the votes, estimate the results of voting in the polling station;
8) adjudicate complaints (applications) regarding violations of this Federal Law and adopt reasonable decisions thereon;
9) realize other powers in compliance with this Federal Law.

The term of powers of the polling station election committee shall expire after the official publication of common election results including the results of elections in the respective electoral district.

ARTICLE 28. Publicity in the Activities of Election Committees

Election committees shall conduct their activities publicly and openly. Candidates for deputy and their attorneys, authorized representatives of electoral associations, electoral blocs and representatives of mass media are entitled to be present at the sessions of election committees.

Election committees shall advise citizens of the results of registration of candidates, their biographic data and voting results of each candidate, electoral association or electoral bloc.

Decisions of election committees shall be published in the press and handed over to other mass media.

ARTICLE 29. Organization of Election Committees' Activities

The activities of election committees shall be performed on a collegial basis. A session of the election committee shall be deemed competent provided that the majority of committee members with the right to vote is present at the session. A session of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall be deemed competent provided that no less than two-thirds of the members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with the right to vote is present at the session.

In the event of adopting a decision by election committees which have in their composition an even number of committee members with the right to vote, in case of an equal number of votes "Yea" and "Nay", the vote of the chairman of the election committee shall be deciding.

Decisions of election committees adopted within the scope of their powers shall be binding upon all bodies of state power and bodies of local government, as well as for subordinate election committees.

Decisions of election committees on the election of the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the election committee, on registration of candidates, on cancellation of registration of candidates, on the issues of financial support for preparation and conduct of the election, on estimation of voting results, on declaration of elections null and void shall be adopted at the sessions of election committees by the majority of votes of the total number of committee members with the right to vote. Decisions of election committees on other issues shall be adopted by the majority of votes of the number of members of the election committee with the right to vote present at the session.

Decisions of the election committee shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the election committee.

Members of the election committee who do not agree with the decision adopted by the election committee are entitled to express in writing their opinion of which the chairman of the election committee must advise a higher election committee no later than within three days, or immediately, if the opinion is expressed three days prior to the day of election or on the day of election.

A decision of the election committee, which is in conflict with federal laws or is adopted by the election committee which exceeded its authority, shall be subject to cancellation by a higher election committee or by the court of law.

Sessions of the election committee shall be convened and held by the chairman or, on his/her behalf, by the vice-chairman of the election committee. Sessions shall also be held on demand of no less than one-third of the election committee members with the right of deciding vote.

Representatives of concerned parties are entitled to be present at the sessions of election committees during adjudication of complaints (applications).

The chairman, the vice-chairman and the secretary of the election committee acting on a permanent basis, may be permanent employees of the election committee. So may be other committee members with the right to vote provided that there is a decision of a respective election committee. Payment of labor of the members of the election committee with the right to vote shall be effected within the limits of budgetary funds allocated to the election committee in the order and in amounts determined by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

Election committees acting on a permanent basis shall have their staff, structure and employees of which shall be established by the election committees within the limits of budgetary funds allocated thereto. Other election committees may form temporary staff for the period of preparation and conduct of elections, structure and employees of which shall be determined by respective election committees within the limits of budgetary funds allocated thereto.

ARTICLE 30. Assistance to the Activities of Election Committees

State authorities, bodies of local government, public associations, enterprises, agencies and organizations, as well as their officials must render assistance to election committees in realization of their powers, including granting of necessary premises, transport, means of communication, technical equipment, as well as give information and materials, respond to requests of election committees within a term of five days, or immediately, if such requests are made five days prior to the day of election or on the day of election.

ARTICLE 31. Appeal of Decisions and Actions of Election Committees

Decisions and actions (inaction) of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation and its officials may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

Decisions and actions (inaction) of election committees and their officials may be appealed to a higher election committee or in the court of law. Preliminary appeal to higher election committees shall not be a mandatory condition for an appeal to the court of law.

Complaints (applications) received by the court shall be adjudicated by the court within the terms envisaged herein.

Decisions on complaints (applications) received by a higher election committee in the course of election shall be made within a term of five days from the day of receipt of the complaint (application) by the committee, or immediately if such complaint (application) is received five days prior to the day of election or on the day of election. In case the facts contained in complaints (applications) should require additional review, decisions on them shall be adopted no later than within ten days.

A higher election committee is entitled to adopt an independent decision on the subject of the complaint (application) thus canceling the decision of the subordinate committee.

Courts and bodies of the prosecutor's office must organize their work (including holidays) so as to provide timely adjudication of complaints (applications).

CHAPTER V. ELECTORAL ASSOCIATIONS

ARTICLE 32. Definition of the Electoral Association

An electoral association is an all-Russian public association established in the order stipulated by federal laws, whose charter provides for participation in elections to bodies of state power through nomination of candidates and is registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation no later than six months prior to announcement of the day of election.

Electoral blocs created for the period of the conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma also possess the rights of an electoral association.

ARTICLE 33. Electoral Blocs

Electoral blocs may be established by no less than two public associations which are electoral associations in compliance with Paragraph 1, Article 32 of this Federal Law.

In the event that a public association is part of an electoral bloc, it may not appear during the period of the conduct of the election as an independent electoral association or join another electoral bloc.

Decisions on joining an electoral bloc shall be adopted at the congress (conference) of the public association.

Electoral blocs shall be registered by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation. The registration shall be executed no later than within five days after submission to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation of minutes of the congresses (conferences) of the public associations with decisions on joining an electoral bloc and joint decision of public associations on the establishing of an electoral bloc signed by authorized representatives of such associations.

ARTICLE 34. Authorized Representatives of Electoral Associations and Electoral Blocs

Electoral associations and electoral blocs shall appoint representatives authorized to represent the electoral associations and electoral blocs in compliance with this Federal Law on all issues related to participation of such electoral associations and electoral blocs in elections of deputies of the State Duma, including financial issues.

ARTICLE 35. Participation of Electoral Associations and Electoral Blocs in Election of Deputies of the State Duma

Electoral associations and electoral blocs shall take part in elections of deputies of the State Duma on equal grounds in the order established by this Federal Law.

CHAPTER VI. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY

ARTICLE 36. Nomination of Candidates for Deputy by an Electoral Association, an Electoral Bloc in Single-Mandate Electoral Districts

Candidates for deputy in single-mandate electoral districts shall be nominated at the congress (conference) of an electoral association, with an indication of the electoral district in which each candidate will be nominated. Electoral associations and electoral blocs are entitled to nominate no more than one candidate in one electoral district.

The decision on nomination of candidates shall be adopted by secret ballot.

Electoral associations and electoral blocs are entitled to nominate persons who are not members of public associations, which are part of these electoral associations or electoral blocs.

ARTICLE 37. Nomination of the Federal List of Candidates by Electoral Associations, Electoral Blocs

The federal List of candidates for deputy of the State Duma for voting at elections in the federal electoral district shall be nominated by the electoral association or electoral bloc at the congress (conference) of the electoral association.

The decision on nomination of a federal list of candidates shall be adopted by secret ballot.

Electoral associations and electoral blocs are entitled to nominate persons who are not members of public associations, which are part of these electoral associations or electoral blocs, for the federal list of candidates.

The composition of the federal list of candidates and the procedure of placing candidates thereon shall be determined by electoral associations and electoral blocs. When determining the order of placing candidates on the list, the electoral association or electoral bloc split it partly or in full into regional groups of candidates (by the subjects of Russian Federation or groups of the subjects of Russian Federation), in the meantime part of the list, which includes candidates who do not belong to regional groups, may not include more than 12 candidates. At the same time, they must indicate which subjects of the Russian Federation or groups of subjects of the Russian Federation correspond to each of the specified regional groups of candidates. A candidate may not be included into two or more such groups and may not be mentioned on the federal list more than once. After the federal list has been submitted to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, its composition and order of placing of candidates thereon may not be changed, except for the changes caused by the withdrawal of candidates.

The federal list may include candidates for deputy of the State Duma nominated by the same electoral association or electoral bloc in single-mandate electoral districts.

The total number of candidates nominated by an electoral association or electoral bloc on the federal list may not exceed 270 persons.

ARTICLE 38. Submission of Lists of Candidates and Documents of Electoral Associations and Electoral Blocs to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation

The federal list of candidates and the list of candidates nominated by an electoral association or electoral bloc in single-mandate electoral districts are to be submitted by an authorized representative of the electoral association or electoral bloc to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation. These lists should indicate last name, first name, second name, date of birth, place of work, office held (occupation) and place of residence of each candidate. The lists should be accompanied by a copy of the certificate of registration of the electoral association by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, its registered charter, minutes with decision of the congress (conference) of the electoral association where candidates were nominated, as well as the power of attorney of the electoral association.

Authorized representatives of an electoral bloc shall submit to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, along with lists of candidates, minutes of congresses (conferences) of public associations with decisions on joining the electoral bloc and a joint decision of these public associations on creation of an electoral bloc signed by authorized representatives of these public associations.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall consider the documents submitted within a term of three days and issue certified copies of lists of candidates or reasonable decision on refusal to issue such copies to the authorized representative of an electoral association or electoral bloc.

The refusal to accept documents and issue copies of lists of candidates may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which is required to adjudicate the complaint no later than within 3 days.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall publish lists of candidates submitted thereto in mass media and its official gazette.

ARTICLE 39. Collection of Signatures in Support of Candidates Nominated by an Electoral Association or Electoral Bloc

An electoral association or electoral bloc which has nominated candidates in single-mandate electoral districts shall carry out collection of voters' signatures in a respective single-mandate electoral district in support of each candidate in a number of no less than one per cent of the total number of voters in this electoral district.

An electoral association or electoral bloc which has nominated a federal list of candidates, must collect no less than 200 thousand voters' signatures in his/her support, no more than seven per cent of the required total number of signatures falling on one subject of the Russian Federation.

Signatures collected in support of a candidate nominated by an electoral association or electoral bloc in a single-mandate electoral district and registered by constituency electoral commission, shall be included by the Central Electoral Commission of Russian Federation in the number of signatures in support of the federal list of candidates nominated by the some electoral association or electoral bloc.

An electoral association or electoral bloc is entitled to start collection of signatures from the day of the issue of certified copies of candidates' lists by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation. Collection of signatures before receipt of certified copies of candidates' lists by an electoral association or electoral bloc is not allowed.

Collection of signatures shall be carried out at places of work (including work collectives), service, study or residence, during the preelectoral campaign as well as at another places, where campaigning or carrying out the signatures is not prohibited by law. Forcing and bribing of voters in any form on the part of a person collecting signatures not allowed.

Signature sheets shall be printed in the form set forth in Appendices No. 1 and 2 hereto.

In the process of collection of signatures in support of a federal list of candidates, each signature sheet should indicate last name, first name, second name, date of birth, place of work, office held (occupation) and place of residence of the first three candidates who are at the head of the federal part of the list, as well as the three candidates who are at the head of the respective regional part of the list, if the list is split into regional groups of candidates. The person collecting signatures in support of a federal list must produce the federal list of voters certified by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation on demand of the voter. Each signature sheet should indicate the name of the subject of the Russian Federation where signatures were collected.

If signatures are collected in support of a candidate nominated by an electoral association or electoral bloc in a single mandate electoral district, the signature sheet should indicate name of the electoral association or election bloc nominating the candidate and affiliation of the candidate to the respective electoral association or election bloc besides the said data.

Voters are entitled to put their signatures in support of candidates (lists of candidates) of different electoral associations or election blocs but only one time in support of one candidate (list of candidates). In this case the voter shall specify his/her last name, first name, second name, date of birth (day and month additionally for the age of eighteen years), address of permanent residence, series and number of the passport or document substituting it, and the day of placing the signature.

The signature sheet shall be confirmed by a person collecting the signatures who must indicate his/her last name, first name and second name, permanent residence, series and number of the passport or an document substituting it, and by an authorized representative of the electoral association or electoral bloc nominating the candidate.

In the event elections of deputies of the State Duma are conducted ahead of time, the number of voters' signatures to be collected in compliance with Paragraph 2 hereof by an electoral association or electoral bloc nominating the federal list of candidates shall be reduced by one half.

ARTICLE 40. Direct Nomination of Candidate by the Voters

The right to nominate his/her candidature for participation in the elections of deputies of the State Duma in a single-mandate electoral district belongs to every citizen of the Russian Federation who possesses the active electoral right and has reached the age of 21 years on the day of election.

The right to nominate a candidate in a single-mandate electoral district also belongs to voters at the place of work, service, studying or residence in the territory of this electoral district.

Initiators of signature collection in favor of the nomination of a candidate in a single-mandate electoral district shall notify in writing the respective electoral district committee of their initiative. The notification must indicate last name, first name, second name, date of birth, place of work, office held (occupation) and place of residence of the candidate.

ARTICLE 41. Collection of Signatures in Support of the Candidate Directly Nominated by the Voters

Collection of signatures in support of a candidate directly nominated by the voters shall start on the day of official publication of the list of single-mandate electoral districts by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

The signatures of no less than one per cent of the total number of voters in the electoral district must be collected in support of a candidate's nomination. In the event the election of deputies is held ahead of time, this number of voters shall be reduced by one half. Signatures may be collected only among voters of the electoral district where the candidate is nominated. Collection of signatures shall be conducted at places of work (including personnel), service, studying and residence, forcing and bribing of voters in any form on the part of the person collecting signatures is not allowed.

Signature sheets shall be printed according to the form specified in Appendix No. 3 hereto. Each signature list shall indicate last name, first name, second name, date of birth, place of work, office held, occupation, place of residence of the candidate and the name of the electoral district in which he/she is nominated.

When signing the signature sheet, the voter shall indicate his/her last name, first name, second name, date of birth (day and month additionally for the age of eighteen years), address of permanent residence, series and number of the passport or

document substituting it, and the date of placing the signature.

The signature sheet shall be confirmed by a person collecting the signatures who must indicate his/her last name, first name and second name, permanent residence, series and number of the passport or a document substituting it, and by the candidate for deputy.

ARTICLE 42. Registration of Candidates for Deputy

For registration of federal lists of candidates, authorized representatives of electoral associations and electoral blocs shall present to the Central Election Committee of Russian Federation no later than 55 days prior to the day of election, signature sheets in support of the federal list of candidates and data of each candidate of the federal list indicating his/her last name, first name, second name, date of birth, place of work, office held (occupation) and place of residence. At the same time, applications of candidates of their consent to be nominated by the federal list, submitted by an electoral association or electoral bloc shall be presented to the Central Election Committee.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, within ten days from the day of receipt of documents, shall determine whether the procedure of nominating the federal list of candidates meets the requirements of this Federal Law and make a decision on registration of the federal list of candidates or a reasonable decision of refusal to register.

For registration of a candidate, nominated directly by the voters of single-manadate constituency, as well as a candidate, nominated by the electoral association, electoral bloc in single-mandate constituency, or authorized representative of the electoral association, electoral bloc shall present to the district election committee, no later than 55 days prior to the day of election the signature sheets with voters' signatures supporting nomination of a candidate.In a meantime, data of the candidate indicating his/her last name, first name, second name, date of birth, place of work, office held (occupation), place of residence, as well as the application of the candidate of his consent to be nominated at this electoral district and the decision of an electoral association or electoral bloc on the nomination of this candidate at this electoral district, shall be presented to the district election committee.

Signature sheets shall be submitted to the election committees bound and numbered, with the signature sheets in support of the federal list of candidates being bound separately by the subjects of the Russian Federation where voters' signatures were collected. When receiving signature sheets, the election committee shall certify each signature sheet with the seal of the election committee and then issue a written confirmation of the receipt of signature sheets indicating the date and time of receipt thereof to the authorized representative or the candidate.

The district election committee shall determine whether the procedure of a candidate's nomination is in compliance with the requirements of this Federal Law and make a decision on the registration of the candidate or a reasonable decision on the refusal to register within five days from the day of receipt of the documents.

Authorized representatives of concerned electoral associations and electoral blocs, as well as candidates nominated in single-mandate electoral districts are entitled to be present at the determination of correctness of signature sheets and other documents by election committees.

If doubts about the accuracy of the data contained in the signature sheets, or in the trustworthiness of voters' signatures should occur, the district election committee shall organize a proper review of the signature sheets.

Registration of the same person in more than one federal list of candidates or more than one list of candidates nominated by an electoral association or electoral bloc for election in single-mandate electoral districts, as well as in more than one single-mandate electoral district, is not allowed.

A candidate registered in a single-mandate electoral district as a candidate directly nominated by the voters may not be registered in the same district as a candidate of an electoral association or electoral bloc.

The same person may be registered as a candidate in the federal list of candidates and at the same time in one of single-mandate electoral districts.

Decision of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation on registration of the federal list of candidates or on the refusal to register may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, and the decision of a district election committee on registration of the candidate or on the refusal to register may be appealed in the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation or in the Supreme Court of the republic which is part of the Russian Federation, court of the kray, court of the oblast, court of a city of federal importance, court of the autonomous oblast, court of the autonomous district. The complaint shall be adjudicated within three days.

A certificate of registration indicating the date and time thereof shall be issued to each registered candidate. Registered lists of candidates and data of registered candidates shall be handed over to the mass media within 48 hours after the registration. The district election committee shall place the information on registered candidates their data listed in Paragraph 3, Article 40 hereof, on stands in the premises of the election committee no later than 15 days prior to the day of election.

In the event only one candidate is registered or no candidate is registered in a single-mandate electoral district, as well as if no federal list of candidates is be registered or only one such list is registered in the federal electoral district within the terms stipulated by this Article, election in such electoral district shall be postponed by the decision of a respective district election committee for a term of 60 days for additional nomination of candidates or federal lists of candidates and undertaking of further electoral measures.

If less than two candidates should remain in a single-mandate electoral district on the day of election, election in this electoral district shall be postponed by the decision of a respective district election committee for a term of 100 days for further nomination of candidates and undertaking of further electoral measures.

CHAPTER VII. STATUS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY

ARTICLE 43. Equality of Candidates for Deputy

All registered candidates for deputy shall have equal rights and bear equal duties.

ARTICLE 44. Rights and Duties of Candidates for Deputy

After the registration, a candidate for deputy shall not be entitled to take advantage of his official standing in order to be elected.

After the registration, upon presentation of a personal statement, the candidate for deputy shall be relieved of his/her work, military service and military assemblies from the day of registration to the day of official publication of common election results. Within this period, a respective election committee shall pay candidates for deputy a monetary reimbursement in an amount, which shall not exceed 10 minimum salaries envisaged by the federal law on the day of setting of the election at the expense of funds allowed for preparation and conduct of the election.

A candidate for deputy may not be dismissed from the job on the initiative of the administration (employer), transferred without his/her consent to another work or office, including work in other area, as well as sent on a business-trip, enrolled for military service or military assemblies from the day of registration to the day of official publication of the common election results. The time of participation of the candidate for deputy in the election shall be included into the length of service in the field of qualification where he/she had worked till the day of registration.

From the day of registration to the day of official publication of common election results, candidates for deputy nominated in a single-mandate electoral district shall be entitled to use any means of public transportation free of charge on the territory of a respective electoral district, except for taxies and charter trips. In the cities where there are several electoral districts, the candidate may use the public transportation of the city free of charge on the whole territory of the city, except for taxies and charter trips.

In case the candidate has a permanent residence outside the single-mandate electoral district where he is nominated, the candidate, within the said period, shall be entitled to three free round trips by railway, water or automobile transport, except for taxies and charter trips, or to one free round trip by air transport to the electoral district and back. Payment of such trips shall be effected at the expense of funds of a respective district election committee.

A candidate for deputy put on the registered federal list of candidates shall have the right to make one round trip within the territory of the Russian Federation by any means of intercity transport, except for taxies and charter trips. In addition, a candidate included in a regional group of candidates (if the relevant federal list is divided into such groups) shall be entitled to free use of any means of public transportation, except for taxies and charter trips, within the territory of a respective subject of the Russian Federation. Payment of such trips shall be effected by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation at the expense of funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of the election.

A candidate is entitled to withdraw his/her candidacy no later than three days prior to the day of the election. An electoral association or electoral bloc may recall any registered candidate by the decision of an authorized body, except for those in whose support voters' signatures have been collected in single-mandate electoral districts no later than three days prior to the day of the election. If a candidacy is withdrawn without compelling circumstances, the respective election committee may attribute a respective part of expenditures borne, including funds allocated by the election committee to the candidate or the electoral association, electoral bloc for the pre-election campaign, to the candidate or the electoral association or electoral bloc.

A candidate for deputy registered in a single-mandate electoral district may have up to 10 attorneys, who shall be subject to registration by the same election committee. An electoral association or electoral bloc, which has registered a federal list of candidates, may appoint up to 500 attorneys, who shall be subject to registration by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation. Attorneys shall receive certificates from respective election committees and shall perform campaign and other activities that facilitate the election of the candidate. Administration (employer) must give attorneys an unpaid leave at their request for the term set forth in Paragraph 2 herein. Candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs, which have appointed attorneys, are entitled to recall them at any time notifying the respective election committee that will invalidate certificates issued to these attorneys.

After the registration, a candidate for deputy may not be prosecuted, arrested or subject to administrative punishment imposed by the court without the consent of the Procurator General of the Russian Federation. When giving such consent, Procurator General of the Russian Federation shall immediately notify the election committee which has registered the candidate, thereof.

CHAPTER VIII. PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 45. Pre-Election Campaign and Terms thereof

Citizens of the Russian Federation, candidates for deputy of the State Duma, electoral associations and electoral blocs are entitled to conduct pre-election campaigning freely.

The following entities are not allowed to conduct pre-election campaigns or spread any pre-election propaganda materials:

1) federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power in subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local government, as well as their officials in the process of fulfilling of their official duties;
2) military units, military institutions and organizations;
3) charitable organizations and religious associations;
4) members of election committees with the right of deciding vote.

The pre-election campaign shall start on the day of registration of candidates and shall end at 12 p.m. local time prior to the day preceding the day of election. Any pre-election campaigning is prohibited on the day of election and the preceding day. Propaganda printed materials previously placed outside the premises of the election committees shall remain in place.

Pre-election campaigning may be conducted:

1) through the mass media;
2) by means of arranging public pre-election events (pre-election assemblies and meetings with voters, public pre-election debates and discussions, gatherings, marches, demonstrations and other pre-election events);
3) by means of issuing and/or distributing printed, audiovisual and other propaganda materials.

Conduct of pre-election campaigning involving the free or preferential giving of goods, rendering of services (except for information services), securities, as well as payment of money is prohibited.

Journalists, officials of boards of editors of mass media are not allowed to conduct information television and radio programs, take part in elucidation of elections through these mass media, if the said officials are candidates for deputy of the State Duma or their attorneys.

ARTICLE 46. Misuse of the Right to Pre-Election Campaign

Misuse of freedom of mass information is not allowed in the conduct of pre-election campaigning. Pre-election programs, pre-election propaganda materials and speeches at assemblies and meetings in the mass media must not contain appeals to violent change of the principles of the constitutional system and breach of integrity of the Russian Federation. Proclamation or propaganda of social, racial, national, religious or lingual superiority, issue and distribution of information and materials advocating social, racial, national or religious hatred are prohibited.

Candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs and their authorized representatives are not entitled to hand over money, presents or other material values to voters other than for the fulfillment of pre-election organization work (being on duty at polling stations, collection of signatures and so on), arrange preferential sale of goods, free giving of any goods except of printed, including illustrative, materials, as well as badges specially made for the election campaign. In conducting the pre-election campaign, candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and their authorized representatives are not entitled to influence the voters through promises to hand over money, securities and other materials values to them.

Election committees shall exercise control over adherence to the established order of conducting the pre-election campaign. Once informed of unlawful speeches or the distribution of unlawful propaganda materials, they shall undertake measures to prevent these activities and shall be entitled to apply to respective bodies with a request for prevention of unlawful campaign activities, as well as to the court of law with a request to cancel the decision on registration of a candidate or federal list of candidates. The said requests shall be considered by the court within a term of three days, or immediately if the requests are made three days prior to the day of election.

ARTICLE 47. Pre-Election Campaigning through Mass Media

Candidates for deputies, electoral associations and electoral blocs are entitled to broadcasting time on the channels of state TV and radio companies which perform television and radio broadcasts on the territory of a respective electoral district on equal grounds (free of change, equal amount of broadcasting time granted, same time of broadcasting and other conditions).

Instruction on the procedure of granting of broadcasting time to candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs on the channels of state TV and radio companies shall be published by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with participation of state bodies that provide adherence to constitutional rights and freedoms in the field of mass media, suggestions of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs being duly considered.

For the purpose of conducting the pre-election campaign, electoral associations and electoral blocs, which have registered federal lists of candidates are entitled to use state TV and radio companies.

Candidates for deputy are entitled to use regional state TV and radio companies to conduct their pre-election campaigns.

Officials of boards of editors of periodicals, among founders (co-founders) of which there are state or municipal bodies, state enterprises, agencies or organizations, or which are financed partly or in full at the expense of funds of respective budget (federal budget, budget of subject of the Russian Federation), must provide equal opportunities of publishing pre-election propaganda materials for all candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs.

The procedure of publishing pre-election propaganda materials in periodicals specified in Paragraph 5 herein shall be established by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with participation of state bodies providing for adherence to constitutional rights and freedoms in the field of mass media.

Pre-election campaigning through mass media shall be conducted in the form of public pre-election debates, "round tables", press-conferences, interviews, presentations, political advertising and other forms not prohibited by the law. Electoral associations, electoral blocs and candidates for deputy are entitled to independently determine the form and nature of the pre-election campaigning.

It is prohibited to interrupt television and radio programs containing pre-election campaigning with advertising of goods, works and services.

Information TV and radio programs shall give information on the conduct of the pre-election campaign by candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs in a separate bloc only, as a rule in the beginning of the said programs without any comments. These information blocs shall not be paid by candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups.

Journalists, officials of boards of editors of mass media, officials and creative workers of state TV and radio companies are not allowed to take part in elucidation of the election through the mass media, including TV and radio programs (broadcasts), if said persons are candidates or attorneys of candidates.

TV and radio programs containing pre-election campaigning shall be broadcast and simultaneously recorded on video and audio tape that shall be stored within six months from the day of broadcasting of the said programs.

ARTICLE 48. Pre-Election Campaigning in Periodicals

Periodicals established by bodies of legislative (representative), executive, judiciary power, as well as by bodies of local government exclusively for publication of their official messages and materials, normative and other acts, are not entitled to publish pre-election campaign materials of candidates for deputy, electoral associations or electoral blocs.

A periodical, among founders (co-founders) of which there are state or municipal bodies, state enterprises, agencies or organizations, or which is financed partly or in full at the expense of funds of respective budget (federal budget, budget of subject of the Russian Federation), and which has granted a candidate for deputy, an electoral association or electoral bloc area on the page, is not entitled to refuse to grant a place on the page to other candidate for deputy, electoral association or electoral bloc (regional electoral association) under the same conditions, and must do it in the nearest issues.

ARTICLE 49. Conditions of Conducting Pre-Election Assemblies, Meetings with Voters

State bodies and bodies of local government shall render assistance to candidates for deputy, electoral associations, electoral blocs in organizing and conducting pre-election assemblies, meetings of candidates for deputy and attorneys with voters.

Applications for allocation of premises for conduct of such assemblies and meetings shall be considered by competent state bodies and bodies of local government within a term of five days from the day of submission thereof, and shall be settled in the order established by the district election committee.

At the request of the election committee, premises which are suitable for conduct of public events and are owned by the state or municipal authorities, state enterprises, agencies and organizations, shall be granted for use for the time determined by the election committee free of charge for meetings of candidates for deputy and their attorneys with the voters. Election committees must provide equal opportunities for all candidates and electoral associations, electoral blocs.

Buildings and edifices included into the State Register of Highly Valuable Memorials of the Cultural Heritage of the Nations of the Russian Federation may not be granted for these purposes.

ARTICLE 50. Spread of Printed Propaganda Materials

Electoral associations, candidates for deputy are entitled to freely issue posters, leaflets and other printed propaganda materials.

Printed propaganda materials shall contain information on organizations and persons responsible for issue thereof.

Spreading of anonymous printed propaganda materials is prohibited.

Printed propaganda materials may be placed in any premises, on any building or edifice, or any other object on consent of the proprietor or owner of the said objects.

It is prohibited to place printed propaganda materials on monuments, obelisks, buildings, edifices of historic, cultural or architectural value, as well as in the premises of the election committee and in the voting premises.

Local administrations must allocate special places for hanging or sticking of printed propaganda materials no later than 20 days prior to the day of election. Such places should be suitable for visiting by voters, and there should be no less than one such place within the territory of each polling station. Candidates registered in respective single-mandate electoral associations and electoral blocs, which have registered a federal list of candidates with the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, shall be granted equal area for hanging or posting printed campaign materials.

Informed of the spread of anonymous or counterfeit printed campaign materials, the election committee shall undertake measures to prevent these activities, and shall be entitled to apply to respective bodies with request to prevent unlawful pre-election campaigning.

CHAPTER IX. ELECTION FINANCING

ARTICLE 51. Financial Support of Preparation and Conduct of the Election

Expenditures of election committees related to preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, as well as provision of activities of election committees during the term of their powers shall be made at the expense of federal budget funds. Respective expenditures shall be envisaged in a separate entry in the federal budget.

Funds for conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma envisaged by the federal budget shall be transferred for disposal of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation within ten days from the day of setting of the election and shall be distributed thereby among the election committees of subject of the Russian Federation.

In the event elections of deputies of the State Duma are conducted ahead of time, these expenditures shall be paid at the expense of credits of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation covered at the expense of the federal budget funds. In case budgetary funds are not timely transferred to the account of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation is entitled to apply to the Central Bank of the Russian Federation for credits, and if the latter should refuse to allow a credit, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation is entitled to apply to commercial banks for a credit on a competitive basis for financing the preparation and conduct of the election. These credits, including interest charged, shall be covered at the expense of the federal budget funds no later than three months after the day of election. The financing of special and new elections of deputies of the State Duma is done similarly in case monetary resources initially allocated for conduct of the election are exhausted.

The order of transfer of monetary resources to election committees shall be jointly established by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

Chairmen of election committees shall dispose of monetary resources and shall be responsible for compliance of financial documents with the decisions of election committees on financial issues. Unexpended budget funds shall remain in special accounts of the election committees after the end of the election for use for the purposes envisaged by Paragraph 1 herein.

ARTICLE 52. Election Funds of a Candidate for Deputy, Electoral Association and Electoral Bloc

Candidates for deputy and electoral associations and electoral blocs shall form their own election funds for financing the pre-election campaign. Election funds shall be placed in special temporary accounts in divisions of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation. The right to dispose of the money of the election fund for said purposes shall belong to the candidate, electoral association or electoral bloc which formed this fund.

Divisions of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation shall open special temporary accounts for candidates and electoral associations and electoral blocs which have registered a federal list of candidates, on the basis of a written message from the respective election committee for forming of election funds. No income shall be added to and paid from the said accounts.

Election funds may be formed from the following monetary resources:

1) funds allocated to a candidate, electoral association or electoral bloc for the pre-election campaign by a respective election committee;
2) a candidate's own funds, which may not exceed 1000 minimum salaries as set forth by the federal law on the day of the election;
3) funds allocated to the candidate by the electoral association or electoral bloc that has nominated him/her, which may not exceed 1500 minimum salaries as set forth by the federal law on the day of election;
4) own funds of the electoral association, electoral bloc, which may not exceed 100 thousand minimum salaries as set forth by the federal law on the day of election;
5) voluntary donations of natural persons and legal entities.

The amount of donations of a natural person to the election fund of a candidate for deputy may not exceed 20 minimum salaries as set forth by the federal law on the day of election, and 30 minimum salaries to the fund of an electoral association or election bloc. The amount of donation of a legal entity to the election fund of a candidate for deputy or the election fund of an electoral association or electoral bloc may not exceed correspondingly 200 and 2000 minimum salaries as set forth by the federal law on the day of election.

The maximum amount of candidate's expenditures from an election fund may not exceed 10 thousand minimum salaries set forth by the federal law on the day of election.

The maximum amount of expenditures of an electoral association or electoral bloc from an election fund may not exceed 250 minimum salaries as set forth by the federal law on the day of election.

Donations to an election fund from the following entities are not allowed:

1) foreign states, organizations and citizens;
2) persons without citizenship;
3) Russian legal entities with foreign investments, if the share of the foreign capital in their registered capital exceeds 30 percent;
4) international organizations, international public movements;
5) bodies of local government, state and municipal enterprises, agencies and organizations;
6) military units, military institutions and organizations;
7) charitable organizations and religious associations.

Banks shall render information on crediting of funds into special temporary accounts of candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs to respective election committees within a term of three days from the day of crediting thereof.

If the credited voluntary donations have been transferred to the election funds of candidates or the elections funds of electoral associations, electoral blocs by natural persons or legal entities who are not entitled to make such donations, or in amounts exceeding those stipulated herein, the candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs must return these donations correspondingly in full or the part exceeding the permissible amount of the donations, to the donators with an indication of the reason for the return. Anonymous donations shall be transferred to the revenues of the State.

Candidates, electoral blocs and electoral associations are not allowed to use other monetary resources for conducting the pre-election campaign except for the resources received by them in their election funds.

Banks shall render information on spending of monetary resources in special temporary accounts of candidates, electoral association and electoral blocs to the respective election committee upon written request thereof.

If a candidate, electoral association or electoral bloc use other monetary resources for conducting the pre-election campaign except for resources transferred to the election funds, the respective election committee is entitled to apply to the court with a request to cancel the decision on registration of the candidate or the federal list of candidates. The said request shall be considered by the court within five days, or immediately if such a request is made five days prior to the day of the election.

All financial transactions from special temporary accounts of candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs for their election funds shall be terminated on the day of the election. On the basis of a respective solicitation of a candidate, electoral association or electoral bloc, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation and the district election committee may extend the term of completing financial transactions for payment of expenditures made before the day of election.

ARTICLE 53. Procedure of Accounting of Funds and Financial Reports

The procedure of accounting of the receipt and expenditure of budgetary funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of election, money of election funds of candidates for deputy and election funds of electoral associations and electoral blocs shall be determined by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation in compliance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Forms of financial reports of election committees on the receipt and expenditure of funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of the election, and financial reports of candidates for deputy, electoral associations and electoral blocs shall be established by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation in compliance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Candidates for deputy shall submit a financial report to the district election committee no later than 30 days after publication of election results. Electoral associations, electoral blocs shall submit financial reports to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation within the same term. Copies of said financial reports shall be handed over by respective election committees to mass media.

Polling station election committees and territorial election committees shall submit financial reports to higher election committees no later than 10 and 20 days from the day of publication of election results, respectively.

District election committees shall submit financial reports to election committees of the subjects of the Russian Federation no later than 45 days from the day of publication of election results.

Election committees of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall submit summary financial reports to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no later than 60 days from the day of official publication of the common election results.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall submit the financial report on spending of federal budget funds to the Houses of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation no later than three months from the day of official publication of the common election results. The said financial report must be published by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation in its official gazette and handed over to mass media no later than one month from the day of presentation thereof to the Houses of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 54. Unexpended Monetary Resources of the Election Funds

No later than 30 days after the day of election, candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs shall return unexpended election funds to the respective election committee in the amount proportional to the amount of monetary resources allocated to them by respective election committees. After expiration of this term, on the instruction of a respective election committee, unexpended budgetary resources shall be unconditionally transferred by divisions of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation to the account of the election committee.

After the election, with the permission of respective election committees, the remainder of monetary resources in accounts of candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs shall be transferred into current accounts of organizations and persons who had made the donations into the election funds in proportion to their contributions.

ARTICLE 55. Auditing Service

The auditing service attached to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation for providing experts of state bodies of the Russian Federation shall be established in order to exercise control over targeted use of funds allocated to election committees for the preparation and conduct of the election, as well as control over sources, correctness of accounting of the election funds and spending thereof by candidates to deputy, electoral associations and electoral blocs.

CHAPTER X. VOTING AND CALCULATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 56. Voting Premises

Voting premises shall be freely allocated by the head of a respective local administration to the polling station election committee for disposal.

The voting premises must have a hall, in which cabins or specially equipped places for voting by secret ballot will be placed, or rooms suitable for voting by secret ballot. Cabins, specially equipped places or rooms for voting by secret ballot shall be outfitted with tables and writing accessories. Use of pencils for these purposes is not allowed.

In the voting premises or immediately in front of it, the polling station election committee shall install a stand, on which samples of completed voting ballots and information materials on all electoral associations, electoral blocs taking part in the election in the federal electoral district and on all candidates nominated by them in the federal electoral district, as well as all candidates taking part in the election in a single-mandate electoral district, are placed. Information materials on candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs, as well as their pre-election platforms, shall not contain propaganda appeals. Samples of completed voting ballots, placed on the stand, shall not contain names of electoral associations and electoral blocs taking part in the election in the federal electoral district, or names of candidates taking part in a single-mandate electoral district.

ARTICLE 57. Voting Ballots

Each voter shall receive two ballots of different form approved by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation for election of deputies of the State Duma. The form and the text of the ballot in the Russian language of the federal electoral district shall be approved by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no later than 28 days prior to the day of election. The text of the ballot of a single-mandate electoral district shall be approved by the district election committee. The text of the ballot must be placed on one side of the ballot only.

The ballot of the federal electoral district shall contain the names and emblems, if there are any, of electoral associations and electoral blocs who have nominated registered federal lists of candidates for deputy in the order determined by the lot, indicating

the names of public associations which are part of these electoral associations and electoral blocs. The lot shall be arranged by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with participation of authorized representatives of electoral associations and electoral blocs no later than 36 days prior to the day of election. The number received by an electoral association or electoral bloc as a result of the lot shall be retained until the end of the election. Last names, first names and second names of the first three candidates from the federal lists of candidates nominated by an electoral association or electoral bloc shall be placed under the name of this electoral association or electoral bloc. If an electoral association or electoral bloc split their federal lists of candidates into regional groups during the registration, last names, first names and second names of the first three candidates, who are assigned to a respective regional group of candidates in the said list, shall be included in the voting ballot. If the federal list, which has been split into regional groups during the registration, does not contain candidates assigned to any of the regional groups, the voting ballot should indicate only last names, first names, second names of candidates of the respective regional group.

An blank box shall be placed to the right of the name of each electoral association or electoral bloc. The entry "none of all federal lists of candidates" with a blank box to the right thereof shall be placed in the end of list of electoral associations and electoral blocs.

The ballot of the single-mandate electoral district shall contain last names, first names, second names of all registered candidates in this electoral district in the alphabetical order, and their data set forth by Paragraph 4, Article 41 of this Federal Law. In case the candidate is nominated by an electoral association or electoral bloc, names of these electoral associations and electoral blocs, as well as candidate's affiliation to a political party or other public association, which is part of the electoral association or electoral bloc, if there is such affiliation. If a candidate is nominated directly by the voters, his political affiliation shall be indicated only of candidate's own accord. A blank box shall be placed to the right of the data of each candidate. The line "none of the candidates" with a blank box to the right of it shall be placed at the end of the list with names of candidates.

Each voting ballot shall contain instructions on how it is to be completed.

Ballots shall be printed in Russian. On the decision of the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation, ballots in republics, which are part of the Russian Federation, shall be printed in Russian and in the state language of the respective republic, and, in cases of necessity, in the languages of nations of the Russian Federation on territories of their compact living. If ballots for a polling station are printed in two or more languages, the text in these languages shall be placed on each ballot. The text of the ballot shall be approved by the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation.

Ballots for voting in the federal electoral district shall be printed on the instruction of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no later than 20 days prior to the day of election. Ballots for voting in single-mandate electoral districts shall be printed within the same time on the instruction of respective election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation. Territorial election committees shall receive ballots from the district election committees no later than 16 days prior to the day of election. Polling station election committees shall receive ballots from territorial election committees no later than four days prior to the day of election. In each electoral district, the number of voting ballots handed over to the polling station election committee may not exceed the number of voters on the lists of voters of the polling station by more than 0.5 per cent. Signatures of two members of the polling station election committee, which are to be certified with the seal of the election committee, shall be placed in the upper right corner of the voting ballot. Ballots not certified by the polling station election committee are deemed ballots of a non-standard form and shall not count in the calculation of votes.

In case of withdrawal of some candidates no earlier than 15 days prior to the day of election or the voiding federal lists of candidates of some electoral associations and electoral blocs, territorial election committees and polling station election committees shall cross out the data of respective candidates or electoral associations, electoral blocs on ballots on the instruction of district election committees.

ARTICLE 58. Voting Procedure

Voting on the day of the election shall take place from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time.

Polling station election committees must notify the voters of the time and place of voting no later than 20 days prior to the day of conduct thereof through mass media or otherwise.

An election committee of the polling station established on navigating vessels, military units, at polar stations, in remote regions and regions difficult of access may declare the voting completed ahead of time set forth by Paragraph 1 herein, if all the voters on the list of voters have voted.

A voter who will be absent from his place of residence on the day of election for certain reasons, may vote earlier by filling in the ballots at the premises of the territorial (15 - 4 days prior to the day of election) election committee or polling station election committee (no earlier than three days prior to the day of election), the secrecy of the ballot shall not be infringed. If a voter should vote at the premises of the territorial election committee, the signatures of two members of the territorial election committee certified with the seal of the territorial election committee shall be placed on the reverse side of the ballot given to the voter. The voter shall enclose the completed voting ballots in an envelope, seal the envelope and hand it over to the member of territorial election committee or polling station election committee on duty. The signatures of two members of the territorial election committee or polling station election committee correspondingly, which are to be certified by the seal of the respective election committee, shall be put on the place of sealing of the envelope. Territorial election committee shall hand over the list of voters who have voted and enveloped with their voting ballots to a respective polling station election committee no later than three days prior to the day of election.

In case of voting early at the premises of the territorial election committee, the secretary of the polling station election committee, on the territory of which the voter resides, shall make the record "ahead of time" in the relevant line of the list of voters (on receipt by the polling station election committee of a sealed envelope with ballots from the territorial election committee) and sign it.

District election committees are entitled to permit early voting, but no earlier than 15 day prior to the day of election, on the vessels which will be navigating on the day of election, as well as at polar stations and other remote regions or regions of difficult access.

At 8 a.m. on the day of election, the chairman of the polling station election committee shall declare the polling station open and produce empty ballot-boxes to the members of the election committee, voters and observers present. After this the ballot-boxes shall be sealed. Then the chairman of the polling station election committee shall produce envelopes left by the voters who had voted early, the integrity of each envelope, the presence of certifying signatures and seal, as well as correspondence of the number of envelopes to the number of corresponding marks on the list of voters being checked. After this envelopes shall be opened and ballots extracted therefrom shall be put in the ballot box. In case more than two ballots should be extracted from the envelope, all ballots extracted from the envelope shall be voided, whereof a special statement shall be written. After this the chairman of the polling station election committee shall invite the voters to commence to vote.

When receiving the ballots, the voter shall indicate the series and number of his/her passport or an identity card substituting for it in the list of voters. On consent of the voter, or at his/her request, the series and number of the produced passport or identity card substituting for it may be entered into the list of voters by a member of the polling station election committee. The voter shall check the correctness of the record and sign it.

In case a voter is not able to sign for receipt of ballots by himself/herself, he/she is entitled to the assistance of another person, except for the members of the polling station election committee, observers, attorneys of the candidates, electoral associations or electoral blocs. The person who has rendered assistance to the voter, shall sign in the list of voters in the column "Signature of Voter for Receipt of Voting Ballots" indicating his name.

Each voter shall vote personally. Voting for other persons is not allowed. Ballots are filled in the cabin, specially equipped place or a room for voting by secret ballot, where the presence of anybody, except for the voter, is not allowed. A voter who is not able to fill in the ballot by himself/herself, is entitled to invite any person except for a member of the election committee, observers, attorneys of candidates, electoral associations or electoral blocs to the cabin, specially equipped place or room for voting by secret ballot. The name of this person shall be indicated in the list of voters next to the signature of voter for receipt of ballots.

On the ballot of the federal electoral district, voters shall place any sign in the blank box to the right of the name of the electoral association or electoral bloc whose federal list of candidates they vote for, or in the box placed to the right of the entry "None of the all federal lists of candidates". In the voting ballot of a single-mandate electoral district, voters shall place any sign in the blank box to the right of the name of the candidate he votes for, or in the box placed to the right of the entry "None of the candidates".

Voters shall cast completed ballots into the ballot box. The ballot box must be in sight of the members of the polling station election committee and the observers.

The polling station election committee shall provide all voters with an opportunity to take part in the voting, including voters who can not come to the voting premises due to health or other good reasons. For these purposes, the polling station election committee shall have a necessary number of mobile ballot-boxes determined by a decision of the district election committee. An application for the possibility of voting outside the voting premises must by confirmed by the voter in writing on the arrival of members of the polling station election committee to him/her. The application shall contain the same data of the voter as in the list of voters. On receipt of ballots, the voter shall make a mark about it in his/her application and sign. Members of the polling station election committee, traveling to the applicants, shall sign for the receipt of ballots in an amount corresponding to the number of applications. The number of voters' applications, as well as the number of used and returned ballots shall be marked in a separate statement. At the same time, a record of the fact that the voter voted outside the voting premises shall be made in the list of voters. Observers are entitled to be present at voting outside the voting premises. After the return of members of the polling station election committee to the voting premises, the portable ballot-box shall not be open until the beginning of the votes calculation. Arrangement and conduct of voting outside the voting premises must preclude the opportunity of violation of the citizen's electoral rights, as well as an opportunity of breach of secret voting or distortion of the voter's will.

The chairman of the polling station election committee shall monitor order in the voting premises. His orders are binding upon all those present in the voting premises. In case the chairman of the polling station election committee is absent, he shall be substituted by the vice-chairman of the polling station election committee, and in the event of his absence he shall be substituted by the secretary or other member of the polling station election committee authorized thereby.

In case the voter feels that he has made a mistake in completing the ballot, he is entitled to apply to the member of election committee who has issued the ballot with a request to issue a new ballot for him, in lieu of the spoiled one by making a respective record in the list of voters in front of the name of the respective voter. The spoiled ballot shall be rendered void whereof a statement is made.

Observers representing candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, attorneys of candidates, foreign (international) observers, as well as representatives of mass media are entitled to be present at the polling stations during the voting, calculation of the votes and drafting of protocols of the results of the voting by polling station election committees.

ARTICLE 59. Calculation of the Votes at Polling Stations

On expiration of the time allocated for voting, the chairman of the polling station election committee shall announce that only the voters who are already at the voting premises may receive ballots and vote.

Before opening the ballot boxes, members of the election committee shall count and render void unused ballots in the presence of observers representing candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, and foreign (international) observers if they are staying in the voting premises. The number of these ballots shall be declared and entered into the protocol of the voting results whereafter the chairman of the polling station election committee shall check the integrity of seals and leads on the ballot-boxes, to make sure that they are not damaged and open them. Ballot boxes shall be opened by turns — first mobile ballot boxes and then stationary ballot-boxes.

Ballots that were in mobile ballot-boxes, shall be counted first. Their number should not exceed the number of written applications of voters for conduct of the voting outside the voting premises.

In case more voting ballots than the said applications should be found in the mobile ballot box, all ballots that were in the mobile ballot-box shall be declared null and void by decision of the polling station election committee.

This fact, with an indication of the names of members of the polling station election committee who provided voting outside the voting premises, shall be reflected in a statement which is attached to the protocol on the voting results.

In the process of calculation of the votes cast in the federal electoral district and single-mandate electoral districts, all ballots of non-standard form, that is those not made officially or not certified by the election committee, and invalid voting ballots shall be separated. Invalid ballots are those ballots, from which it is impossible to determine the voter's will. In particular, such bulletins, where any sign has been placed in more that one box or has been placed in none of them. If doubt should arise, the polling station election committee shall resolve the question by way of voting. When adopting a decision on recognition of a ballot as invalid, the election committee shall indicate on the reverse side thereof the reasons of invalidity. This record shall be certified with signatures of no less than three members of the polling station election committee. Invalid voting ballots shall be separated from other ballots.

The votes shall be counted directly by the members of the polling station election committee without a break until the receipt of the voting results, of which all members of the polling station election committee, as well as observers including foreign (international) observers shall be notified.

The polling station election committee shall draw up protocols on the voting results in single-mandate electoral districts and federal electoral districts.

The following data shall be included in each of the said protocols:

1) number of voters on the list of voters, including voters additionally entered on the list;
2) number of ballots received by the election committee;
3) number of ballots issued to the voters at the polling station on the day of election;
4) number of ballots issued to the voters who had voted early;
5) number of ballots issued to the voters who voted outside the voting premises;
6) number of ballots declared void;
7) number of ballots contained in the stationary ballot-boxes (expect for the ballots of non-standard form);
8) number of ballots contained in mobile ballot-boxes (except for the ballots of non-standard form);
9) number of valid ballots;
10) number of invalid ballots (including a separate line for the number of voting ballots containing no marks in any of the items).

In addition to these data, the following data shall be entered into Protocol No. 1 of the voting results in single-mandate electoral districts:

1) last names, first names, second names of candidates, and, in the event of their coincidence, other data of the candidates included in the voting ballot;
2) number of votes cast for each candidate;
3) number of votes cast against all the candidates.

The following data shall also be entered into Protocol No. 2 of the voting results in the federal electoral district:

1) names of electoral associations and election blocs which have nominated federal lists of candidates;
2) number of votes cast for each federal list of candidates;
3) number of votes cast against all federal lists of candidates .

The said protocols shall be made in triplicate in presence of all members of the polling station election committee, observers, attorneys of candidates, electoral associations and electoral blocs and signed by all members of the polling station election committee. Any member of the polling station election committee who does not agree with the protocols in full or with certain provisions thereof is entitled to attach his/her dissenting opinions to the protocols whereof appropriate records shall be made in the protocols.

Complaints (applications) about violation of this Federal Law received by the polling station election committee on the day of election, as well as decisions of the polling station election committee made thereon shall be attached to the first copy of the protocol. Certified copies of complaints (applications) and decisions of the polling station election committee shall be attached to the second copy of the protocol.

Completion of protocols on the voting results with a pencil and introduction of any corrections whatsoever therein is not allowed. In case mistakes, discrepancies in the protocols of the polling station election committee are revealed, as well as doubts about the accuracy of the protocols, a higher election committee is entitled to adopt a decision on the repeated calculation of votes by the respective polling station election committee. Repeated calculation of votes shall be done by the polling station election committee in the presence of member(s) of the higher election committee.

Once signed, the first copies of the protocols of the polling station election committee shall be immediately forwarded to a respective territorial election committee.

Second copies of protocols along with sealed voting ballots, with lists of members of the polling station election committee observers of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, foreign (international) observers and representatives of mass media who were present at the calculation of votes cast shall be filed and kept by the secretary of the polling station election committee until the end of its work.

Third copies of protocols shall be given for familiarization to attorneys of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, observers, members of the polling station election committee and representatives of mass media.

Voting documents, including ballots, shall be handed over to respective territorial election committees no later than 10 days after the official announcement of the results of the election in the single-mandate electoral district.

ARTICLE 60. Calculation of the Voting Results by Territorial Election Committees

The territorial election committee shall calculate the voting results on the respective territory on the basis of protocols of the voting results submitted by polling station election committee by way of adding of the data contained therein, no later than three days after the day of election. The adding of data contained in the protocols of polling station election committees shall be performed directly by the members of the territorial election committee.

Based on the results of the voting, the territorial election committee shall draw up protocols, in which data of the number of polling station election committees on the respective territory, number of protocols of polling station election committees, on the basis of which protocols of the voting results are drafted, shall be entered, as well as the summary data on the items of protocols of polling station election committees set forth by Paragraphs nine through eleven, Article 59, of this Federal Law.

Protocols of the territorial election committees shall be made in triplicate and signed by all members of the election committee present. The summary table of the voting results on the respective territory, which includes complete data of the protocols of all polling station election committees, shall be attached to the protocols. Any member of the territorial election committee who does not agree with the protocols in full or with certain provisions thereof is entitled to attach his/her dissenting opinions to the protocols whereof appropriate records shall be made in the protocols.

Complaints (applications) about violations of this Federal Law received by the territorial election committee, as well as decisions of the election committee made thereon shall be attached to the first copies of the protocols. Certified copies of complaints (applications) and decisions of the territorial election committee shall be attached to the second copy of the protocol.

Once signed, the first copies of the protocols of the territorial election committee along with the protocols of the polling station election committees and the summary table shall be immediately forwarded to the respective district election committee.

The second copies of the protocols along with the summary table and lists of members of the territorial election committee, observers of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, foreign (international) observers, representatives of mass media, who were present at the calculation of the voting results and drafting of the protocols, which shall be filed and kept by the secretary of the territorial election committee until the completion of its work.

The third copies of protocols and the summary table shall be given for familiarization to attorneys of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, observers, members of the territorial election committee and representatives of mass media.

ARTICLE 61. Calculation of the Election Results in the Single-Mandate Electoral District and Assessment of the Voting in the Federal Electoral District

The district election committee shall estimate the results of voting in single-mandate electoral districts and assess the result of voting in federal electoral districts on the respective territory on the basis of protocols of the voting results submitted by territorial election committees by way of adding of the data contained therein no later than seven days after the day of election. The adding of data contained in the protocols of territorial election committees shall be performed directly by the members of the district election committee.

The candidate who has received the greatest number of votes of the voters who had taken part in the voting, shall be recognized elected deputy in a single-mandate electoral district. If candidates receive an equal number of votes, the candidate who was registered earlier shall be deemed elected.

The district election committee shall declare the election in the single-mandate electoral district null and void, if violations of this Federal Law committed during the conduct thereof do not allow to reliably estimate the results of the will of voters and if the election has been rendered void by the district election committee at more than one third of the polling stations.

The district election committee shall declare the election in the single-mandate electoral district as one that has not taken place, if less than 25 per cent of the registered voters took part in the election.

The number of voters who took part in the election shall be estimated by the number of voters' signatures for receipt of ballots in the lists of voters.

On the basis of protocols of respective territorial election committees, the district election committee shall draw up Protocol No. 1 of the voting results in the single-mandate electoral district wherein the following data shall be included:

1) number of territorial election committees in the district;
2) number of protocols of the territorial election committees on basis of which this protocol has been drawn up;
3) number of voters in the single-mandate electoral district put on the list of voters;
4) number of ballots issued to polling station election committees;
5) number of ballots issued to the voters at the polling station on the day of election;
6) number of ballots issued to the voters who had voted ahead of time;
7) number of ballots issued to the voters who voted outside the voting premises;
8) number of ballots declared void;
9) number of ballots contained in the stationary ballot-boxes (expect for the ballots of non-standard form);
10) number of ballots contained in mobile ballot-boxes (except for the ballots of non-standard form);
11) total number of valid ballots;
12) total number of invalid ballots (including a separate line for the number of voting ballots containing no marks in any of the items);
13) last names, first names and second names of candidates on the voting ballot and number of votes cast for each of them;

14) number of votes cast against all the candidates;
15) last name, first name and second name of the elected candidate.

On the basis of Protocols No. 2 of the territorial election committees, the district election committee shall draw up Protocol No. 2 of the results of voting in the federal electoral district, wherein the data set forth in Article 59 hereof shall be included.

Protocols of the district election committee shall be made in triplicate and signed by all members of the election committee present. A summary table of the voting results in a single-mandate electoral district which includes complete data of the protocols of the territorial election committees shall be attached to the protocols. Any member of the district election committee who does not agree with the protocols in full or with certain provisions thereof is entitled to attach his/her dissenting opinions to the protocols whereof appropriate records shall be made in the protocols. The first copies of each protocol and the summary table shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, the second copies of the said protocols and the summary table is filed and kept by the secretary of the district election committee.

Complaints (applications) about violations of this Federal Law received by the district election committee, as well as decisions of the election committee made thereon shall be attached to the first copies of the protocols. Certified copies of the complaints (applications) and decisions of the district election committee shall be attached to the second copies of the protocols.

Second copies of the protocols and the summary table and the lists of the members of the constituency electoral commission with the right of deliberative voice, observers from candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, foreign (international) observers, mass-media representatives, attended at the process of tabulating and compiling the protocol, are kept by secretary of constituency electoral commission until the end of its work.

The third copies of the protocols and the summary table shall be given for familiarization to attorneys of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, observers, members of the polling station election committee with the right of deliberative vote and representatives of mass media.

In the event that mistakes, discrepancies in the protocols of the district election committee and other violations are revealed, as well as doubts about the accuracy of the protocol of the voting results in the federal electoral district, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation is entitled to adopt a decision on the repeated calculation of votes by the respective district election committee. Repeated calculation of votes shall be done by the district election committee in the presence of member(s) of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

Ballots shall be kept no less than one year, protocols of the voting and election results shall be kept no less than one year after the day of setting of the date of new elections, other document of the election committees being kept no less than six months.

ARTICLE 62. Calculation of the Election Result in the Federal Electoral District

On the basis of Protocols No. 2 submitted by the district election committees, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall calculate the votes cast in the federal electoral district by way of adding of the data contained in the Protocols. The adding of the data contained in the protocols submitted by the district election committees shall be done directly by the members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

Electoral associations and electoral blocs, whose lists of candidates have received less than five per cent of votes of the voters who took part in the election, shall be excluded from the distribution of deputy's mandates in the federal electoral district.

The number of voters who took part in the voting shall be estimated by the number of ballots of the standard-form found in the ballot-boxes.

Each electoral association or electoral bloc, whose list of candidates has received no less than five per cent of votes of the voters who took part in the voting, shall receive deputy's mandates, the number of which is determined according to the method envisaged in Article 70 hereof.

In the event the list of candidates of the electoral association or electoral bloc was split into regional groups, deputy's mandates received by the electoral association or electoral bloc shall first of all be assigned to the candidates not included into any of the regional groups. The rest of deputy's mandates shall be assigned to candidates of regional groups, each of these groups receiving the remaining deputy's mandates in proportion to the number of votes cast for the federal list of candidates in the respective subject of the Russian Federation or group of subject of the Russian Federation. This number of deputy's mandates shall also be estimated according to the method envisaged in Article 70 hereof.

Distribution of the deputy's mandates among the candidates of the federal list of the electoral association or electoral bloc shall be performed in compliance with the order of appearance of the candidates in this list, the said order being established during the registration of the federal list with the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

Deputies elected to the State Duma in single-mandate electoral districts shall be excluded from each federal list of candidates. In this case the deputy's mandates shall be assigned to the candidates of the same federal list in compliance with the order of their appearance on this list or the corresponding regional group.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall draw up a protocol of distribution of the deputy's mandates in the federal electoral district among electoral associations, electoral blocs, wherein the following data shall be included:

1) number of protocols of district election committees, on basis of which this protocol has been produced;
2) number of voters in the Russian Federation put on the lists of voters;
3) number of ballots issued to the polling station election committees;
4) number of ballots issued to the voters at the polling stations on the day of election;
5) number of ballots issued to the voters who had voted ahead of time;
6) number of ballots issued to the voters who voted outside the voting premises;
7) number of ballots declared void;

8) number of ballots contained in the stationary ballot-boxes (expect for the ballots of non-standard form);
9) number of ballots contained in portable ballot-boxes (except for the ballots of non-standard form);
10) total number of valid ballots;
11) total number of invalid voting ballots (including a separate line for the number of voting ballots containing no marks in any of the items);
12) names of electoral associations and electoral blocs, which have registered federal lists of candidates , and number of votes cast for each federal list of candidates;
13) number of votes cast against all the federal lists of candidates;
14) names of electoral associations and electoral blocs allowed deputy's mandates;
15) last names, first names and second names of the elected deputies of each federal list of candidates.

A summary table of the voting results in the federal electoral district which includes complete data of Protocols No. 2 of district election committees, as well as complaints (applications) about violation of this Federal Law received by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, and decisions of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation made thereon shall be attached to the protocol.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall declare the election in the federal electoral district as one that has not taken place if less than 25 per cent of the voters on the lists of voters has taken part in the election.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall declare that all deputy's mandates in the federal electoral district have remained undistributed if all electoral associations and electoral blocs are excluded from the distribution of the deputy's mandates in accordance with Paragraph 2 herein.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall render the election in the federal electoral district void, if violations of this Federal Law committed during the voting and assessment of the election results do not allow to reliably calculate the results of the will of voters.

In the event the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation has declared the election in the federal electoral district as one that has not taken place or rendered them void, or if none of the electoral associations or none of the electoral blocs have been allowed deputy's mandates, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall set a repeated election in the federal electoral district. The terms of electoral actions set forth by this Federal Law mat not be reduced by the Committee by more than one third.

ARTICLE 63. Calculation of the Common Election Results

On the basis of the protocol of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation of distribution of deputy's mandates among electoral associations and electoral blocs in a federal electoral district and on the basis of protocols of district election committees of elections of deputies of the State Duma, no later than three weeks after the day of elections the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall estimate common election results.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall declare the election in a single-mandate electoral district null and void, if violations of this Federal Law committed during the conduct thereof do not allow to reliably calculate the results of the will of voters.

In single-mandate electoral districts, election which is declared one that has not taken place or rendered void, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall set a repeated election. Terms of election activities, envisaged by this Federal Law may be reduced by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no more than by one third. In this event the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation may give an instruction on forming district, territorial and polling station election committees with a new staff.

ARTICLE 64. Registration of Elected Deputies of the State Duma

After signing the protocol of the election results a respective election committee shall notify the candidate elected deputy of the State Duma. In compliance with requirements of this Federal Law, the candidate elected deputy of the State Duma within a terms of three days must inform in writing the respective election committee of declining all responsibilities incompatible with the status of a deputy of the State Duma.

In the event the deputy elected in the process of distribution of mandates according to federal lists of electoral associations, electoral blocs within a term of three days does not fulfill the requirement of declining responsibilities incompatible with the status of a deputy of the State Duma, his/her deputy's mandate shall be transferred by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation to the candidate of the same federal list according to his position on this list or in corresponding regional group.

After official publication of common election results the respective election committee shall register the elected deputy of the State Duma and issue for him a certificate of election provided he/she fulfills the requirement set forth in Paragraph 1 herein.

ARTICLE 65. Publication of the Voting Results and the Results of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

Results of voting at each polling station, result of elections at an electoral district in the amount contained in protocols of the respective election committees, must be presented for familiarization to any voter or observer, as well as representatives of mass media.

District election committee shall publish in the local press data of Protocols No. 1 and No. 2 of all territorial and polling station election committees of the respective single-mandate electoral district no later than one month after the day of election.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall publish in mass media the common election results, including data of Protocols No. 1 and No. 2 of all district election committees no later than one month after the day of election.

No later than three months after the day of election the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall publish in its gazette information of the voting results, including complete data of protocols of all election committees, except for those of polling station committees, as well as data of deputies elected, envisaged by Paragraph 1, Article 40 of this Federal Law.

ARTICLE 66. Use of the Automated Information System

In the event of using automated information systems the election committee shall form a group of members of the election committee and members of the election committee to exercise control over using of the automated information system. All members of the election committee have the right to familiarize themselves with any information input into the automated information system and output of it.

From the moment of the beginning of voting to the moment of signing of the protocol by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, the automated information system shall be used exclusively for supervising the process and results of voting by means of transmission of data from lower election committees to higher election committees.

During this period transmission of any data from information centers of the higher election committees to information centers of the lower election committees is prohibited, except for the information receipt confirmation signals.

Data of the process and results of election received by means of the automated information system shall be preliminary information of no legal importance.

The text of the computer printout containing data input into the automated information systems must be attached to the protocol of the election committee filed and kept by the secretary of the election committee. The authenticity of the computer printout shall be certified with signatures of members of the automated information system operation control group and the person responsible for information input.

CHAPTER XI. FILLING OF THE VACANT DEPUTY'S MANDATES

ARTICLE 67. Filling of the Vacant Mandate of Deputy Elected by a Federal List

In case a deputy elected in the process of distribution of deputy's mandates according to federal lists of candidates of electoral associations or electoral blocs withdraws ahead of time, on the decision of the State Duma, his/her mandate shall be transferred to the next candidate of the same federal list.

If the list of an electoral association had been split into regional groups and a deputy of any regional group withdrew, the mandate shall be transferred to the subsequent candidate belonging to the same regional group of this federal list. If there are no candidates left in the respective regional group, the mandate shall be transferred to the regional group of the same federal list that has received the largest number of votes and has candidates, who have not received the status of a deputy.

In case there are no candidates left on the federal list of candidates, the mandate shall remain vacant until the next elections of deputies of the State Duma.

ARTICLE 68. Filling of the Mandate of Deputy Elected in a Single-Mandate Electoral District

In case of early cessation of powers of the deputy elected in a single-mandate electoral district, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation within a month from the day of vacant mandate's becoming available, shall set additional elections of a deputy of the State Duma at the respective single-mandate electoral district. If less than a year remains till the expiration of powers of the State Duma, the additional elections shall not be set and conducted.

Nomination of candidates in a single-mandate electoral district, their registration and other election activities are carried out in conformity with this Federal Law.

CHAPTER XII. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF CITIZENS' ELECTORAL RIGHTS

ARTICLE 69. Responsibility of Violations of Citizens' Electoral Right

Persons, who by means of bribery, deception, violence or threat of use thereof, falsification of electoral documents, deliberately calculate votes incorrectly or otherwise prevent the free exercise of his/her electoral rights by a citizen of the Russian Federation or work of election committees or members of election committees, or persons deliberately spreading false information of the candidates or otherwise acting for the purpose of discrediting honor and dignity of candidates, as well as persons preventing legal activities of candidates' attorneys, observers, including foreign (international) observers, or the conduct of a pre-election campaigning, shall bear administrative and criminal responsibility.

CHAPTER XIII. METHOD OF PROPORTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF DEPUTY'S MANDATES

ARTICLE 70. Method of Proportional Distribution of Deputy's Mandates

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall calculate the sum total of voters' votes cast in the federal electoral district for federal lists of candidates of electoral associations and electoral blocs that have collected five or more per cent of the votes of voters, who took part in the voting. This sum of votes shall be divided by 225 - the number of deputy's mandates, distributed within the federal electoral district. The obtained result shall be the first electoral quotient.

After this the number of votes collected by each federal list of candidates taking part in distribution of deputy's mandates shall be divided by the first electoral quotient. The integer part of the number obtained as a result of division shall be the number of deputy's mandates to be received by the respective federal list of candidates.

If after operations made in conformity with Paragraph 2 of this Article, undistributed mandates remain, a second distribution shall be made. Each of those federal lists of candidates, which have the largest fractional part (remainder) of the number obtained as a result of division in conformity with Paragraph 2 of this Article, shall receive one of the undistributed mandates. In case

fractional parts are equal, preference shall be given to that federal list of candidates, which has collected more votes. In case number of votes is equal, preference shall be given to the federal list of candidates registered earlier.

If the federal list is split into regional groups, then distribution of mandates within the federal list is performed - among these groups and candidates not included in any group (provided there are such candidates). At the first stage of this distribution number of candidates, not included in any of the regional groups and not elected in single-mandate electoral districts, is determined. In the first place the mandates are transferred to the said candidates.

Mandates left undistributed within the federal list of candidates shall be distributed within the list among regional groups. Calculations are performed according to the same method. If there is lack of candidates in one or more regional groups, the remaining undistributed mandates shall be distributed among other regional groups according to the same rules.

In the process of distribution of mandates within the federal list the electoral quotient may fail to coincide with the first electoral quotient, obtained in conformity with Paragraph 1 of this Article.

CHAPTER XIV. CONCLUSIVE AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 71. Electoral Associations Taking Part in the Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Second Convocation

According to this Federal Law, all-Russian public associations, established in the order set forth by the Law of the USSR "On Public Associations", charters of which provide for participation in elections to federal bodies of the state power and are registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation no later than six months prior to the day of election, are entitled to take part in elections of deputies of the State Duma of the second convocation.

ARTICLE 72. Entry of this Federal Law into Effect

This Federal Law shall enter into effect on the day of its official publication.

FEDERAL LAW ON ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Adopted by the State Duma on March 24, 1995 and approved by the Federation Council on May 4, 1995.
Signed by President of Russia on May 17, 1995.

CHAPTER I. GENERAL

ARTICLE 1. Basic Principles of Election of the President of the Russian Federation

The President of the Russian Federation shall be elected by citizens of the Russian Federation on the basis of the universal, equal and direct electoral right by way of secret ballot.

Participation of a citizen of the Russian Federation in elections is voluntary.

A citizen of the Russian Federation, who resides or stays outside the Russian Federation during the period of preparation and conduct of election, has all the electoral rights in election of the President of the Russian Federation.

Voters shall take part in the election on equal grounds and vote for or against a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation directly.

Control over the will of the voter is prohibited.

ARTICLE 2. Legislation on Election of the President of the Russian Federation

Legislation on election of the President of the Russian Federation is constituted by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation", this Federal Law, other federal laws.

ARTICLE 3. Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation in Election of the President of the Russian Federation

A citizen of the Russian Federation, who has reached the age of 18 years on the day of election, is entitled to elect the President of the Russian Federation.

A citizen of the Russian Federation no younger than 35 years, who has permanently resided in the Russian Federation for ten years, may be elected President of the Russian Federation.

A citizen of the Russian Federation found incapable by the court of law or imprisoned under a decision of the court of law has no right to elect President of the Russian Federation or be elected President of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 4. Setting of Elections of President of the Russian Federation

In compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the election of President of the Russian Federation shall be set by the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The first Sunday after expiration of the constitutional term, for which the President of the Russian Federation was elected, shall be the day of elections. The constitutional term for which President of the Russian Federation was elected shall start from the day of his election. The term from the day of setting the election and the day of the election shall be no less than four months.

In the event the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation after a decision on removal of President of Russian Federation should fail to set elections of President of the Russian Federation within the term set forth by Paragraph 1 of this Article, the date of election of the President of the Russian Federation shall be announced by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation on the last Sunday after three weeks from the day of removal of the President of the Russian Federation.

In the event the President of the Russian Federation should terminate the fulfillment of his powers before the expiration of the constitutional term in cases and under the procedure stipulated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation shall set a special election of the President of the Russian Federation. In this case the last Sunday before expiration of three months after early termination of fulfillment of his powers by the President of the Russian Federation shall be the day of election. In this case, terms of electoral actions set forth herein shall be reduced by one quarter.

ARTICLE 5. Election of the President of the Russian Federation

Election of the President of the Russian Federation shall be conducted in a single federal electoral district which includes the entire territory of the Russian Federation.

The preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the Russian Federation and control over adherence to electoral rights of citizens shall be carried out by election committees.

During the preparation and conduct of election of the President of the Russian Federation, election committees shall be independent of the bodies of state power and local government within the scope of their powers.

The activities of election committees shall be performed on a collegial basis.

ARTICLE 6. The Right to Nominate a Candidate for the Office of the President of the Russian Federation

The right to nominate a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation belongs to the voters and electoral associations and electoral blocs.

ARTICLE 7. The Right to Pre-Election Campaigning

The State shall provide citizens of the Russian Federation and public associations with free conduct of pre-election campaigns in compliance herewith.

Citizens of the Russian Federation and public associations may in any form allowed by the law legally perform activities encouraging the voters to vote for or against candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation.

Equal conditions of access to state mass media shall be guaranteed to candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, electoral associations and electoral blocs.

ARTICLE 8. Financing of Election of the President of the Russian Federation

Financing of measures related to the preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the Russian Federation shall be performed at the expense of federal budget funds.

Candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation shall create their own election funds for financing the pre-election campaign.

ARTICLE 9. Publicity in Preparation and Conduct of the Election of President of the Russian Federation

Preparation and conduct of the election of President of the Russian Federation shall be performed openly and publicly.

All decisions of election committees, bodies of state power and bodies of local government related to the preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the Russian Federation shall be subject to publication.

CHAPTER II. ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ARTICLE 10. The System of Election Committees for Election of President of the Russian Federation

Preparation and conduct of the election of President of the Russian Federation shall be performed by the following election committees:

1) Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation;
2) election committees of the subjects of the Russian Federation;
3) territorial (rayon, city and other) election committees;
4) polling station election committees.

ARTICLE 11. The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, formed in compliance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation", shall lead the activities of election committees that perform the preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the Russian Federation.

Each registered candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation is entitled to appoint one member of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with the right of deliberative vote.

ARTICLE 12. Procedure of Formation of the Election Committee of a Subject of the Russian Federation

According to the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation", the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be formed by the legislative (representative) and executive bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation with due regard to suggestions of public organizations, elective bodies of local government, meetings of voters at places of work, service, studying and residence.

The election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall consist of 10 to 14 members, no less than half of the members of the election committee being appointed by the legislative (representative) body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation.

The Chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be elected by secret ballot at the first session from the members of the election committee and, as a rule, must have higher legal education.

The election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation shall be formed no later than 30 days after this Federal Law has entered into effect.

Each registered candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation is entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each election committee of subjects of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 13. Procedure of Formation of Territorial (Rayon, City and other) Election Committees

Territorial (rayon, city and other) election committees numbering 5 to 9 members shall be formed no later than 60 days prior to the day of election. Members of the territorial election committees shall be appointed by the elective body of local government. The Chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the territorial election committee shall be elected by secret ballot at the first session from the members of the territorial election committee. On the decision of the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation coordinated with the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, several territorial election committees shall be formed within one administrative territorial unit with a large number of voters.

When nominating candidatures for the territorial election committee, elective bodies of local government shall take into consideration suggestions of public associations, meetings of voters at places of work, service, studying and residence.

In the event that the elective body of local government should fail to appoint members of a territorial election committee within the term stipulated by Paragraph 1 herein, or there is no elective body of local government on this territory, the territorial election committee shall be formed by the respective election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation.

Each registered candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation is entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each territorial election committee.

ARTICLE 14. Procedure of Formation of Polling Station Election Committees

Polling station election committees numbering 5 to 9 members shall be formed by elective bodies of local government no later than 44 days prior to the day of election.

When nominating candidatures for the polling station election committee, elective bodies of local government shall take into consideration suggestions of public associations, meetings of voters at places of work, service, studying and residence. The Chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the polling station election committee shall be elected by secret ballot at the first session from the members of the election committee.

In the event that the elective body of local government should fail to appoint members of a polling station election committee within the term stipulated by Paragraph 1 herein, or there is no elective body of local government on this territory, the polling station election committee shall be formed by a respective territorial election committee.

An election committee of the polling station established either at a polar station or on a navigating vessel shall be formed correspondingly by the chief of the polar station or the captain of the vessel within the term stipulated by Paragraph 1 herein, or no later than five days prior to the day of election in exceptional cases.

An election committee of the polling station established outside the territory of the Russian Federation shall be formed by the head of a respective diplomatic mission or consular office of the Russian Federation, or by the commander of a military unit located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

Each registered candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation is entitled to appoint one member of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to each polling station election committee. On the day of voting each candidate, each electoral association, each electoral bloc are entitled to appoint one observer, who shall have the right to remain at the voting premises from the beginning of voting to the completion of processing of documents on election results and receive certified copies thereof, to respective polling station election committees.

ARTICLE 15. Powers of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation

During the preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the Russian Federation, within the scope of its powers set forth by federal laws, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall:

1) guide the activities of election committees in the election of the President of the Russian Federation;
2) exercise control over adherence to the legitimacy in the preparation and conduct of the election of President of the Russian Federation, provide uniform application of this Federal Law;
3) issue instructions and other normative acts on the questions of application of this Federal Law binding upon all election committees performing the preparation and conduct of the election of President of the Russian Federation;
4) register electoral blocs;
5) register candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation and their attorneys;
6) issue certificates of a standard form to candidates and their attorneys;
7) provide for equal legal conditions in the pre-election activities for all candidates for the office of the President of the Russian Federation;
8) hear information of ministries and departments, and other bodies of executive power and bodies of local government on the issues related to preparation and conduct of the election;
9) set the form of ballots, list of voters and other electoral documents;
10) approve the text of the ballot in Russian;
11) approve seals of election committees and the order of shipment and storage of electoral documents;
12) distribute funds allocated from the federal budget for financial support of the preparation and conduct of the election, support of the activities of election committees for the term of their powers, control over targeted use of the said funds;
13) control the provision of election committees with premises, transport, communication and consider other issues of material and technical support of the election;

14) adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions (inaction) of subordinate election committees and adopt reasonable decisions on the complaints (applications);
15) establish a uniform procedure of processing of the results of voting;
16) establish the results of the election of President of the Russian Federation and publish them in the press; transfer documents related to preparation and conduct of the election to archives;
17) organize repeated voting on the election of President of the Russian Federation;
18) organize repeated elections of the President of the Russian Federation;
19) realize other powers in compliance with this Federal Law and the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation".

Decisions of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation adopted within the scope of its powers shall be binding upon all state bodies, bodies of local government, public associations, state enterprises, agencies and organizations, as well as their officials.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall publish its own official gazette.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall be a legal entity and act on a permanent basis.

ARTICLE 16. Powers of the Election Committee of a Subject of the Russian Federation

The election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall:

1) coordinate activities of election committees on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation;
2) provide for interaction of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with bodies of state power in the subject of the Russian Federation;
3) exercise control over the legitimacy of conduct of the election on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation;
4) provide for printing of ballots on the territory of the respective subject of the Russian Federation and distribution thereof to territorial election committees;
5) adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions (inaction) of subordinate election committees in a subject of the Russian Federation and adopt reasonable decisions on complaints (applications);
6) distribute among territorial election committees monetary resources allocated for the preparation and conduct of the election of President of the Russian Federation, and exercise control over targeted use of these resources on the territory of a subject of the Russian Federation;
7) establish a uniform numeration of the polling stations on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation;
8) estimate the voting results during the election of President of the Russian Federation on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation and transfer them to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation;
9) realize all other powers on behalf of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

The term of powers of the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be four years.

Election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation shall be legal entities and act on a permanent basis.

ARTICLE 17. Powers of the Territorial (Rayon, City and other) Election Committee

The territorial (rayon, city and other) election committee shall:

1) exercise control over the preparation and conduct of the election of President of the Russian Federation on the respective territory, inform the population of addresses and telephone numbers of the polling station election committees;
2) coordinate the work of polling station election committees on the relevant territory, adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions (inaction) of these election committees and adopt reasonable decisions on complaints (applications);
3) dispose of monetary resources allocated for the preparation and conduct of the election, distribute them among polling station election committees;
4) provide for equal legal conditions of pre-election activities for all candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation along with the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation;
5) organize delivery of voting ballots and other documents to the polling station election committees;
6) render organizational and technical assistance to polling station election committees in the conduct of voting at the polling stations;
7) estimate the results of voting on the election of President of the Russian Federation on the respective territory, give them to the mass media and hand over protocols of voting results to the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation;
8) provide for transfer of documents related to the preparation and conduct of the election to an archive or higher election committee;
9) realize other powers in compliance with this Federal Law.

The term of powers of the territorial election committee shall expire after the official publication of the results of the election of President of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 18. Powers of the Polling Station Election Committee

The polling station election committee shall:

1) notify the population of the location of the polling station election committee, its working hours, as well as the day and the place of voting;
2) compile lists of voters at the polling station;
3) familiarize voters with lists of voters, adjudicate complaints about mistakes and inaccuracies in the list of voters and solve the issue of introduction of relevant corrections thereto;
4) provide for the preparation of voting premises, ballot-boxes and other equipment;
5) control over adherence to the regulations on placing of pre-election campaign materials on the territory of the polling station;
6) organize voting at the polling station on the day of election;
7) arrange calculation of the votes, estimate the results of voting in the polling station during the election of President of the Russian Federation;
8) adjudicate complaints (applications) of violation of this Federal Law and adopt reasonable decisions thereon;
9) realize other powers in compliance with this Federal Law.

The term of powers of the polling station election committee shall expire after the official publication of the results of the election of President of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 19. Status of an Election Committee Member

Members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote are entitled to be present at all sessions of the committee.

Election committees may not include candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, their attorneys, spouses and close relatives of the candidates, as well as persons directly subordinate to them.

A member of an election committee with the right of either deciding or deliberative vote has the following rights:

1) to be informed of meetings of a respective election committee in advance;
2) to speak at the meetings of the election committee, make suggestions on the issues within the scope of competence of a respective election committee, and demand voting on them;
3) to ask other participants to the session of the election committee questions according to the agenda and receive reasonable answers to them;
4) to familiarize himself/herself with any documents and materials of the respective and subordinate election committees and receive certified copies thereof.

When the election committee makes a decision, members of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote shall not take part in the voting.

Members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote may be relieved of the duties of a member of election committee before expiration of the term of his/her powers on the decision of the body, which had appointed the member, in the following cases:

1) submission by a member of the election committee of a written application for resignation;
2) loss of citizenship of the Russian Federation by the member of the election committee;
3) entry of an indictment in respect of the member of the election committee into legal force;
4) recognition by the decision of the court of law, which has entered into force, of the member of the election committee incapable, restricted in capability, missing or dead.

The payment for work of a member of the election committee with the right of deciding vote relieved of his regular employment for the period of the preparation and conduct of the election shall be made at the expense of funds allocated for the conduct of the election. Within the term of his/her powers he/she may not be dismissed from the job or transferred to another job without his/her consent on the initiative of the administration (employer).

During the period of the conduct of the election, members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote may not be prosecuted or subject to measures of administrative punishment imposed by the court without consent of a respective public prosecutor.

Powers of members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation with the right of deliberative vote related to preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the Russian Federation shall continue until the end of registration of candidates for the office of the President of the Russian Federation during the next election, provided that the candidate who had appointed them, is elected President of the Russian

Federation. Powers of other members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation with the right of deliberative vote shall expire in 30 days after the official publication of the results of the election of the President of the Russian Federation.

The term of powers of members of territorial and polling station election committees with the right of deliberative vote shall simultaneously expire with the term of powers of these election committees.

ARTICLE 20. Publicity in the Activities of Election Committees

Election committees shall conduct their activities publicly and openly. Candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation and their attorneys, authorized representatives of electoral associations, electoral blocs, initiative voters' groups and representatives of mass media are entitled to be present at the sessions of election committees.

Decisions of election committees shall be published in the press and handed over to other mass media.

Election committees shall advise citizens of the results of registration of candidates, their biographic data and voting results of each candidate or results of the election of President of the Russian Federation.

Observers designated by candidates, public and electoral associations, electoral blocs, foreign (international) observers, as well as representatives of mass media are entitled to be present at the polling stations on the day of election from the beginning of the work of the polling station election committee to the completion of processing of documents of the voting results. Foreign (international) observers shall perform their activities in compliance with federal laws.

Powers of the observer should be certified in writing by the candidate, public or electoral association, electoral bloc whose interests he/she represents with indication of the last name, first name, second name, place of residence, as well as the number of the polling station where he/she is sent. This document shall be only valid upon presentation of the passport (identity card substituting it). No preliminary notification of sending observers to the polling station is required.

The observer is entitled to:

1) be present at voting of voters who can not come to the voting premises due to the state of health or other good reasons;
2) familiarize himself/herself with the list of voters;
3) apply to the polling station election committee with suggestions and remarks;
4) appeal actions (inaction) of the polling station election committee in the territorial election committee.

No interference with the actions of the polling station election committee shall be admitted. Remarks and suggestions of observers shall be considered by the chairman of the polling station election committee, or, in case of necessity, at a session of the polling station election committee.

ARTICLE 21. Organization of Election Committees' Activities

A session of the election committee shall be deemed competent provided that the majority of committee members with the right of deciding vote is present at the session. A session of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall be deemed competent provided that no less than two thirds of the members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with the right of deciding vote is present at the session.

In the event of adopting a decision by election committees, in the event of an equal number of votes "Yea" and "Nay", the vote of the chairman of the election committee shall be deciding.

Decisions of election committees adopted within the scope of their powers shall be binding upon all bodies of state power and bodies of local government, as well as for subordinate election committees.

Decisions of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation on election of the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, on registration of candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, on introduction of a suggestion to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on cancellation of registration of candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, on the issues of financial support for preparation and conduct of the election, on estimation of election results, on declaration of elections null and void and on conduct of repeated voting and repeated elections shall be adopted at the sessions of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation by the majority of votes of the total number of members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with the right of deciding vote.

Decisions of other election committees on election of the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the election committee, on issues of financial support of the preparation and conduct of the election, on estimation of the voting results shall also be adopted by the majority of votes of the number of members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote present.

Decisions of election committees on other issues shall be adopted by a majority vote of the members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote who are present at the session.

Decisions of the election committee shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the election committee.

Members of the election committee who do not agree with the decision adopted by the election committee are entitled to express in writing their opinion, of which the chairman of the election committee must advise a higher election committee no later than within three days, or immediately, if the opinion is expressed three days prior to the day of election or on the day of election.

A decision of the election committee which is in conflict with federal laws or is adopted by the election committee which exceeds its authority, shall be subject to cancellation by a higher election committee or by a court of law.

Sessions of the election committee shall be convened and held by the chairman or, on his/her behalf, by the vice-chairman of the election committee. Sessions of the election committee shall also be held on the demand of no less than one third of the election committee members with the right of deciding vote.

Representatives of concerned parties are entitled to be present at the sessions of election committees during adjudication of complaints (applications).

The chairman, the vice-chairman and the secretary of the election committee acting on a permanent basis, may be permanent employees of the election committee. So may other committee members with the right deciding vote, provided that there is a decision of the election committee. Payment of labor of the members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote shall be made within the limits of budgetary funds allocated to the election committee in the order and in amounts determined by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

Election committees acting on a permanent basis shall have their staff, structure and employees of which shall be established by the election committees within the limits of budgetary funds allocated thereto. Other election committees may form temporary staff for the period of preparation and conduct of elections, structure and employees of which shall be determined by respective election committees within the limits of budgetary funds allocated thereto.

ARTICLE 22. Assistance to the Activities of Election Committees

State authorities, bodies of local government, public associations, enterprises, agencies and organizations, as well as their officials must render assistance to election committees in realization of their powers, including granting of necessary premises, transport, means of communication, technical equipment, as well as give information and materials, give answers to requests of election committees within a term of five days, or immediately if such requests are made five days prior to the day of election or on the day of election.

ARTICLE 23. Appeal of Decisions and Actions of Election Committees

Decisions and actions (inaction) of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation and its officials may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

Decisions and actions (inaction) of election committees and their officials may be appealed to a higher election committee or to a court of law. Preliminary application to higher election committees shall not be a requirement for applying to a court of law.

Complaints (applications) received by the court shall be adjudicated by the court within the terms envisaged herein.

Decisions on complaints (applications) received by a higher election committee in the course of the election shall be made within a term of five days from the day of receipt of the complaint by the committee, or immediately if such complaint (application) is received five days prior to the day of election or on the day of election. In the event the facts contained in complaints (applications) should require additional review, decisions on them shall be adopted no later than within ten days.

A higher election committee is entitled to adopt an independent decision on the subject of the complaint (application) thus canceling the decision of the subordinate election committee.

Courts and bodies of the prosecutor's office must organize their work (including holidays) so as to provide timely adjudication of complaints (applications).

ARTICLE 24. Establishment of Polling Stations

Polling stations shall be established to provide voting and calculation of votes at the election of President of the Russian Federation.

Polling stations shall be established by the head of the local administration with coordination of a respective territorial election committee no later than 60 days prior to the day of elections with due regard to local and other conditions for the purpose of creation of maximum conveniences for voters.

Polling stations shall be established with regard to the following requirements:

1) no more than 3000 voters per polling station;
2) following the borders of administrative and territorial division in the subject of the Russian Federation.

In sanatoriums, spas, rest homes, hospitals, other stationary medical institutions and other places of temporary stay of voters, in remote regions or regions difficult of access, on navigating vessels and at polar stations, polling stations may be established within the term specified in Paragraph 2 hereof, and no later than 5 days prior to the day of election in exclusive cases.

Militarymen shall vote at common polling stations. By way of exception, establishment of polling stations in military units located in detached regions far from settlements is allowed. In such cases polling stations shall be established by commanders of military units on the decision of the respective election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation. Access to the voting premises must be granted to all members of the election committee, observers, candidates and their attorneys if they produce a relevant document.

Polling stations for citizens of the Russian Federation staying on the territory of a foreign state shall be established by heads of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Russian Federation on the territory of their country of stay.

Polling station lists indicating borders thereof, addresses and telephone numbers of polling station election committees shall be published in local press no later than 40 days prior to the day of election.

ARTICLE 25. The List of Voters and Procedure of Compilation thereof

The list of voters shall be compiled by the polling station election committee on the basis of data provided by the head of local administration in a standard form. The head of local administration shall from time to time revise lists of registered voters as of January 1 and July 1 annually. The head of local administration shall forward data on voters to the election committee no later than 40 days prior to the day of election.

The list of voters shall be compiled in alphabetical or other order (on the basis of settlements, streets, houses, or addresses of voters). The list shall indicate last names, first names, second names, year of birth (day and month of birth additionally for the age of 18 years) and address of permanent residence of voters.

The list of military voters staying in a military unit, their family members and other voters, if they reside in the region where the military unit is located, shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by the commander of the military unit within the term stipulated by Paragraph 1 herein.

Militarymen residing outside the military unit shall be placed on the lists of voters at the place of residence on common grounds.

Lists of voters staying on the day of election in sanatoriums, spas, rest homes, hospitals, other stationary medical institutions and other places of temporary stay of voters shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by chiefs of the said institutions.

The list of voters of a polling station established on a navigating vessel or at a polar station shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by the captain of the vessel or the chief of the polar station.

The list of voters of a polling station established outside the territory of the Russian Federation shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by the head of a respective diplomatic mission, consular office of the Russian Federation, or by the commander of the military unit located outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

The list of voters shall be made in duplicate according to the form approved by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation and shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the polling station election committee. One copy of the list of voters shall be left at the polling station election committee and the second copy shall be provided to the respective territorial election committee no later than 16 days prior to the day of elections.

ARTICLE 26. Procedure of Putting Citizens on the Lists of Voters

All citizens of the Russian Federation, who possess the active electoral right in accordance with Article 3 of this Federal Law, shall be put on the list of voters.

The grounds for putting of a citizen on the list of voters at a certain polling station shall be the fact of his/her residing on the territory of this polling station established in accordance with the federal law that determines the rights of citizens of the Russian Federation to freedom of movement, choice of place of stay and place of residence on the territory of the Russian Federation.

A voter may be put on the list of voters at one polling station only.

Voters staying on the day of election in sanatoriums, spas, rest homes, hospitals, other stationary medical institutions and other places of temporary stay of voters shall be placed on the list of voters of the place of their stay.

Students and post-graduate students of the day form of study residing in dormitories shall be put on the list of voters at the place of the dormitory location.

Citizens of the Russian Federation residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation or staying on long-term business-trips abroad, provided that they hold an external passport of citizen of the Russian Federation, shall be placed on the list of voters of the polling station established outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

Citizens of the Russian Federation arriving in foreign states under private invitations, on service, business and tourist trips, shall be additionally put on the list of voters provided that they apply to the polling station election committee and hold an external passport of a citizen of the Russian Federation.

Voters, who have settled on the territory of the polling station after the list of voters had been submitted for general familiarization, as well as voters for any other reason not put on the list of voters shall be additionally put by the polling station election committee on the list of voters on the basis of documents of identification and documents confirming the place of residence on the territory of this polling station.

ARTICLE 27. Familiarization of Voters with the Lists of Voters

Lists of voters shall be submitted for general familiarization no later than 30 days prior to the day of election.

Each citizen shall be entitled to lodge a complaint to the polling station election committee of the failure to place him/her on the list of voters, as well as of any other mistake or inaccuracy in the list of voters.

The polling station election committee must review the application and revise the mistake or inaccuracy, or provide a written answer to the applicant indicating the reason for denying the application no later than 24 hours. A decision of the polling station election committee may be appealed to a higher election committee or to a court, which is required to adjudicate the complaint (application) within three days, or immediately if the complaint is lodged, three days prior to the election or on the day of the election. In the event of a decision in favor of the applicant, the polling station election committee shall immediately make necessary corrections in the list of voters.

Introduction of amendments to list of voters after the beginning of the calculation of votes is not allowed.

CHAPTER III. ELECTORAL ASSOCIATIONS

ARTICLE 28. Definition of the Electoral Association

An electoral association is an all-Russian public association established in the manner stipulated by federal laws, whose charter provides for participation in elections to bodies of state power through nomination of candidates and is registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation no later than six months prior to the announcement of the day of election.

Electoral blocs created for the period of the conduct of the election of the President of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 29. Electoral Blocs

Electoral blocs may be established by no less than two public associations which are electoral associations in compliance with Paragraph 1, Article 28 of this Federal Law.

In the event that a public association is part of an electoral bloc, it may not appear in the period of the conduct of the election as an independent electoral association or join another electoral bloc.

Decisions on joining an electoral bloc shall be adopted at the congress (conference) of the public association.

Electoral blocs shall be registered by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation. The registration shall be executed no later than five days after submission to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation of minutes of the congresses (conferences) of the public associations with decisions on joining an electoral bloc and joint decisions of public associations on establishing an electoral bloc, signed by authorized representatives of such associations.

ARTICLE 30. Authorized Representatives of Electoral Associations, Electoral Blocs and Initiative Voters' Groups

Electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups shall appoint representatives authorized to represent them in compliance with this Federal Law on all issues related to participation of such electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups in the election of the President of the Russian Federation, including the financial issues.

ARTICLE 31. Participation of Electoral Associations, Electoral Blocs, Initiative Voters' Groups in the Election of President of the Russian Federation.

Electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups shall take part in the election of President of the Russian Federation on equal grounds in the order established by this Federal Law.

CHAPTER IV. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ARTICLE 32. Nomination of a Candidate for the Office of President of the Russian Federation by an Electoral Association or Electoral Bloc

Candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation shall be nominated at the congress (conference) of an electoral association.

An electoral association or electoral bloc is entitled to nominate only one candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation.

The decision on nomination of the candidate shall be adopted by way of secret ballot.

Electoral associations and electoral blocs are entitled to nominate candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation persons, who are not members of public associations, which are part of these electoral associations or electoral blocs.

Authorized representatives of the electoral associations and electoral blocs shall submit to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation minutes with the decision of the congress (conference) of the electoral association on nomination of the candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation. The decision on the nomination of the candidate should indicate his last name, first name, second name, place of work, office held (occupation) and place of residence.

The following shall be submitted along with these documents: a copy of the certificate of registration of the electoral association by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, registered charter of the electoral association, list of authorized representatives of the electoral association indicating the last name, first name, second name, place of birth, place of residence of each authorized representative of the electoral association, as well as the power of attorney for the authorized representatives of the electoral association issued under the procedure established by the law.

Along with the documents specified in Paragraphs 5 and 6 herein, authorized representatives of the electoral bloc shall submit to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation minutes of congresses (conferences) of these public associations with decisions on joining the electoral bloc and a joint decision of these public associations on the establishment of the electoral bloc, signed by authorized representatives of these public associations.

ARTICLE 33. Nomination of a Candidates for the Office of President of the Russian Federation Directly by the Voters

Each citizen of the Russian Federation or group of citizens of the Russian Federation, who possess the active electoral right may establish an initiative voters' group in the number of no less than 100 persons to nominate a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation.

The initiative voters' group shall apply to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with a written application for registration of the group. The application should be accompanied with minutes of the meeting of the initiative voters' group pertaining to nomination of a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation, nomination of authorized representatives of the initiative voters' group and a power of attorney issued in their names under the procedure established by the law.

The application of the initiative voters' group shall indicate:

last name, first name, second name, date of birth, place of work, office held (occupation) and place of residence of the candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation;

last name, first name, second name, date of birth, places of residence, numbers of series of passports (identity cards substituting them) of the members of the initiative voters' group.

ARTICLE 34. Collection of Signatures in Support of a Candidate for the Office of President of the Russian Federation

An electoral association, electoral bloc or initiative voters' group which has nominated a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation, must collect no less than one million voters' signatures in his/her support, with no more than seven per cent of the required total number of signatures falling on one subject of the Russian Federation.

After checking the compliance of documents submitted to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with requirements of this Federal Law, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation must adopt a decision on registration of authorized representatives of the electoral association, electoral bloc or initiative voters' group and issue registration certificates to them within five days after the receipt of the documents.

In the event of a refusal to register authorized representatives of the electoral association, electoral bloc or initiative voters' group, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall issue a decision to them. The refusal to register may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, which must adjudicate the appeal no later than within three days.

From the moment registration certificates are issued, authorized representatives of the electoral association, electoral bloc or initiative voters' group are entitled to collect signatures of voters in support of a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation. Collection of signatures before receipt of registration certificates is not allowed.

Signature sheets shall be printed in the form set forth in Appendices No. 1 and 2 hereto.

In the process of collection of signatures in support of a candidate, each signature sheet should indicate last name, first name, second name, date of birth, place of work, office held (occupation) and place of residence of the candidate.

In the process of collection of signatures in support of a candidate nominated by an electoral association, electoral bloc, affiliation of the candidate to the respective electoral association, electoral bloc is indicated in addition to the said data.

Voters are entitled to enter their signatures in support of candidates of different electoral associations, electoral blocs or initiative voters' groups, but only one time in support of the same candidate. In this case the voter shall specify his/her last name, first name, second name, date of birth (day and month additionally for the age of eighteen years), address of permanent residence, series and number of the passport or identity substituting it, and the day of placing the signature.

The signature sheet shall be confirmed by the person collecting the signatures who must indicate his/her last name, first name and second name, permanent residence, series and number of the passport or an identity card substituting it, and by an authorized representative of the electoral association, electoral bloc or initiative voters' group nominating the candidate with an indication of the same data. Each signature sheet should indicate the name of the subject of the Russian Federation where voters' signatures were collected.

Collection of signatures shall be carried out at places of work (including work groups), service, study or residence, at pre-election events, as well as other places where propaganda and collection of signatures are not prohibited by the federal law, forcing and bribing of voters in any manner by a person collecting signatures is not allowed.

Administration and work groups of the enterprises, agencies and organizations of any form of property must render assistance in the creation of equal conditions for the collection of signatures in support of candidates.

After the collection of signatures has been finished, authorized representatives of the electoral association, electoral bloc and initiative voters' groups shall count the number of voters' signatures collected in each subject of the Russian Federation where such signatures had been collected, and the number of collected signatures of citizens of the Russian Federation residing outside its territory, as well as the total number of voters' signatures.

Signature sheets bound separately by the subjects of the Russian Federation and numbered, the final protocol and the application of candidate of his/her consent to be nominated for the office of President of the Russian Federation and the declaration of income of the candidate for the two years preceding the year of election shall be handed over to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation by an authorized representative of electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups under the procedure established by the law before 6 p.m. no later than 60 days prior to the day of election. The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall issue a written confirmation of receipt of the documents to the said authorized representatives.

In the event the election of President of the Russian Federation is conducted early, the number of voters' signatures to be collected in compliance with Paragraph 1 hereof shall be reduced by one half.

ARTICLE 35. Registration of a Candidate for the Office of President of the Russian Federation

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation within ten days from the day of receipt of documents shall review and decide whether the procedure of nomination of candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation meets the requirements of this Federal Law and make a decision on the registration of candidates or a reasonable decision of refusal to register, within 50 days.

Authorized representatives of concerned electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups, as well as candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation and their attorneys, are entitled to be present at the review of correctness of signature sheets and other documents by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

If doubts about the accuracy of the data contained in the signature sheets, or in the validity of voters' signatures should occur, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall organize a review of the signature sheets.

A candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation may be refused registration only in the event of a violation of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and this Federal Law. The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall make a reasonable decision on the refusal to register a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation. The person refused registration as candidate for the office of the President of the Russian Federation shall be advised of the said decision.

The decision of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation on registration or refusal to register a candidate may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. The appeal shall be adjudicated within three days. The decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on the results of adjudication thereof shall be final.

A certificate of registration indicating the date and time thereof shall be issued to each registered candidate. Data of the registered candidates shall be transferred to mass media within two days after the registration.

In the event less than two candidates for the office of the President of the Russian Federation are registered within the terms stipulated by Paragraph 1 of this Article, the election shall be postponed by the decision of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation for a term of 60 days for additional nomination of candidates and undertaking of further electoral measures.

If less than two candidates should remain on the day of election, the election shall be postponed by the decision of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation for a term of 100 days for further nomination of candidates and undertaking of further electoral measures.

CHAPTER V. STATUS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ARTICLE 36. Equality in Right and Duties of Candidates for the Office of President of the Russian Federation

All registered candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation shall have equal rights and bear equal duties.

ARTICLE 37. Rights and Duties of Candidates for the office of the President of the Russian Federation

From the day of registration, a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation holding a state or municipal office or working in the mass media shall be relieved of performance of his official duties for the term of his participation in the election, and shall not be entitled to take advantage of his official standing. The President of the Russian Federation taking part in the election for the second term, or Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, who temporarily fulfills the duties of President of the Russian Federation in compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and is registered as a candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation, shall fulfill his/her duties, but may not take advantage of his official standing for the term of election.

After the registration, upon presentation of a personal statement, the candidate shall be relieved of his/her work, military service and military assemblies from the day of registration to the day of official publication of common election results. Within this period, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall pay candidates a monetary reimbursement in an amount of his/her average monthly income, which shall not exceed 20 minimum salaries envisaged by the federal law on the day of setting of the election at the expense of funds allowed for the preparation and conduct of the election.

A candidate for the office of the President of the Russian Federation may not be dismissed from his job on the initiative of the administration (employer), transferred without his/her consent to another work or office, including work in other area, as well as sent on a business-trip, enrolled for military service or military assemblies from the day of registration to the day of official publication of the election results. The time of participation of the candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation in the election shall be included into the length of service in the field of qualification where he/she had worked till the day of registration.

From the day of registration to the day of official publication of election results, candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to use any means of public transportation (except for taxies), as well as make trips within the territory of the Russian Federation, except for taxies and charter trips, free of charge. Payment of trips within the territory of the Russian Federation shall be made by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation at the expense of funds allocated for preparation and conduct of the election.

A candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation is entitled to withdraw his/her candidacy at any time before the day of election. If a candidature is withdrawn without compelling circumstances, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation may attribute a respective part of expenditures borne, including funds allocated for the pre-election campaign, to his/her account.

A candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation may have up to 200 attorneys, who shall be subject to registration by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation on the basis of written applications of the candidate

and the application of consent of the citizen to be an attorney. Attorneys shall receive certificates from the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation and shall perform propaganda and other activities that facilitate the election of the candidate. The administration (employer) must give attorneys unpaid leave at their request for the term set forth in Paragraph 2 herein. Candidates, who have appointed attorneys, are entitled to recall them at any time by notifying the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, which will invalidate certificates issued to these attorneys.

A candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation may not be prosecuted, arrested or subject to administrative punishment imposed by the court without the consent of Procurator General of the Russian Federation. When giving such consent, the Procurator General of the Russian Federation shall immediately notify the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation thereof.

CHAPTER VI. PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 38. Pre-Election Campaign and Terms thereof

Citizens of the Russian Federation, candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups are entitled to conduct pre-election campaign freely.

The following entities are not allowed to conduct pre-election campaigns or spread any pre-election propaganda materials:

1) federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power in subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local government, as well as their officials in the process of fulfilling their official duties;
2) military units, military institutions and organizations;
3) charitable organizations and religious associations;
4) members of election committees.

The pre-election campaign shall start on the day of registration of candidates and shall end at 12 p.m. local time prior to the day preceding the day of election. Any pre-election campaigning is prohibited on the day of the election and the preceding day. Campaign printed materials placed outside the premises of the election committees before shall remain in their places.

Pre-election campaigning may be conducted:

1) through the mass media;
2) by means of arranging public pre-election events (pre-election assemblies and meetings with voters, public pre-election debates and discussions, gatherings, marches, demonstrations and other pre-election events);
3) by means of issuing and/or distributing printed, audiovisual and other campaign materials;
4) in other forms not prohibited by the law.

Conduct of the pre-election campaign involving the free or preferential giving of goods, rendering of services (except for information services), securities, as well as payment of money is prohibited.

Journalists, officials of boards of editors of mass media are not allowed to conduct information television and radio programs (broadcasts), take part in elucidation of election through these mass media, if they are candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, their attorneys or members of election committees.

ARTICLE 39. Misuse of the Right to Pre-Election Campaign

Misuse of freedom of mass information is not permitted in the conduct of the pre-election campaign. Pre-election programs, pre-election propaganda materials and speeches at assemblies and meetings in the mass media must not contain appeals to violent change of the principles of the constitutional system and breach of integrity of the Russian Federation. Proclamation or propaganda of social, racial, national, religious or lingual superiority, issue and the distribution of information and materials advocating social, racial, national or religious hatred is prohibited.

Candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups and their authorized representatives are not entitled to provide money, presents and other material values to voters other than for fulfillment of pre-election organization work (being on duty at polling stations, collection of signatures and so on), arrange preferential sale of goods, free giving of any goods except of printed, including illustrative, materials, as well as badges specially made for the election campaign. In conducting the pre-election campaign, candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups and their authorized representatives are not entitled to influence the voters through promises to provide money, securities and other materials values to them.

Election committees shall exercise control over adherence to the established order of conducting pre-election campaign. Once informed of unlawful speeches or on distribution of unlawful propaganda materials, they are entitled to undertake measures to prevent these unlawful propaganda activities, and apply to respective bodies with request for prevention of unlawful propaganda activities. The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation is entitled to apply to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation with suggestion to cancel the decision on registration of the candidate. The said requests shall be considered by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation within a term of three days, or immediately if the requests are made three days prior to the day of election.

ARTICLE 40. Pre-Election Campaigning on the Radio and Television

Candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation shall be granted broadcasting time on the channels of TV and radio companies which are financed at the expense of funds of the respective budget (federal budget, budget of a subject of the Russian Federation) on equal grounds (free of change, equal amount of broadcasting time granted, same time of broadcasting and other conditions).

For the purpose of conducting the pre-election campaign, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups which have been registered under the established procedure are entitled to use state and municipal TV and radio companies.

Instruction on the procedure of granting of broadcasting time to candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups on the channels of state TV and radio companies shall be published by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with participation of state bodies that provide adherence to constitutional rights and freedoms in the field of mass media, suggestions of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups being duly considered.

Candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation are entitled to use municipal TV and radio companies to conduct their pre-election campaign.

Pre-election propaganda on the radio and TV shall be conducted in the form of public pre-election debates, "round tables", press-conferences, interviews, presentations, political advertising and other forms not prohibited by the law. Candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups are entitled to independently determine the form and nature of the pre-election propaganda.

It is prohibited to interrupt television and radio programs (broadcasts) containing pre-election campaigning with advertising of goods, works and services.

Information TV and radio programs (broadcasts) shall give information on conduct of pre-election campaign by candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups in a separate bloc only, as a rule in the beginning of the said programs without any comments. These information blocs shall not be paid for by candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups.

Journalists, officials of boards of editors of mass media, officials and creative workers of state TV and radio companies are not allowed to take part in reporting the election through the mass media, including TV and radio programs (broadcasts), if said persons are candidates or attorneys of candidates.

TV and radio programs (broadcasts) containing pre-election campaigning shall be broadcast and simultaneously recorded on video and audio tape that shall be stored within six months from the day of broadcasting of said programs (broadcasts).

ARTICLE 41. Pre-Election Campaigning in Periodicals

Periodicals established by bodies of legislative (representative), executive, judiciary power exclusively for publication of their official messages and materials, normative and other acts, are not entitled to publish pre-election campaign materials of candidates for the office of the President of the Russian Federation, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups.

A periodical, among founders (co-founders) of which there are state or municipal bodies, state enterprises, agencies or organizations, or which is financed partly or in full at the expense of funds of respective budget (federal budget, budget of subject of the Russian Federation), and which has granted a candidate, an electoral association, electoral bloc or initiative voters' groups area on the page, is not entitled to refuse to grant space on the page to another candidate, electoral association, electoral bloc or initiative voters' group under the same conditions, and must do it in the nearest issues.

The order of publishing pre-election campaign materials in periodicals listed in Paragraph 2 herein shall be established by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with participation of state bodies which provide for adherence to constitutional rights and freedom in the field of mass media.

Provisions of Paragraph 2 herein shall not apply to periodicals founded by candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, initiative voters' groups, as well as public associations which are part of electoral associations.

ARTICLE 42. Conditions of Conducting Pre-Election Assemblies, Meetings with Voters

State bodies and bodies of local government shall render assistance to candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups in organizing and conducting pre-election assemblies, meetings of candidates and attorneys with voters.

Applications for allocation of premises for the conduct of such assemblies and meetings shall be considered by competent state bodies and bodies of local government within a term of five days from the day of submission thereof, and shall be settled in the order established by the territorial election committee.

At the request of the election committee, premises which are suitable for the conduct of public events and are owned by the state or municipal authorities, state enterprises, agencies and organizations, shall be granted for use for the time determined by the election committee free of charge for meetings of candidates and their attorneys with the voters. Election committees must provide equal opportunities for all candidates and electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups.

Buildings and edifices included into the State Register of Highly Valuable Memorials of the Cultural Heritage of the Nations of the Russian Federation may not be granted for these purposes.

ARTICLE 43. Spread of Printed Campaign Materials.

Candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups are entitled to freely issue posters, leaflets and other printed propaganda materials.

Printed propaganda materials shall contain information on organizations and persons responsible for issue thereof.

Spread of anonymous printed campaign materials is prohibited.

Printed campaign materials may be placed in any premises, on any building or edifice, or any other object on consent of the proprietor or the owner of the said objects.

It is prohibited to place printed campaign materials on monuments, obelisks, buildings and in premises of historic, cultural or architectural value, as well as in the premises of the election committee and in the voting premises.

Local administration must allocate special places for hanging or posting of printed propaganda materials no later than 20 days prior to the day of election. Such places should be suitable for visiting by voters, and there should be no less than one such place within the territory of each polling station. Candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, electoral associations, electoral blocs and initiative voters' groups and candidates of which have been registered with the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, shall be granted equal area for hanging or posting printed propaganda materials.

Informed of the spread of anonymous or counterfeit printed propaganda materials, the election committee shall undertake measures to prevent these activities, and shall be entitled to apply to respective bodies with a request to prevent unlawful propaganda activities.

CHAPTER VII. ELECTION FINANCING

ARTICLE 44. Financial Support of Preparation and Conduct of the Election of President of the Russian Federation

Expenditures of election committees related to preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the Russian Federation, as well as provision of activities of election committees during the term of their powers shall be made from federal budget funds. Respective expenditures shall be envisaged in a separate entry in the federal budget.

Funds for the conduct of the election of President of the Russian Federation envisaged by the federal budget shall be transferred for disposal of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation within ten days from the day of setting of the election and shall be distributed thereby among the election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation.

In the event the election of President of the Russian Federation is conducted early, these expenditures shall be paid from accounts of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation at the expense of federal budget funds. In the event budgetary funds are not timely transferred to the account of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation is entitled to apply to the Central Bank of the Russian Federation for credits, and if the latter should refuse to allow a credit, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation is entitled to apply to commercial banks for a credit on a competitive basis for financing the preparation and conduct of the election. These credits, including interest, shall be covered at the expense of the federal budget funds no later than three months after the day of election. The financing of repeated voting and repeated election of President of the Russian Federation is done similarly in the event monetary resources initially allocated for the conduct of the election are exhausted.

Election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation shall distribute funds received to subordinate election committees.

The order of transfer of monetary resources to election committees shall be jointly established by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

Chairmen of election committees shall dispose of monetary resources and be responsible for compliance of financial documents with the decisions of election committees on financial issues. Unexpended budget funds shall remain in special accounts of the election committees after the end of the election for use for the purposes envisaged by Paragraph 1 herein.

ARTICLE 45. Election Funds of a Candidate for the Office of President of the Russian Federation

A candidate for the office of the President of the Russian Federation shall form his/her own election funds for financing the pre-election campaign. Money of election funds shall be placed in a special temporary account in a division of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation. The right to dispose of the money of the election fund for said purposes shall belong to the candidate who created this fund.

Divisions of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation shall open special temporary accounts for registered candidates on the basis of a written message from the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation for forming of election funds. No income shall be added on and paid from the said accounts.

Election funds made be formed at the expense of the following monetary resources:

1) funds allocated to a candidate for the pre-election campaign by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation;
2) the candidate's own funds, which may not exceed 1000 minimum salaries as set forth by the federal law on the day of election;
3) funds allocated to the candidate by the electoral association, electoral bloc, initiative voters' group that have nominated him/her, which may not exceed 50 thousand minimum salaries, as set forth by the federal law on the day of election;
4) voluntary donations of natural persons, each of them not exceeding 50 minimum salaries, as set forth by the federal law on the day of election;

5) voluntary donations of legal entities, each of them not exceeding 5000 minimum salaries. as set forth by the federal law on the day of election;

The maximum amount of a candidate's expenditures from the election fund may not exceed 250 thousand minimum salaries, as set forth by the federal law on the day of election.

Donations to the election fund on the part of the following entities are not allowed:

1) foreign states, organizations and citizens;
2) persons without citizenship;
3) Russian legal entities with foreign investments, if the share of the foreign capital in their registered capital exceeds 30 percent;
4) international organizations, international public movements;
5) bodies of local government, state and municipal enterprises, agencies and organizations;
6) military units, military institutions and organizations;
7) charitable organizations and religious associations.

Banks shall render information on crediting of funds into special temporary accounts of candidates to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation within a term of three days from the day of crediting thereof.

If the credited voluntary donations have been made to the election funds of candidates by natural persons or legal entities who are not entitled to made such donations, or in amounts exceeding those stipulated herein, candidates must return these donations correspondingly in full or the part exceeding the permissible amount of the donations, to the donors, with an indication of the reason for their return. Anonymous donations shall be transferred to the revenues of the State.

Candidates are not allowed to use other monetary resources for conducting the pre-election campaign except for the resources received by them in their election funds.

Banks shall render in writing information on spending of monetary resources in special temporary accounts of candidates to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

If a candidate used other monetary resources for conducting the pre-election campaign other than resources transferred to his/her election fund, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation is entitled to apply to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation with a request to cancel the decision on registration of the candidate. The said request shall be considered by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation within a term of five days, or immediately if such a request is made five days prior to the day of election.

All financial transactions with special temporary accounts of candidates open for forming their election funds shall be terminated on the day of election. On the basis of a respective request of a candidate, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation may extend the term of effecting financial transactions for payment of expenditures made before the day of the election.

ARTICLE 46. Procedure of Accounting of Funds and Financial Reports

The procedure of accounting of the receipt and spending of budgetary funds allocated for preparation and conduct of the election of President of the Russian Federation and money of election funds of candidates shall be determined by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation in compliance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Forms of financial reports of election committees on the receipt and spending of funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of the election, and financial reports of candidates shall be established by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation in compliance with the laws of the Russian Federation.

Candidates shall submit a financial report to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no later than 30 days after publication of election results. Copies of said financial reports shall be provided by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation to mass media.

Polling station election committees shall submit financial reports to territorial election committees no later than 10 from the day of publication of election results.

Territorial election committees shall submit financial reports to election committees of the subjects of the Russian Federation no later than 30 days from the day of publication of election results.

Election committees of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall submit summary financial reports to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no later than 60 days from the day of official publication of the election results.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall submit the financial report on spending of federal budget funds to the Houses of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation no later than three months from the day of official publication of the election results. The said financial report must be published by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation in its official gazette and provided to mass media no later than one month from the day of presentation thereof to the Houses of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 47. Unexpended Monetary Resources of the Election Funds

No later than 30 days after the day of election, candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation shall return unexpended monetary resources of their election funds to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation in the amount proportional to the amount of monetary resources allocated to them by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation. After expiration of this term, on instruction of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, unexpended budgetary resources shall be unconditionally transferred by divisions of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation to the account of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

After the election, with the permission of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, the remainder of monetary resources in accounts of candidates shall be transferred by candidates into current accounts of organizations and persons who had made the donations into the election funds in proportion to their contributions.

ARTICLE 48. Auditing Service

The auditing service attached to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation involving experts of state bodies of the Russian Federation shall be established in order to exercise control over targeted use of monetary resources allocated to election committees for organization of preparation and conduct of the election, as well as control over sources, accuracy of accounting of monetary resources of the election funds and spending thereof by candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation.

CHAPTER VIII. VOTING AND ESTIMATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 49. Voting Premises

Voting premises shall be freely allocated by the head of a respective local administration to the polling station election committee for disposal.

The voting premises must have a hall in which cabins, specially equipped places or rooms will be installed for voting by secret ballot. Cabins, specially equipped places or rooms for voting by secret ballot shall be outfitted with tables and writing accessories. Use of pencils for these purposes is not allowed.

In the voting premises or immediately in front of it, the polling station election committee shall install a stand, on which a sample of a completed voting ballot and information materials on all candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, are placed. Information materials on candidates and their pre-election platforms, shall not contain propaganda appeals. Samples of a completed voting ballot, placed on the stand, shall not contain names of candidates.

ARTICLE 50. Ballots

Each voter shall receive a ballot for election of President of the Russian Federation. The form and the text of the ballot in the Russian language shall be approved by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no later than 28 days prior to the day of election. The text of the ballot must be placed on one side of the ballot only.

The ballot shall contain last names, first names, second names of all registered candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation in alphabetical order, and their data, as set forth by Paragraph 5, Article 32 or Paragraph 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law. In the event the candidate is nominated by an electoral association or electoral bloc, the names of these electoral associations and electoral blocs, as well as the candidate's affiliation to a political party or other public association, which is part of the electoral association or electoral bloc, if there is such affiliation shall also be included. If a candidate is nominated directly by the voters, his political affiliation shall be indicated only of the candidate's own accord. A blank box shall be placed to the right of the data of each candidate. The line "none of the candidates" with a blank box to the right of it shall be placed in the end of the list with the names of candidates.

Each ballot shall contain an explanation on completing it.

Ballots shall be printed in Russian. On the decision of the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation, ballots in republics which are part of the Russian Federation shall be printed in Russian and in the state language of the respective republic, and in cases of necessity, in the languages of nations of the Russian Federation in territories of their compact living. If ballots for a polling station are printed in two or more languages, the text in these languages shall be placed in each ballot. The text of the ballot shall be approved by the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation.

Ballots shall be printed on the instructions of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no later than 20 days prior to the day of election. Ballots containing a text in two or more languages shall be printed within the same term on the instructions of respective election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation.

Polling station election committees shall receive ballots no later than four days prior to the day of election. The number of ballots provided to the polling station election committee may not exceed the number of voters on the lists of voters of the polling station by more than 0.5 per cent. Signatures of two members of the polling station election committee, which are to be certified with the seal of the election committee, shall be placed in the upper right corner of the ballot. Ballots not certified by the polling station election committee shall be found ballots of a non-standard form and shall not count in the calculation of votes.

In the event of withdrawal of some candidates after ballots have been printed, polling station election committees shall cross out the data of respective candidates on the ballots on instructions of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 51. Voting Procedure

Voting on the day of election shall take place from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time.

Polling station election committees must notify the voters of the time and place of voting no later than 20 days prior to the day of conduct thereof through mass media or otherwise.

An election committee of the polling station established on navigating vessels, military units, at polar stations, in remote regions and regions of difficult access may declare the voting completed earlier than the time set forth by Paragraph 1 herein, if all the voters on the list of voters have voted.

If a citizen on the list of voters discovers that he will not be able to come on the day of election to the premises of the polling station, where he has been placed on the list of voters, less than 30 days prior to the day of election, he/she is entitled to receive a free certificate of the right to participate in the election of President of the Russian Federation. The citizen shall sign on the list of voters for receipt of the free certificate indicating the date of receipt. Issue of the free certificate shall be registered in a special register. The citizen shall be placed on the list of voters at any other polling station upon presentation of the free certificate. The form of the free certificate and the form of the register of issue of free certificate shall be approved by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

Election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation are entitled to permit early voting, but no sooner than 15 days prior to the day of election, on the vessels of the commercial, fishing, scientific research, navy and river fleet, which will be on expeditions, at foreign ports, in autonomous navigation on the day of election on, as well as at polar stations and other remote regions or regions of difficult access.

At 8 a.m. on the day of the election, the chairman of the polling station election committee shall declare the polling station open and produce empty ballot-boxes to the members of the election committee, voters and observers present. After this the ballot-boxes shall be sealed, whereafter the chairman of the polling station election committee shall invite the voters to commence to vote.

When receiving the ballot, the voter shall indicate the series and number of his/her passport or an identity card substituting it in the list of voters. On consent of the voter, or at his/her request, the series and number of the produced passport or identity card substituting it may be entered into the list of voters by a member of the polling station election committee with the right of deciding vote. The voter shall check the accuracy of the record made and sign it.

In the event a voter is not able to sign for receipt of voting ballots by himself/herself, he/she is entitled to use the assistance of another person, except for the members of the polling station election committee, observers or attorneys of the candidates. The person, who has rendered assistance to the voter, shall indicate his/her name and sign on the list of voters in the column "Signature of Voter for Receipt of the Voting Ballot".

Each voter shall vote personally. Voting for other persons is not allowed. ballots are completed in the cabin, specially equipped place or a room for voting by secret ballot, where the presence of only the voter allowed. A voter, who is not able to fill in voting ballot by himself/herself, is entitled to invite any person except for a member of the election committee, observers, attorneys of candidates to the cabin, specially equipped place or room for voting by secret ballot. The name of this person shall be indicated in the list of voters next to the signature of the voter for receipt of voting ballots.

On the ballot a voter shall place any mark in the blank box to the right of the name of the candidate he/she votes for, or in the box placed to the right of the entry "None of the candidates".

Voters shall cast completed ballots into the ballot box. The ballot box must be in sight of the members of the polling station election committee and the observers.

The polling station election committee shall provide all voters with an opportunity to take part in the voting, including voters who cannot appear the voting premises due to state of health or other good reasons. For these purposes the polling station election committee shall have a necessary number of mobile ballot-boxes determined by a decision of the territorial election committee. An application for the possibility of voting outside the voting premises must by confirmed by the voter in writing on the arrival of members of the polling station election committee to him/her. The application shall contain the same data of the voter as in the list of voters. On receipt of ballots, the voter shall make a mark on his/her application and sign it. Members of the polling station election committee traveling to the applicants, shall sign for the receipt of ballots in an amount corresponding to the number of applications. The number of voters' applications, as well as the number of used and returned ballots shall be marked in a separate statement. At the same time, a record of the fact that the voter voted outside the voting premises shall be made in the list of voters. Observers are entitled to be present at voting outside the voting premises. After the return of members of the polling station election committee to the voting premises, the mobile ballot-box shall not be opened until the beginning of the votes calculation. Arrangement and conduct of voting outside the voting premises must preclude the opportunity of violation of the citizen's electoral rights, as well as the opportunity to breach of the secret of voting or distortion of the voter's will.

The chairman of the polling station election committee shall monitor the order at the voting premises. His orders are binding upon all those present in the voting premises. In the event the chairman of the election committee is absent, he shall be substituted by the vice-chairman of the election committee, and in the event of his absence he shall be substituted by the secretary or other member of the election committee authorized thereby.

A member of the polling station election committee shall be dismissed from participation in the work thereof, and a voter shall be immediately removed from the voting premises, if they infringe upon the secret voting or attempt to influence the will of the voter. The decision on this shall be adopted by the polling station election committee.

In the event the voter thinks that he has made a mistake in the completion of the ballot, he is entitled to apply to the member of election committee who has issued the ballot with a request to issue a new ballot for him, in lieu of the spoiled one, who will make a mark on the record in the list of voters in front of the name of the respective voter. The spoiled ballot shall be rendered void whereof a statement is made.

ARTICLE 52. Calculation of the Votes at Polling Stations

On expiration of the time allocated for voting, the chairman of the polling station election committee shall announce that only the voters who are already in the voting premises may receive ballots and vote.

Before opening the ballot boxes, members of the election committee shall count and render void unused ballots in the presence of observers representing candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, and foreign (international) observers if they remain at the voting premises. The number of these ballots shall be declared and entered into the protocol of the voting results whereafter the chairman of the polling station election committee shall check the integrity of seals and leads on the ballot-boxes, allow the members of the polling station election committee, observers and attorneys to make sure that they are not damaged and open them. Ballot boxes shall be opened by turns — first mobile ballot boxes and then stationary ballot-boxes.

Ballots that were in mobile ballot-boxes, shall be counted first. Their number should not exceed the number of written applications for the conduct of the voting outside the voting premises.

In the event more ballots than the said applications should be found in the mobile ballot box, all ballots that were in the mobile ballot-box shall be declared null and void by decision of the polling station election committee.

This fact with indication of names of members of the polling station election committee who provided conduct of the voting outside the voting premises, shall be reflected in a statement which is attached to the protocol on the voting results.

In the process of calculation of the votes cast, all ballots of non-standard form, that is those not made officially or not certified by the election committee, and invalid voting ballots shall be separated. Invalid ballots are those ballots, from which it is impossible to find out the voter's will, particularly those where any sign(s) has been placed in more than one box or not placed in any of them. If doubt should arise, the polling station election committee shall resolve the question by way of voting. When adopting a decision on recognition of a ballot as invalid, the election committee shall indicate on the reverse side thereof the reasons of invalidity. This record shall be certified with signatures of no less than three members of the polling station election committee. Invalid ballots shall be piled separately from other voting ballots.

The votes shall be counted directly by the members of the polling station election committee with the right of deciding vote without a break until the receipt of the voting results, of which all members of the polling station election committee, as well as observers including foreign (international) observers shall be notified.

The polling station election committee shall draw up protocol on the voting results.

The following data shall be included into the protocol:

1) number of voters put on the list of voters, including voters additionally put on the list;
2) number of ballots issued to the election committee;
3) number of ballots issued to the voters at the polling station on the day of election;
4) number of ballots issued to the voters who voted outside the voting premises;
5) number of ballots declared void;
6) number of ballots contained in the stationary ballot-boxes (expect for the ballots of non-standard form);
7) number of ballots contained in mobile ballot-boxes (except for the ballots of non-standard form);
8) number of valid voting ballots;
9) number of ballots declared invalid (including a separate line for the number of ballots containing no marks in any of the items).
10) last names, first names, second names of candidates, and, in the event of their similarity, other data of the candidates included in the ballot;
11) number of votes cast for each candidate;
12) number of votes cast against all the candidates.

Voters who have voted under free certificates in this polling station shall be included into the number of voters placed on the list of voters of the polling station. Voters, who received free certificates at this polling station are not included into this number.

The protocol shall be made in triplicate in presence of all members of the polling station election committee, observers, attorneys of candidates and signed by all members of the polling station election committee. Any member of the polling station election committee who does not agree with the protocol in full or with certain provisions thereof is entitled to attach his/her dissenting opinions to the protocol whereof an appropriate record shall be made in the protocol. Complaints (applications) about violation of this Federal Law received by the polling station election committee on the day of election, as well as decisions of the polling station election committee made thereon shall be attached to the first copy of the protocol. Certified copies of complaints (applications) and decisions of the polling station election committee shall be attached to the second copy of the protocol.

Completion of the protocol on the voting results with a pencil and introduction of any corrections whatsoever therein is not allowed. In the event mistakes or discrepancies in the protocol of the polling station election committee are revealed, as well as doubts about the accuracy of the protocol, a higher election committee is entitled to adopt a decision on the repeated calculation of votes by the respective polling station election committee. Repeated calculation of votes shall be conducted by the polling station election committee in the presence of member(s) of the higher election committee.

Once signed, the first copy of the protocol of the polling station election committee shall be immediately forwarded to a respective territorial election committee.

The second copy of the protocol, along with sealed voting ballots, lists of the members of the polling station election committee with the right of deciding vote, observers of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, foreign (international)

observers and representatives of mass media who were present at the calculation of votes cast shall be filed and kept by the secretary of the polling station election committee until the end of its work.

The third copy of the protocol shall be given for familiarization to attorneys of candidates, observers, members of the polling station election committee with the right of deliberative vote and representatives of mass media.

Polling station election committee established outside the territory of the Russian Federation shall forward the first copy of the protocol of the voting results along with the documents attached thereto directly to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

Voting documents, including ballots, shall be provided to respective territorial election committees no later than 10 days after the official announcement of the results of the election.

ARTICLE 53. Calculation of the Voting Results by Territorial Election Committees

The territorial election committee shall estimate the voting results on the respective territory on the basis of protocols of the voting results submitted by polling station election committee by way of adding of the data contained therein no later than three days after the day of election. The adding of data contained in the protocols of polling station election committees shall be performed directly by the members of the territorial election committee with the right of deciding vote.

Based on the results of the voting, the territorial election committee shall draw up a protocol, in which data on the number of polling station election committees on the respective territory and the number of protocols of polling station election committees, on the basis of which a protocol of the voting results is produced, shall be entered, as well as a summary of the data of protocols of polling station election committees set forth by Paragraph 9, Article 52 of this Federal Law.

The protocol of the territorial election committee shall be made in triplicate and signed by all members of the territorial election committee present. The summary table, which includes complete data of the protocols of all polling station election committees on this territory, shall be attached to the protocol. Any member of the territorial election committee who does not agree with the protocol in full or with certain provisions thereof is entitled to attach his/her dissenting opinion to the protocol whereof an appropriate record shall be made in the protocol.

Complaints (applications) about violations of this Federal Law received by the territorial election committee on the day of election, as well as decisions of the election committee made thereon shall be attached to the first copy of the protocol. Certified copies of complaints (applications) and decisions of the territorial election committee shall be attached to the second copy of the protocol.

Once signed, the first copy of the protocol of the territorial election committee shall be immediately forwarded to the respective election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation.

The second copy of the protocol, along with the summary table, protocols of polling station election committees, lists of members of the territorial election committee with the right of deliberative vote, observers of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, foreign (international) observers, representatives of mass media, who were present at the estimation of the voting results and production of the protocols, shall be filed and kept by the secretary of the territorial election committee until the completion of its work.

The third copy of the protocol and the summary table shall be given for familiarization to attorneys of candidates, members of the territorial election committee with the right of deliberative vote and representatives of mass media.

ARTICLE 54. Calculation of the Election Results by the Election Committee of a Subject of the Russian Federation

The election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation shall calculate the voting results on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of protocols of the voting results submitted by territorial election committees by way of adding of the data contained therein no later than ten days after the day of election. The adding of data contained in the protocols of territorial election committees shall be performed directly by the members of the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation with the right of deciding vote.

Based on the results of the voting, the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation shall draw up a protocol, in which data of the number of territorial election committees on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation and the number of protocols of territorial election committees, on the basis of which a protocol of the voting results is produced, shall be entered, as well as summary data of protocols of territorial election committees set forth in Paragraph 9, Article 52 of this Federal Law.

The protocol of the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be made in triplicate and signed by all present members of the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation. The summary table, which includes complete data of the protocols of all territorial election committees of the respective subject of the Russian Federation, shall be attached to the protocol. Any member of the election committee of a subject of the Russian Federation who does not agree with the protocol in full or with certain provisions thereof is entitled to attach his/her dissenting opinion to the protocol whereof an appropriate record shall be made in the protocol.

Complaints (applications) about violations of this Federal Law received by the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation on the day of election, as well as decisions of the election committee made thereon shall be attached to the first copy of the protocol. Certified copies of complaints (applications) and decisions of the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be attached to the second copy of the protocol.

Once signed, the first copy of the protocol and the summary table of the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

The second copy of the protocol and the summary table along with protocols of territorial election committees, lists of members of the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation with the right of deliberative vote, observers of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, foreign (international) observers, representatives of mass media, who were present at the estimation of the voting results and production of the protocols, shall be filed and kept by the secretary of the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation.

The third copy of the protocol and the summary table shall be given for familiarization to attorneys of candidates, observers, members of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote and representatives of mass media.

In the event mistakes or discrepancies in the protocols of the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation, or other violations are revealed, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation is entitled to adopt a decision on the repeated calculation of votes by the respective election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation. Repeated calculation of votes shall be conducted by the election committee of the subject of the Russian Federation in the presence of member(s) of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation.

All documents of election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation, territorial election committees and polling station election committees shall be kept no less than six months, protocols of the voting results and the election results being kept until setting of the date of the new election.

ARTICLE 55. Calculation of Results of the Election of President of the Russian Federation

On the basis of protocols submitted by the election committees of the subject of the Russian Federation, and protocols of polling station election committees established outside the territory of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall calculate the results of the election of the President of the Russian Federation by adding of the data contained in the protocols no later than 15 days after the day of election. The adding of the data contained in the protocols submitted by the election committees of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be performed directly by the members of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation with the right of deciding vote.

The candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation, who has received more than one half of the votes of the voters who took part in the voting, shall be considered elected.

The number of voters who took part in the voting shall be calculated by the number of ballots of the standard form found in the ballot-boxes.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall declare the election as one that did not take place if less than half of the voters on the list of voters took part in it.

The number of voters who took part in the election shall be calculated by the number of voters' signatures for receipt of ballots on the lists of voters.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall declare the election void if violations of this Federal Law committed during conduct thereof do not allow to reliably calculate the results of the will of voters.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall draw up a protocol of the results of the election of President of the Russian Federation, wherein the following data shall be included:

1) the number election committees of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and separately number of polling station election committees established outside the territory of the Russian Federation;
2) the number of protocols of election committees of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and separately the number of protocols of polling station election committees established outside the territory of the Russian Federation on the basis of which this protocol has been drawn up;
3) the number of voters on the lists of voters, including the voters added to the list;
4) the number of ballots issued to the polling station election committees;
5) the number of ballots issued to the voters at the polling stations on the day of the election;
6) the number of ballots issued to the voters who voted outside the voting premises;
7) the number of ballots declared void;
8) the number of ballots contained in the stationary ballot-boxes (expect for the ballots of non-standard form);
9) the number of ballots contained in mobile ballot-boxes (except for the ballots of non-standard form);
10) total number of valid ballots;
11) total number of ballots declared invalid (including a separate line for the number of ballots containing no marks in any of the items);
12) last names, first names, second names of candidates, and, in the event of their similarity, other data of the candidates included in the voting ballot;
13) number of votes cast for each candidate;
14) number of votes cast against all the candidates.

A summary table which includes the data of protocols of all election committees of subjects of the Russian Federation and polling station election committees established outside the territory of the Russian Federation shall be attached to the protocol of the results of the election of the President of the Russian Federation.

An official announcement of results of the election of the President of the Russian Federation in the mass media shall be published by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation no later than in three days after the signing of the protocol.

ARTICLE 56. Repeated Voting

In the event more than two candidates for the office of the President of the Russian Federation were included on the ballot, and none of them was elected, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall set repeated voting on the election of the President of the Russian Federation for the two candidates who have received the greatest number of votes.

The repeated voting shall be conducted no later than 15 days after the estimation of the results of common election with due fulfillment of requirements of this Federal Law, except for the requirement set forth in Paragraph 4, Article 55 hereof. The information on the conduct of the repeated voting shall be published in mass media no later than two days after the appropriate decision of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation has been made.

If only one candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation remains prior to the conduct of the repeated voting, according to the decision of the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, the candidate, who has received the greatest number of votes after the candidates for whom the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation originally had set a repeated voting, shall be recognized as the second candidate for the conduct of the repeated voting.

The candidate for the office of President of the Russian Federation, who has received the greater number of voters who took part in the voting as compared with the number of votes cast for another candidate, shall be considered elected according to the results of the repeated voting, provided that the number of votes cast for this candidate is greater than the number of votes cast against all candidates.

ARTICLE 57. Repeated Election

In the event the election of President of the Russian Federation is declared as one that did not take place or invalid, or if none of the candidates has been elected President of the Russian Federation, either at the common election or at the repeated voting, the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation shall set a repeated election of the President of the Russian Federation.

The nomination and registration of candidates for the office of President of the Russian Federation, as well as other electoral actions related to the conduct of the repeated election shall be carried out under the procedure stipulated by this Federal Law. In the event of the conduct of a repeated election, the terms of electoral actions stipulated by this Federal Law shall be reduced by one third. The information on the conduct of the repeated election shall be published in mass media.

The repeated election shall be conducted no later than four months after the day of the original election.

In the event of a repeated election, candidates, whose actions (inaction) served as the basis for declaring the common election or the repeated voting void, may not be nominated candidates anew.

ARTICLE 58. Publication of the Voting Results and Results of the Election of President of the Russian Federation

Results of voting at each polling station, on each territory, in each subject of the Russian Federation in the amount contained in protocols of the respective election committees, must be presented for familiarization to any voter or observer, as well as representatives of mass media.

Territorial election committees shall publish data contained in its protocol of the voting results no later than five days after the day of election, and data contained in protocols of polling station election committees of the voting results no later than 15 days after the day of election.

The Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall publish in the mass media the results of the election of the President of the Russian Federation, including the data of protocols of the voting results submitted by all election committees to the subjects of the Russian Federation, no later than one month after the day of election.

No later than three months after the day of the election of the President of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation shall publish in its official gazette information of the voting results and the election results, including complete data of protocols of all election committees, except for those of polling station election committees.

ARTICLE 59. Use of the Automated Information System

In the event of the use of an automated information system in the process of elections, the election committee shall form a group of members of the election committee with the right of deciding vote and members of the election committee with the right of deliberative vote to exercise control over the use of the automated information system. All members of the election committee have the right to familiarize themselves with any information input into the automated information system and output of it.

From the moment of the beginning of voting to the moment of signing of the protocol by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation, the automated information system shall be used exclusively for supervising the process and results of voting by means of transmission of data from lower election committees to higher election committees.

During this period, transmission of any data from information centers of the higher election committees to information centers of the lower election committees is prohibited, except for the informational receipt of confirmation signals.

Data of the process and results of election received by means of the automated information system shall be preliminary information of no legal importance.

Text of the computer printout containing data input into the automated information systems must be attached to the protocol of the election committee filed and kept by the secretary of the election committee. Authenticity of the computer printout shall be certified with the signatures of members of the automated information system operation control group and the person responsible for information input.

CHAPTER IX. ASSUMPTION OF THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ARTICLE 60. Assumption of the Office of President of the Russian Federation

The President of the Russian Federation elected in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and this Federal Law shall assume the office on day thirty after the day of official declaration by the Central Election Committee of the Russian Federation of the results of the election of President of the Russian Federation.

President of the Russian Federation being in office, executes his authority till the moment of innauguration of newly elected President of the Russian Federation.

CHAPTER X. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF CITIZENS' ELECTORAL RIGHTS

ARTICLE 61. Responsibility of Violations of Citizens' Electoral Right

Persons, who by means of bribery, deception, violence or threat of use thereof, falsification of electoral documents, deliberate miscalculation of votes or otherwise preventing free exercise of electoral rights by a citizen of the Russian Federation or the work of election committees or members of election committees, or persons who deliberately spread false information on the candidates or otherwise acting for the purpose of discrediting the honor and dignity of candidates, as well as persons preventing legal activities of candidates' attorneys, observers, including foreign (international) observers, or conditions of conduct of a pre-election campaign, shall bear administrative and criminal responsibility.

CHAPTER XI. CONCLUSIVE PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 62. Entry of this Federal Law into Effect

This Federal Law shall enter into effect on the day of its official publication.

Slovak Republic

LAW
OF THE SLOVAKIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL
"ON ELECTIONS TO SLOVAKIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL"
(Full text including later additions and amendments)

The Slovakian national council adopts full text of Law of the Slovakian National Council of 16 March 1990 No. 50/1990 "On elections to the Slovakian National Council" including alterations and additions, stipulated in the: Law of the Slovakian National Council of 3 December 1991 No. 8/1992; Law of the Slovakian National Council of 25 February 1992 No. 104/1992; Law of the Slovakian National Council of the Slovakian Republic of 5 November 1992 No. 518/1992; and Law of the Slovakian National Council of the Slovakian Republic of 7 June 1994 No. 157/1994

CHAPTER I. BASIC REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 1.

Elections to the Slovakian National Council are held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot, in accordance with the principle of proportional representation in constituencies.

ARTICLE 2.

1. Citizens of the Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic, who live in the Slovakian Republic and aged 18 by the day of elections, have the right to participate in the elections.
2. Persons, whose legal competence was refused due to mental diseases or other reasons, related with health, or it was restricted due to above-mentioned reasons, are deprived of the electoral right[1].
3. Stipulated by the laws on restrictions of personal freedom, related with:

   a) protection of health of population of the country[2];
   b) serving one's sentence in places of imprisonment.

ARTICLE 3.

Any citizen of the Slovakian Republic, who has the right to participate in the elections and aged 21 by the day of conduct of the elections, and who permanently lives within the territory of the Slovakian Republic, may be elected as Deputy of the Slovakian National Council (hereinafter referred to as Deputy).

CHAPTER II. LISTS OF VOTERS

ARTICLE 4. Compilation of lists of voters

1. Lists of voters are compiled and conducted by administration of locality, and at the capital of the Slovakian Republic - Bratislava -, and at Coshytse - by municipal administration (hereinafter referred to as "locality")[3], in accordance with constituencies.
2. As far as it concerns servicemen of the Armed Forces and Forces of National Safety, who live in barracks, the list of voters is compiled by administration of locality on the basis of data, submitted by the Commander of a given military formation. Administration of locality is obliged to survey that electoral divisions where only servicemen of Armed Forces and Forces of National Security (or persons, specified in Article 10, paragraph 4 of present Law) will participate in elections, were not formed.
3. If elections to the Slovakian National Committee are conducted simultaneously with elections to the Federal Assembly, than electoral districts may be merged for such elections to be held.

ARTICLE 5. Entering voter list

1. Each voter may be entered to only one voter list.
2. All citizens of the Slovakian Republic, who have the right to participate in the elections, are entered to the voter list in accordance with the place of their permanent residence[4]. Servicemen of Armed Forces and forces of national security[5], which live in barracks, are entered to the voter list of that locality on the territory of which the military formation where they are registered, is situated. The commander of a military formation, situated within territory of said locality, submits to administration of locality the list of servicemen who are registered to the formation.
3. Citizens, who either were deprived of the suffrage or were restored in suffrage and obtain the opportunity to participate in the elections after compilation of the list, are to be either additionally entered to the voter list, or to be additionally excluded from it.

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[1] Article 10, paragraphs 1, 2 and Article 855 of Civil Code (full text is given under the number 47/1992).
[2] Article 5, paragraph 2, subparagraph b), Article 9, paragraph 2, subparagraph a) and Article 24 of Law No. 20/1966 "Care for People's Health";
[3] Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 369/1990 "On administrative management of localities", with consideration of the later regulations, Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 377/1990 "On the capital of the Slovakian Republic - Bratislava", with consideration of regulations of Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 377/1991, Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 401/1991 "On city of Coshytse", with consideration of regulations of Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 130/1991.
[4] Article 3, paragraph 2 of the Law No. 135/1982 "On residence permit and registration of citizens"
[5] Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 204/1991 "On forces of national safety of the Slovakian Republic"
Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 79/1992 "On internal forces of the Slovakian Republic".

4. If Slovakian citizen has no permanent place of residence within the territory of the Czechoslovakian Republic, but on the election day he (she) has come to the polling station, the Electoral commission is required to enter him (her) into the voter list. In this case the respective record on entering the citizen into the voter list is made in the foreign passport of the citizen by the divisional electoral commission.
5. If there is an obstacle (Article 2, paragraph 3), which makes participation of voter in elections impossible, this fact should be recorded on the voter list.

ARTICLE 6. Publication of voter lists

1. Administration of locality is obliged to publicize voter lists for familiarisation with them all citizens no later than 30 days before election day. Administration of locality informs citizens about publication of said lists through all available means.
2. At population locations, where more than 5000 voters, entered to voter lists live, administration of locality is obliged to provide that on each building were placed voter lists of those voters who live in the building.

ARTICLE 7. Voter certificate

1. Those voters, who cannot participate in the elections at their electoral districts (i. e. at the electoral districts where they have been entered to the voter list), shall submit a respective application to the administration of locality which issues to them a voter certificate and simultaneously excludes them from the voter list of particular electoral districts.
2. A voter certificate gives to the voter the right to be entered to the voter list of other electoral districts to participate in elections to the Slovakian National Council.

ARTICLE 8. Appeal against the voter's list

1. Each citizen has the right orally or in writing to indicate administration of locality errors or inaccuracies in the voter list and submit his (her) proposals on their correction. Administration of locality is obliged within three days either to introduce respective amendments to the voter list, or to inform the citizen about reasons (in writing), owing to which the amendments are not introduced.
2. If the proposal on correction of the voter list is diverted, the citizen has the right to appeal to a district court, in the jurisdiction of which is the territory of said electoral district; the court isrequired to make a decision within 3 days. The court makes its decision on the basis of law on administrative management which stipulates the procedures for court inspection of decisions of various state bodies. In accordance with decision of the court, administration of locality is required to introduce appropriate corrections to the voter list. In this case costs are not reimbursed by plaintiff. The verdict of the court is final and is not subject to appeal.

CHAPTER III. CONSTITUENCIES AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

ARTICLE 9. Constituencies

1. Constituencies cover the territories listed in Annex I to the present Law.
2. In the Slovakian Republic, in accordance with its territorial subdivision, 4 constituencies are formed: constituency of the capital of Slovakian Republic - Bratislava, Western-Slovakian constituency, Middle-Slovakian constituency and Eastern-Slovakian constituency.

ARTICLE 10. Electoral divisions

1. At least 30 days before the election day, the Head of administration of locality (Mayor), or Head of administration of municipal district[6], - hereinafter "head of administration of locality" - forms electoral divisions, where voters can cast their votes by virtue of dropping ballots into special ballot boxes. The above-mentioned person as well determines premises for polling stations. At the polling station tabulating votes is conducted as well.
2. Electoral districts are formed in such way that they include, as a rule, 1000 voters. For remote areas of populated locations separate electoral districts may be formed, under condition that those include at least 50 voters.
3. Special electoral districts may be formed at hospitals, houses for the aged and the like, or at their departments, but under conditions that there are no less than 100 voters.
4. The participation in the elections at preliminary detention places[7], or at places of serving administrative penalties is realised on the basis of a voter certificate; the organization of participation in the elections being provided by electoral district commission, on territory of which said special institution is located, jointly with the Head of respective said special institution. In such cases it is not required to observe sizes of electoral districts according to Article 3. If persons, who are kept in said special institutions, do not reside within territory of said electoral district, they take part in the elections on the basis of voter certificates, which are issued to them upon their request. If detention of citizen by the police being the case, the respective board of police management is obliged to ensure participation in the elections of a detained person.

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[6] Article 13 and Article 24, paragraph 2 of the Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 369/1990
Article 17 of the Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 377/1990
Article 15of the Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 401/1990

[7] Article 36 of the Law of the Slovakian National Council No. 204/1991

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL BODIES

ARTICLE 11. General regulations

1. Elections to Slovakian National Council are held under control of the Slovakian Electoral Commission.
2. Elections to the Slovakian National Council within individual constituencies are conducted under the control of regional Electoral Commission.
3. District electoral commissions are formed within districts. On the territory of the capital of the Slovakian Republic - Bratislava - district electoral commissions are formed in accordance with Annex II of the present Law.
4. At individual electoral districts divisional electoral commissions are formed.
5. Each citizen, who has the right to participate in the elections may be a member of an electoral commission. A candidate for Deputy may not be a member of an electoral commission.
6. An electoral commission is comprized of equal numbers of members of political parties and political movements[8] or of coalitions (Article 17, paragraph 9) (hereinafter referred to as "political parties"), which nominate separated lists of candidates for Deputies. Surnames, names and address of representatives of political parties in electoral commissions, as well as their deputies, each political party announces to that person, who calls the first session of electoral commission. Announcement of list of candidates for Deputies as invalid (or withdrawal of the list) cancels participation of representatives of said political party in the respective electoral commission. If illness, disappearance or death being the case, the chairman of the commission calls for performance of this duty the deputy of said person, in accordance with the sequence, determined by said political party.
7. Members of electoral commissions take their offices after taking the following oath: "I swear by my honor to accomplish honestly and without prejudice my duties and in this I will be governed by laws and other legal regulations". Members of electoral commissions pass the text of the oath with autographs to the chairman of the respective electoral commission.
8. In order for a decision to be made, more than half of the members of the electoral commission are to be present at its session. The decision is taken by the simple majority of votes. If equality of votes being the case, the proposal is diverted.
9. At the first session, the electoral commission by drawing lots elects the Chairman and his (her) deputy among members of the commission, each of them has to be a member of other political party. Process of the drawing lots is controlled by the oldest member of the commission.
10. The Slovakian Electoral Commission, constituency electoral commissions and district electoral commissions, with the purpose of processing voting results, form special (counting) groups; staff of the groups includes persons who are assigned for this special purpose by appropriate bodies of statistics. These persons take an oath, as it was stipulated in Article 7.

ARTICLE 12. Secretaries of electoral commissions

1. The Secretary of:

   a) the Slovakian Electoral Commission is appointed and recalled by the government of Slovakian Republic;
   b) the regional electoral commission is appointed and recalled by Minister of Internal Affairs of the Slovakian Republic;
   c) the district electoral commission is appointed and recalled by the Head of district administration;
   d) the divisional electoral commission is appointed and recalled by the Head of administration of locality.

2. The Secretary is appointed with a sufficient amountmargin of time, in order that he (she) could familiarize with his (her) duties, stipulated by laws. On decision of matters within electoral commissions, the secretary has the right of consultative vote. The secretary takes the oath, as it is stipulated in Article 11, paragraph 7.

ARTICLE 13. The slovakian electoral commission

1. Each political party that submitted list of candidates for at least one region of the country, delegates to the Slovakian Electoral Commission two members and two of their deputies; this shall be done no later than 60 days before the day of elections conduct.
2. The Chairman of the government of the Slovakian Republic determines the date of the first session of the Slovakian Electoral Commission within 3 days after the expiration of the term, stipulated by Article 1.
3. The Slovakian Electoral Commission performs in general the following functions:

   a) Ensures the observance of legal prescriptions, concerning elections;
   b) Governs the work of regional electoral commissions;
   c) Makes decisions on complaints, concerning the work of constituency electoral commissions, and on decisions, taken by these commissions;
   d) Compiles lists of registered candidates;
   e) Establishes and announces election results;
   f) Records the minutes of election results and passes it to National Council of the Slovakian Republic;
   g) Issues credentials of Deputy to the elected candidates;
   h) Transfers documents, related with elections, to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Slovakian Republic for storage;
   i) Executes further actions in accordance with this Law and other legal regulations.

[8] Law No. 424/1991 "On association into political parties and political movements"

ARTICLE 14. Regional electoral commission

1. Each political party, that submitted a list of candidates for this region, delegates to the regional electoral commission two members and their two deputies; this shall be done no later than 60 days before the day of elections.
2. The Minister of Internal Affairs calls the session of the constituency electoral commission no later than within 3 days after expiration of the term stipulated in Article 1.
3. The constituency electoral commission:

   a) Ensures the observance legal rescriptions, concerning elections;
   b) Makes decisions on complaints, concerning the work of district electoral commissions, as well as on decisions of these commissions;
   c) Considers and registers lists of candidates for Deputies within constituency;
   d) Determines results of the elections within said constituency;
   e) Records the minutes on the results of elections submits said minutes to the Slovakian Electoral Commission;
   f) submits the minutes concerning the elections, to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Slovakian Republic for storage;
   g) executes further actions in accordance with this Law and other legal regulations, or performs missions of the Slovakian Electoral Commission.

ARTICLE 15. District electoral commission

1. Each political party, that submitted a list of candidates which was registered in a region, delegates one member and his (her) deputy to district electoral commissions; this shall be done no later than 30 days before the day when the elections are fixed.
2. The Chairman of the respective district administration calls the first session of the commission within 3 days after expiration of the term stipulated by Article 1.
3. The District electoral commission:

   a) surveys the observance of legal prescriptions concerning elections;
   b) makes decisions on complaints on the work of electoral divisions commissions, and on decisions which were taken by these commissions;
   c) controls processing of voting results within electoral divisions;
   d) If any doubts arise, it has the right to require the explanation or other information from divisional electoral commissions. Obvious errors the commission corrects itself, on agreement with the divisional electoral commission. If said agreement has not been achieved, the commission has the right to require that divisional electoral commission meet again and eliminate the errors demonstrated;
   e) submits processed results of voting of the electoral division to the regional electoral commission;
   f) transfers documents, related with elections, to district administration for storage.

ARTICLE 16. Divisional electoral commissions

1. Each political party that submitted a list of candidates which was registered in the region, delegates one member and his (her) deputy to the district electoral commission; this shall be done no later than 30 days before the day when the elections are fixed. If it is not enough to achieve the minimum number of members of a divisional electoral commission, then vacant seats are appointed by Head of administration of locality.
2. Taking into consideration local conditions, Head of administration of locality establishes the minimum number of members of the divisional electoral commission. A divisional electoral commission shall be composed at least of 5 members.
3. The Chairman of administration of locality calls the first session of the divisional electoral commission no later than within 3 days after expiration of the term stipulated by Article 1.
4. The divisional electoral commission:

   a) ensures normal conduct of voting, particular attention being paid to correctness of casting votes and to maintenance of order at the polling station);
   b) executes calculation of votes and records the minutes on voting results; the minutes are to be immediately transferred to the respective regional electoral commission;
   c) all documents concerning elections, are transferred to administration of locality for storage.

CHAPTER V. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF LISTS OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 17. Lists of candidates

1. Lists of candidates are to be submitted by political parties to regional electoral commissions in duplicate no later than 60 days before the elections. Political party accompanies the list of candidates with the following:

   a) confirmation of the fact that there are at least 10, 000 individual members in said political party
   b) if the condition, specified in subparagraph a), is not met, then an application must to be attached, the said application ought to be signed by voters. The number of signatures ought to supplement the numbers of its member to the figure, specified in subparagraph a). Next to the signature on the said application the voter, after presentation of his (her) civil passport, indicates his (her) name, surname, registration number in the register of births, marriages and deaths, and address in accordance with registration of the passport. Signature under the application cannot be cancelled. The regional electoral commission has the right to check accuracy of data concerning number of individual members of the

said political party, or data presented in the application.

2. If a political party submits a list of candidates in several electoral regions of country, then such application can be submitted to one regional electoral commission only; other regional electoral commissions are notified about this.
3. Observance of condition of Article 1, subparagraphs a) or b) is not required for those political parties, which were presented to the Slovakian National Council 60 days before the beginning of elections, or which during the latest elections to Slovakian National Council has won more than 10, 000 valid votes.
4. The list of candidates includes:

   a) name of political party;
   b) name, surname, age, place of work and address, according to registration of passport, of candidates and priority of their places in the list of candidates (in the list of candidates individual candidates obtain number, written in Arabic numerals).

5. In the list of candidates a political party, besides the data specified in paragraph 4, subparagraph b), may show its graphic symbol, may additionally indicate their membership in particular political party, may notify that candidate is not a member of any political party, or to indicate that the candidate is independent.
6. In an Appendix to the list of candidates the political parties indicates its authorized representative and his (her) two deputies (surname, name, address).
7. The list of candidates is accompanied with the signed manual application of the candidate in which he (she) notifies that he (she) is agreed to be nominated for Deputy, that he (she) is absent in other lists of candidates, that there are no obstacles for nomination of his (her) candidacy.
8. Within a single constituency a political party may submit its list, including no more than 50 candidates.
9. Political parties may conclude an agreement on submission of the merged list of candidates. Coalitions that appeared as the result of such association, are governed by those regulations of the present Law, which concerns separate political parties. Fulfilment of the conditions, specified in paragraph 1 subparagraphs a), b) and in paragraph 2, is checked with respect to all these political parties in such way, as if the list of candidates was submitted by a single political party. The same is applicable to paragraph 4. The same is applied to Article 5.
10. The Secretary is obliged to check lists of candidates for their correspondence to all above-mentioned requirements. If there are any mistakes, the secretary informs about this the authorised representative of the political party. The Secretary informs authorized representatives of political parties on recognition of lists of candidates for Deputies.
11. The Secretary is required to transfer immediately the list of candidates for Deputies to special (counting) group for checking the correctness of election results.

ARTICLE 18. Consideration of lists of candidates by egional electoral commission

1. The Regional electoral commission has the right to consider the submitted lists of candidates within 55 days before the day of elections. Checking of lists of candidates within a constituency is carried out by the constituency electoral commission, which uses for this special (counting) group.
2. The regional electoral commission withdraws from the list:

   a) the candidate who did not attach to the list of candidates the application in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 7;
   b) the candidate if he (she) is included in the lists of candidates for Deputies of several political parties, or if he (she) is included in that list of candidates for Deputy, which is not accompanied with notification in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 7. If a candidate has signed notifications to several lists of candidates, then he (she) will be crossed out from all lists of candidates for Deputy;
   c) those candidates who nominated their candidacies in excess of the stipulated number of candidates in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 8.

3. The constituency electoral commission will refuse to recognize the list of candidates (as being not corresponding to the requirements of Article 17) if the political party did not amend detected mistakes within 24 hours after notice from the constituency electoral commission, and if the party cannot amend those within the limits stipulated in paragraph 2. Such decision may be appealed by a political party within 24 hours.
4. After the lists of candidates are discussed, the Chairman of the regional electoral commission shall immediately send to the address of the Slovakian Electoral Commission one copy of the list of candidates, accompanied with notification of the regional electoral commission on its agreement to allow the candidate to participate in elections, as well as the minutes on results of the inspection of lists of candidates. Simultaneously results of the inspection are sent to all political parties, which nominated lists of candidates within a given constituency.

ARTICLE 19. Consideration of lists of candidates by the Slovakian electoral commission

1. The Slovakian Electoral Commission ought to accomplish consideration of the minutes, submitted by regional electoral commissions on results of inspection of lists of candidates, within at least 50 days before election day. Prior to the above-mentioned term the Slovakian Electoral Commission must correct all found discovered errors. Within the territory of the Slovakian Republic, inspection of lists of candidates for Deputy is carried out by The Slovakian Electoral Commission by virtue of its special (counting) group.
2. If a candidate is included on the lists of candidates of several political parties, then The Slovakian Electoral Commission will cross him (her) from that list of candidates, which was not accompanied by notification according to Article 17, paragraph 1. If a candidate has signed a notification to several lists of candidates for Deputy, then he (she) will be crossed out of all

lists of candidates for Deputy.

3. If it seems that lists of candidates were submitted by the same political party, but they have different designations within different constituencies, the Chairman of the Slovakian Electoral Commission is required to call representatives of said political party, and they are required to ensure uniform designation of their lists of candidates within all constituencies before termination of session of the Commission.
4. If the constituency electoral commission has recognized list of candidates, but the Slovakian Electoral Commission has found disparities in the requirements of article 17, and representatives of political party which submitted in the list have not amended those disparities within 24 hours after notice, The Slovakian Electoral Commission recognizes this list of candidates as invalid one.
5. The Slovakian Electoral Commission by virtue of lottery determines the ordinal number under which lists of candidates for Deputy of each of the political parties shall participate in elections.
6. The Chairman of the Slovakian Electoral Commission without any delay sends the minutes of inspection of lists of candidates and assigns to them ordinal numbers to constituency electoral commissions and to authorized representatives of political parties; the Chairman provides as well publication of ordinal numbers of lists of candidates for Deputy.

ARTICLE 20. Registration of lists of candidates

1. After receiving the minutes with results of inspection of lists of candidates by The Slovakian Electoral Commission, the regional electoral commission executes registration of lists of candidates. This work ought to be completed at least 45 days before elections. The commission notifies political parties about registration of their lists of candidates. Registration is the condition for manifolding the list of candidates for Deputy.
2. The Regional electoral commission takes measures to familiarize the public with candidates, enlisted in registered lists of candidates.
3. The Constituency electoral commission send in writing information concerning lists of candidates for Deputy to Heads of administration of localities; the latter no later than 3 days before elections are obliged to familiarise the electorate with those data.

ARTICLE 21. Refusal from nomination and withdrawal of candidacy

1. No later than 48 hours before elections a candidate has the right to withdraw his (her) candidacy. Prior to this term a candidacy may be recalled in writing by that political party which included him (her) into list of candidates for Deputy. Application on withdrawal or on refusal to be nominated cannot be withdrawn itself. The application is submitted in duplicate to the Chairman of the regional electoral commission; the chairman without any delay sends one copy to the Chairman of the Slovakian Electoral Commission and at the same time duly informs the public on the availability of such application.
2. If a candidate refuses to be nominated or if he (she) was recalled after completion of registration of list of candidates, then data of candidate is retained in the list, but this candidate is excluded from consideration when distributing mandates.
3. If after a candidate has been registered in the list of candidates for Deputy by the constituency electoral commission, the dissolution of a political party occurred, the data, concerning the candidate, is not altered, but during distribution of mandates said political party is not taken into account.

ARTICLE 22. Ballots

1. The Chairman of constituency electoral commission with assistance of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Slovakian republic ensures appropriate manifolding of ballots; the ballots are to include ordinal number of the list of candidates, determined by way of lottery (Article 19, paragraph 5); in addition, lists shall include: name of political party, data on all candidates and their sequence within the list of candidates for deputy. Data in ballots are to coincide with data, included into registered lists of candidates, the ordinal number of record in the Register for candidates is not included; instead of the place of habitation of candidates the localities where they live, are listed.
2. Ballots for elections to National Council of the Slovakian Republic are to be printed with the same font, with usage of paper of the same colour and quality; besides, they are to be of the same size. There must be impression of the seal of regional electoral commission in ballots.
3. The Chairman of the constituency electoral commission sends around the ballots to Heads of administration of localities, which ought to ensure the distribution of the ballots to divisional electoral commissions.
4. Voters shall obtain ballots at polling stations on the day of elections.

ARTICLE 23. Pre-election campaign

1. In accordance with this Law, the time interval which starts 23 days before and finishes 48 hours before the elections, is to be understood as the period of the pre-election campaign.
2. In the course of the pre-election campaign each political party which nominated candidates for Deputy, obtains guaranteed access to means of the mass media, as well as to other State services and services of territorial self-government. Within constituencies the total amount of 21 hours of broadcasting is allotted for pre-election campaign by radio and television during; this amount of time is equally distributed among competitive political parties so that no one of them was limited. Time of broadcasting is determined by virtue of lottery. Political parties are responsible for contents of these broadcastings. Those radio and television stations which operate on license, are not allowed to transmit broadcasts, concerning pre-election campaign.
3. In the course of the pre-election campaign any broadcasts, concerning said subject, during the time which does not coincide with the time stipulated in paragraph 2, are prohibited. In addition, any other broadcasts, which propagandize political parties which nominated candidates for Deputy for the elections, are prohibited as well. It is prohibited as well to cover the pre-election campaign during the time allotted for advertising, as well as to use advertisement for conduct of pre-election campaign.

4. It is forbidden to use local broadcasting stations for the pre-election campaign of political parties, which nominated candidates for Deputy, excluding messages on the conduct of pre-election meetings.
5. If the administration of locality allots the area for pre-election posters, the area shall be distributed among political parties on basis of their equality.
6. 48 hours before start of elections and on the day of their conduct, the pre-election campaign "pro" and "contra" political parties or candidates (in writing, oral, audio and video products) is prohibited in means of the mass media, at polling stations and within the nearest vicinity of the polling stations. Announcement of prognosis and public opinion concerning elections, is ceased at least 7 days before the election conduct.
7. Before the moment of signing the minutes on voting results, members of electoral commissions are prohibited to give information, concerning the final and intermediary results of elections.
8. In the course of elections, up to the day of their completion, it is prohibited to publish prognoses, concerning the results of elections.
9. Disputes and complaints, concerning the conduct of the pre-election campaign in means of the mass media, are to be resolved by The Slovakian Electoral Commission, the decision of which is final and binding.

CHAPTER VI. ELECTIONS

SECTION I. ANNOUNCEMENT ON the CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 24. Election day

1. The election day is established by the Chairman of the Slovakian National Council at least 80 days before their conduct. The Decree of the Presidium of the Slovakian National Council is published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovakian Republic.
2. Elections are held within single day in the entire territory of the Slovakian Republic. But the Chairman of the Slovakian National Council may decide to conduct the elections within two days.
3. The elections are held on a stipulated day from 7:00 to 18:00. If local conditions require, the Council of administration of locality may shift beginning of the election to an earlier time.
4. If the elections are held during two days, then the beginning of the elections is at 14:00 of the first day, and the finish of elections at 22:00 of the first day. During the second day, elections begin at 7:00 and finish at 14:00. In accordance with local conditions, the beginning of the election may be shifted to an earlier time.

ARTICLE 25. Information for voters

1. The Administration of locality at least 15 days before election day announces within the territory of locality the time and the place of the conduct of elections. If several electoral divisions were formed within the territory of locality, the administration determines the separated parts of the locality, military formations (Article 4, paragraph 2) or special institutions (Article 10, paragraph 3) to particular electoral divisions. In addition, administration of locality informs voters of the necessity to have an identification card and announces all necessary information.
2. Within those locations where there are more than 5000 inhabitants, the administration of locality ensures the issuing of special single certificates, in which all necessary data on elections are enlisted. In addition, administration of locality provides delivery of said certificates directly to places of habitation of citizens. Administration of locality may take decision on performance of said measures within a populated location where there are less than 5000 voters.

SECTION II. MANNER OF VOTING

ARTICLE 26. Polling station preparation

1. Before the beginning of the elections the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission, with the participation of members of the commission, executes inspection of the polling box and the box for unused and diverted ballots. If results of the inspection are positive, the boxes are sealed. In addition, equipment and extent of preparation of the polling station and documentation to the election are checked: availability of lists of candidates and sufficient number of ballots, as well as sufficient number of non-transparent envelopes for placing ballots. After the conduct of such inspection, elections are announced opened.
2. If the elections are held for two days, the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission must ensure that after completion of the first day of elections, stationary or mobile polling boxes were sealed in such way that to exclude possibility to cast into it non-registered ballots. The chairman of the divisional electoral commission personally selects a safe place for the storage of ballots and voter lists.

ARTICLE 27. Booths for completing ballots

1. Booths for completing ballots are to be arranged so that secrecy of voting shall be ensured. Each voter with ballot shall pass through the polling-booth for completing the ballot. Otherwise the voter is not allowed to vote. Within these booths only the voter him (her) self can be present.
2. Any outside present persons, including members of the electoral commission of any rank, have no right to come to the polling booth simultaneously with voter.

ARTICLE 28. Voting

1. Each voter votes personally. A voter has no right to charge another person to vote instead of him (her). Members of the divisional electoral commission have no right to complete ballots instead of voters.
2. After coming into the polling station, the voter presents an identification card; after that he (she) is noted in both copies of voter lists and receives a ballot from the member of commission. If a voter has no identification card, and no one member of the commission knows him (her) personally, he (she) is required to present two witnesses whom members of the commission know personally. If before completion of voting the voter did not do so, the voter is not permitted to vote.
3. Having coming to the polling station with a voter certificate,, the voter is entered by divisional electoral commission to the voter list. The record is witnessed by the Chairman and two members of the commission by their signatures. the voter certificate is filed to the first copy of the voter list. After that commission gives the voter a ballot and an empty envelope.
4. Having received a ballot and the envelope, the voter proceeds to the polling-booth for completing the ballots (Article 27, paragraph 1). Inside the booth the voter places into the envelope one ballot. In the ballot the voter may circle ordinal numbers of no more than four candidates listed in this ballot; with this the voter shows the candidates he (she) gives preference. To make any other marks in the ballot is prohibited.
5. The voter who cannot complete the ballot personally (as the result of physical injuries, or due to his (her) inability to read or to write), has the right to invite to the polling-booth another voter who, in accordance with instructions of the first voter, shall complete the ballot and put it into the envelope.
6. Voters cast the vote as follows: after leaving the polling-booth, the voter, in sight of members of divisional electoral commission drops the envelope into the polling box. A voter who has not passed through polling-booth, is not permitted to vote. This regulation is applied to the special constituencies (Article 10, paragraph 3), but there is possible consideration of particular conditions of voting.
7. The voter, who has no possibility to come to the polling station, has the right to require the divisional electoral commission to conduct voting by virtue of mobile ballot box. In this case the divisional electoral commission sends to him (her) at least two members of the commission with the mobile ballot box, envelope and ballot. These members of divisional electoral commission are obliged to ensure secrecy of voting.
8. The voter, who cannot drop the ballot into the polling box due to physical injury, may ask another voter to do this at his (her) presence, but not a member of the electoral commission.

ARTICLE 29. Maintaining order at the polling station

1. Chairman of the divisional electoral commission is responsible for maintaining order at the polling station; in the case of his (her) absence responsibility is laid upon his (her) deputy.
2. Instructions and orders of the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission or deputy Chairman of this commission, concerning maintenance of the order at the polling station and the proper conduct of elections, are obligatory for all persons who are present at the polling station.
3. It is prohibited to conduct agitation concerned with running elections.

ARTICLE 30. Voting interruption

If circumstances arise that hinder the start, normal conduct or completion of voting, the divisional electoral commission has the right to postpone the start of voting to a later time, or to extend the time of voting. As the result of this, the total time of voting (Article 24) shall not change. The Divisional electoral commission informs voters about that event, using all available means at the locality. If voting interruption being the case, the divisional electoral commission is required to seal all documents and polling boxes. Under continuation of voting, the chairman, in the presence of two members of commission, is required to inspect the integrity of the seals and to record this fact in the minutes on voting results within said polling station.

ARTICLE 31. Voting completion

After expiration of the time determined as the time of voting completion, only those voters who were inside the polling station or in front of it, are permitted to vote. After the moment when the last voters have cast the vote, the doors of the polling station are closed and the chairman of divisional electoral commission announces the voting completed.

SECTION III. DETERMINATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 32. Persons who may be present during tabulation of votes

Members of electoral commission and commissions of the higher ranks, and officials of special (counting) groups of those commission, as well as persons, who have permissions, issued by the Slovakian Electoral Commission, have the right to be present in the room where divisional electoral commission is tabulating votes.

ARTICLE 33. Tabulating votes by divisional electoral commission

1. After voting completion the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission seals excessive, unused ballots in envelopes and opens the polling box. If the divisional electoral commission (in accordance with requests of individual voters) has used mobile ballot boxes, than contents of the boxes after their opening shall be mixed by the commission.
2. The divisional electoral commission extracts envelopes with ballots from the polling box, counts the number of envelopes with seals and compares the number of envelopes with data in the voter list. Outside envelopes without seal are excluded from further calculation by the commission.
3. After extraction of ballots from envelopes, the divisional electoral commission sorts them and counts the number of ballots cast for individual political parties. In the course of this the commission eliminates invalid ballots. In addition, the commission determines the number of voters who have used the right to give preference to individual candidates. The number of such ballots is counted for each political party. In addition, the commission counts number of preferential votes which were cast

for individual candidates in ballots.

4. Each member of the divisional electoral commission has the right to review ballots. The chairman of the divisional electoral commission surveys the accuracy of tabulating votes.

ARTICLE 34. Inspection of ballots

1. In favor of lists of candidates of a political party those ballots are counted which have crossed out, changed or added surnames and names of candidates. No attention shall be paid to such correction when tabulating votes. If a voter circled in the ballot more than four candidates, the ballot is counted in favour of the party that submitted it, but is excluded from consideration during counting of preferential votes.
2. Those ballots which are printed with a non-stipulated font, which differs from the printing used in manifolding, are considered invalid. If there are several ballots of different political parties inside the envelope, they are announced invalid. If there are several ballots of the same political party inside the envelope, they are considered as one vote. If on one of such ballots the preference was given to one or more candidates, then that ballot in which the preference was given to the greatest number of candidates, is selected for further counting of votes. If on several ballots the same number of preferential votes were cast, but not in favor of the same candidates, the preferential voting shall not be taken into account.
3. If there are any doubts with respect to the validity of the envelope, ballot or preferential vote, the final decision on these matters is taken by regional electoral commission.

ARTICLE 35. The minutes of divisional electoral commissions on voting

1. The divisional electoral commission compiles in duplicate the minutes on election results. The minutes are to be signed by the Chairman and all members of the divisional electoral commission. The reasons for refusal to sign the minutes are to be attached to the minutes.
2. The minutes on voting results of the divisional electoral commission shall include:

   a) time of start and finish of voting, time of voting interruption, if this fact took place;
   b) total number of persons entered into voter list at a given electoral division;
   c) number of voters who received envelopes;
   d) number of handed over envelopes;
   e) number of valid votes, cast for individual lists of candidates for Deputy;
   f) number of voters of political party, who used the right to cast preferential votes;
   g) number of valid preferential votes, cast for individual candidates in accordance with lists of candidates for Deputy;
   h) summary of claims and proposals, submitted to the divisional electoral commission, as well as resolutions, taken by the commission and their brief substantiation.

ARTICLE 36. Completion of activity of divisional electoral commission

1. After tabulating votes and signing the minutes on voting results, the Chairman of the divisional electoral commission announces voting results and without any delay transfers one copy of the above-mentioned minutes to the district commission. After that members of the divisional electoral commission are pending for instructions of district commission on completion the work.
2. If within 1 - 24 hours after voting termination, the chairman of the divisional electoral commission shall not perform his (her) duties on transfer of data to district electoral commission (in spite of the requirement of the latter), the district electoral commission has the right to transfer to the constituency electoral commission voting results for the remaining electoral divisions.
3. The divisional electoral commission seals up completed ballots and the voter list, and transfers them together with all other documents, concerning elections, to administration of locality for storage.

ARTICLE 37. Tabulation of votes by district electoral commissions

The district electoral commission collects voting results from particular divisional electoral commissions and by virtue of it special (counting) groups inspect completeness of minutes of divisional electoral commissions, which reflects the conduct and results of the elections in electoral divisions. During this process only members of electoral commissions and members of their special (counting) groups, as well as persons who have the permission of The Slovakian Electoral Commission, may be present in the working room. The inspected minutes are to be sent immediately to the Slovakian Electoral Commission.

ARTICLE 38. Tabulation of votes by regional electoral commissions

1. The regional electoral commission tabulates votes and determines voting results within a given constituency on the basis of voting results, sent by district commissions. If any doubts arise, this commission has the right to require ballots and other documents, concerning elections, from respective district electoral commission from administration of locality. If there is a necessity, the commission has the right to request an explanation and additional information from the above-mentioned bodies.
2. Only members of the electoral commission, members of constituency electoral commissions and their special (counting) groups, as well as persons who have permission, issued by the Slovakian National Commission, have the right to be present in the room used by constituency electoral commission for tabulating votes and determining voting results.

ARTICLE 39. The minutes on voting results of regional electoral commission

1. The regional electoral commission records the minutes in duplicate; the minutes reflects voting results within given constituency. The minutes are signed by the Chairman and all members of the commission. The refusal to sign the minutes should be attached to the minutes.
2. The minutes of the regional electoral commission on voting results shall include the following data:

   a) number of electoral divisions within a given region and the number of divisional electoral commissions, which sent data, representing voting results;
   b) number of persons included into voter list within a given region;
   c) number of voters who received envelopes;
   d) number of envelopes dropped into polling boxes;
   e) number of valid votes cast for each list of candidates for Deputy;
   f) number of voters of a political party who used the right to cast preferential votes;
   g) number of valid preferential votes, cast for individual candidates for Deputy in accordance with lists of candidates;
   h) summary of claims and proposals, submitted to the regional electoral commission, as well as resolutions, taken by the commission and their brief substantiation.

3. After signing both copies of the minutes on voting results, the Chairman of the regional electoral commission without any delay sends one copy of the minutes to the Slovakian Electoral Commission. All the last documents, concerning the conduct of elections, are transferred to the respective National committee for storage.

ARTICLE 40. Determination of number of delegates, elected in constituencies

1. After consideration of the minutes sent by the regional electoral commission, the Slovakian Electoral Commission on their basis determines the number of valid votes, cast for all lists of candidates for Deputy in all constituencies. The obtained number is divided as stipulated by Law by the number of Deputies; the result is approximated to the whole number. The result is the republican mandate number.
2. The total number of valid votes, cast within each constituency, is divided by the republican mandate number. The obtained result of division gives the number of mandates for each constituency.
3. If due to the above-mentioned actions not all mandates were distributed, the Slovakian Electoral Commission subsequently presents mandates to those constituencies, where the greatest remainder of division was obtained. If these remainders are equal, lottery is used.

ARTICLE 41. Participation of parties in the first round of elections

1. The Slovakian Electoral Commission determines the total numbers of votes, cast in favor of each political party, political movement and coalition.
2. Further The Slovakian Electoral Commission determines:

   a) which political party or political movement received less than 5% of the votes;
   b) which coalition, including two or three political parties, or political movement received less than 7% of votes;
   c) which coalition, including at least four political parties, or political movement received less than 10% of total number of valid votes.

   Under further determination of results of the elections and distribution of mandates these political parties, political movements and coalitions, as well as votes cast for them, shall not be taken into account.

3. If The Slovakian Electoral Commission determines that no one political party (political movement or coalition) meets the requirements of paragraph 2, the above-mentioned limits will be lowered:

   a) for political parties or political movements - from 5% to 4% or 3%;
   b) for coalitions according to paragraph 2, subparagraph b) - from 7% to 6% or 5%;
   c) for coalitions according to paragraph 2, subparagraph c) - from 10% to 9% or 8%.

   This being done so that to the first round of election at least two coalitions, or one coalition and one political party or political movement, or two political parties or political movements would pass.

ARTICLE 42. The first round of elections

1. The total number of valid votes, cast within a given constituency for those political parties which participate in the first round of elections, is divided by the number of mandates, dispensed for a given constituency (Article 40), increased by one; the entire number obtained as a result of above-mentioned division, is the regional electoral number.
2. The total number of valid votes that were gained by a political party within a given constituency, is divided by the regional electoral number, and the political party obtains as many mandates as many times regional electoral number is contained in the total number of valid votes which were cast for a given political party.
3. If, as the result of such division, the number of dispensed mandates exceeds by one the number of assigned mandates, the excessive mandate is taken from that political party, which within a constituency has the least remainder after division. If equality of the remainder being the case, the mandate is taken from that political party, which within constituency gained the least number of votes. If equality of the latter indices being the case, a lottery is performed.

4. Within individual political parties the mandates are distributed among candidates nominated by these parties in the order of priority of the list of candidates. But, even if one-tenth of the total number of voters who cast valid votes for this political party use their rights of preferential vote, then the mandate in the first turn is given to that candidate who gained at least 10% of preferential votes of the total number of votes, cast for a political party within a constituency. If the political party has the right to several mandates, and several candidates meet the conditions specified in the previous sentence, then the candidates obtain mandates in the order which is determined by the largest number of preferential votes, cast for them. If equality of preferential votes being the case, decisive is the position of candidate for Deputy in the list of candidates.
5. If a political party nominated a smaller number of candidates than the number of mandates it could obtain due to election results, then this political party obtains only such number of mandates which equals to the number of nominees.

ARTICLE 43. The second round of elections

1. All mandates that were not distributed in the course of the first round of elections the Slovakian Electoral Commission transfers to the second round of elections. To the second round of elections the remaining votes, which were cast for individual political parties, are transferred.
2. No later than 12 hours after obtaining the results of the first round of the elections, members the Slovakian Electoral Commission transfer to its Chairman lists of candidates of their political parties. The number of candidates in these lists of candidates for Deputy is unlimited; but a political party has the right to include in lists of candidates only those persons, who were candidates from the political party in a particular region, and had not been elected in the course of the first round of elections. After transferring lists of candidates, they can not change neither surnames of candidates, nor the sequence of their positions within this list.
3. In the second round of elections the Slovakian Electoral Commission counts the remaining votes, which were cast for individual political parties. Then this total number is divided by the number of mandates that were not distributed in the course of the first round of elections, increased by one. The result of the division, approximated to the whole number, is taken as the republican electoral number. Each political party obtains as many mandates, as many times the republican electoral number is contained in the sum of remaining votes, which were cast for individual political party.
4. If under these conditions not all mandates shall be distributed among political parties, or if a political party nominated the number of candidates less than the number of obtained mandates, then the Slovakian Electoral Commission shall subsequently distribute these mandates among those political parties which submitted valid lists of candidates, and which have the greater remainder after division in the second round of elections. If remainders from division of said numbers are equal, the mandate is presented to that political party, which has the greater number of votes in the Slovakian Republic; if these indices are equal as well, the mandate is distributed by the way of lottery.
5. If in the course of usage of this method the number of distributed mandates was a unity larger than is permitted, then the excessive mandate is taken away from that political party which has the smallest reminder of the division established in the second round of elections. If these remainders are equal, the mandate is taken away of that political party, which has won the lesser number of votes. If these indices are equal as well, the fate of the mandate is determined by virtue of lottery.
6. Within individual political parties candidates obtain mandates in accordance with sequence, i. e., in accordance with the ordinal number of their position in the list of candidates in the second round of elections.
7. Those candidates, which did not obtain mandates neither in the first, nor in the second round of elections, are placed in reserve.

ARTICLE 44. The minutes of the Slovakian electoral commission and announcement of voting results

1. After the distribution of mandates the Slovakian Electoral Commission records the minutes on election results. The minutes ought to be signed by the Chairman and all members of the Slovakian Electoral Commission. If any members of the Slovakian Electoral Commission refuse to sign the minutes, they are required to substantiate their refusal.
2. The minutes on election results shall include the following data:

   a) total number of persons who were included into voter lists;
   b) total number of voters who have obtained envelopes;
   c) numbers of votes, cast for each list of candidates (data within the Slovakian Republic and within each region are to be shown separately);
   d) surnames and names of those candidates, who were elected in the course of the first round of elections in accordance with individual lists of candidates for Deputy; the number of preferential votes, gained by the candidates, is to be shown as well; surnames and names of candidates, elected during the second round of elections; surnames and names of candidates who were placed in reserve.

3. The Slovakian Electoral Commission publicies the election results after signing the final minutes on election results with an indication of the distribution of mandates for individual constituencies. In addition, the Slovakian Electoral Commission has the right to announce preliminary results, in which it shows data, specified in paragraph 2, subparagraphs a) - c). The Slovakian Electoral Commission sends results of the elections, with an indication of the sequence of candidates' positions, to all candidates for Deputy, which were lists of candidates who passed the registration.

ARTICLE 45. Deputy certificate

The Slovakian Electoral Commission issues Deputy certificates to elected candidates.

ARTICLE 46.

(Cancelled in the new wording of the Law)

ARTICLE 47. Measures against violation of law

If within individual region facts of violation of this Law were discovered, the Chairman of the Slovakian National Council within one week from the day of announcement of election results is required to take measures directed to the conduct of election in strict accordance with this Law. In this case it is allowed to shorten the terms, stipulated beforehand.

ARTICLE 48. Usage of reserved candidates for deputies

1. If a mandate became free, then it is distributed to a reserved candidate from the same political party, according to the priority of its position in the list of candidates for Deputy within that constituency, where the Deputy whose mandate became free was elected. If there were noted preferential votes of voters in the list of candidates, the mandate is distributed to the candidate who gained the greatest number of preferential votes. If there is no such reserved candidate, then the candidate of the same political party becomes the Deputy, but in accordance with priority in the list of candidates, the priority being established in the course of the second round of elections.
2. If there is no reserved candidate of the same political party, then the mandate is abolished up to the end of term of authority of the Slovakian National Council of the present convocation.
3. (Not available)
4. If by this moment the political party has ceased its activity, the reserved candidate does not pass to Deputies.
5. If the mandate of Deputy became free due to the passing of a Deputy to the government of the Slovakian Republic, a new Deputy is posted among reserved candidates.
6. The Chairman of the Slovakian National Council announces the appointment of a reserved candidate as a valid Deputy within 15 days after abolishing the mandate of his (her) predecessor, or after the mandate has became free according to paragraph 5. The reserved candidate, who has became the Deputy, is issued credentials of the Deputy, in which data of beginning of performance of new duties by him (her) is indicated.

CHAPTER VII. MEASURES ON ELECTIONS PROVISION

ARTICLE 49. Providing with auxiliary means

1. All auxiliary facilities, mainly rooms for electoral division, equipment of such room, envelopes with the seal of electoral commission and necessary servicing personnel are placed at the disposal of divisional electoral commission by the administration of locality, on the territory of which this electoral commission was formed.
2. The district electoral commission is provided with all necessary auxiliary facilities by district administration, district electoral commission within the territory of the capital of the Slovakian Republic - Bratislava - respective district municipal administration, and the constituency electoral commission is provided with all necessary auxiliary facilities by the territorial regional administration.

ARTICLE 50. Co-operation with other bodies and institutions

1. All State bodies and all State, co-operative and other institutions are required by all means to assist in the fulfilment of regulations of this Law.
2. Those institutions and persons, who are engaged in the printing industry, are required (on demand of bodies, resolving matters in accordance with present Law) to do all possible for timely and qualitative publication of lists of candidates for Deputy, single certificates, ballots and all necessary documentation which may be needed in the course of elections.

ARTICLE 51. Rights of members of electoral commissions

1. The work of an electoral commission is an honourable duty. A member of an electoral commission may not be appealed against his (her) main office duties or against other fields of his (her) activity, concerning his (her) participation in the electoral commission. Moreover, a member of an electoral commission is partially or fully released from his (her) main offices with preservation of full salary.
2. An employer who pays salary to a member of electoral commission, has the right to demand reimbursement; the amount of the latter is established by the Ministry of Finances of the Slovakian Republic on agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Slovakian Republic.
3. If a member of an electoral commission does not obtain a salary according to paragraph 1, his (her) bonus is established by juridical regulation of the Ministry of Finances of the Slovakian Republic, on agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Slovakian Republic.

ARTICLE 52. Rights of candidates for deputy

1. A candidate for Deputy after registration of a list of candidates has the right to address to his (her) employer, with the application for leave, the employer having no right to refuse him (her). Such leave is presented from the next day after registration of the list of candidates and lasts to the end of day, preceding the elections.
2. On request of the candidate, the employer is required to pay the candidate an average salary.
3. An employer has the right to demand from the political party, which nominated this candidate for Deputy, to reimburse expenditures on payment to candidate average salary for the period of preparation and conduct of elections.
4. An unemployed candidate for Deputy is paid an average bonus by that political party which included this candidate into its list of candidates for Deputy.
5. The average bonus for a candidate is calculated in the same way as the average salary of members of electoral commissions.
6. If a particular person is candidate for Deputy may not by reason for damaging this person. It relates not only to labor, but to other relations as well. Duration of the leave in accordance with paragraph 1 is accounted to the length of service.

ARTICLE 53. Reimbursement of expenditures on the conduct of elections

1. Expenditures on the conduct of elections to the Slovakian National Council, including expenditures of district administration of localities, are reimbursed from the State budget of the Slovakian Republic.
2. Expenditures according to paragraph 1 do not include expenditures of political parties for pre-election campaign.
3. After inspection of elections of Deputies to Slovakian National Council, the Presidium of the Slovakian National Council presents to the Ministry of Finances, Prices and Salary of the Slovakian Republic data on the number of valid votes, obtained by individual political parties; that political party, which in the course of elections gained more than three per cent of total number of valid votes cast within the Slovakian Republic, will obtain from the State budget reimbursement to the amount of 60 corunes per each said vote.

CHAPTER VIII. TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUSIVE REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 54. Regulations on authorities

1. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Slovakian Republic:

   a) determines in detail tasks of National committees in:

      1) formation of electoral divisions;
      2) compiling voter lists;
      3) printing ballots;
      4) finding and equipping polling stations;
      5) storing ballots and other documents, concerning the conduct of elections.

   b) proposes to the Slovakian Electoral Commission patterns of printed documents and provides printing of them;
   c) has the right to stipulate procedures of co-operation with bodies of the State management (Article 50, paragraph 1) when inspecting accuracy of data in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 1).

2. The Slovakian Statistical Agency, on agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and on co-operation with Federal Statistical Agency, develops methods of processing voting results.

ARTICLE 55.

All measures undertaken by respective bodies of the State management on implementation of this Law, in spite of not coming into legal force this Law, shall be considered so, as if the Law has already legal power.

ARTICLE 56. Cancellation of old law

Be it enacted by this the cancellation of Law No. 55/1971 of the Slovakian National Council "On elections to the Slovakian National Council".

ARTICLE 57. Coming the law into force

This Law comes into legal force from the date of its publication (16 March 1990).
Law of the Slovakian National Council No.... comes into force from the date of its publication (16 January 1992).
Law of the Slovakian National Council No 104/1992 comes into force from the date of its publication (12 March 1992).
Law of the Slovakian National Council No 518/1992 comes into force from the date of its publication (13 November 1992).
Law of the Slovakian National Council No 157/1994 comes into force from the date of its publication (28 June 1994).

Slovenia

LAW
ON ELECTIONS TO THE CHAMBER OF STATE

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.

Delegates to the Chamber of State are elected on the basis of universal and equal suffrage in free and direct elections by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 2.

Delegates are elected in constituencies.

delegates are elected according to the principle that one delegate is elected by an approximately same number of inhabitants, and according to the principle that different political interests are proportionally represented in the Chamber of State.

The Italian and Hungarian minorities have the right to elect one delegate each to the Chamber of State.

ARTICLE 3.

Unless this law provides any special provisions on the election of delegates of the Italian and Hungarian minorities, these elections are regulated by the provisions of the law applying to other delegates.

ARTICLE 4.

According to this Law deadlines are irrespective of Sundays, state and other holidays.

Applications, due in term according to this law, should be submitted to authorized bodies.

ARTICLE 5.

A public election campaign must end at least 24 hours prior to the day of election.

ARTICLE 6.

Costs of holding elections are funded by the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

CHAPTER II. VOTING RIGHTS

ARTICLE 7.

All citizens of the Republic of Slovenia who have reached the age of eighteen years on the day of the election and have not been denied the capability of working have the right to elect and be elected a delegate.

A voter enjoys he/her right to vote in a constituency in which he has residential status.

ARTICLE 8.

Members of the Italian and Hungarian minorities who are granted the right to vote have the right to elect and be elected a delegate of the Italian or Hungarian minorities.

ARTICLE 9.

Voters vote in person. Nobody is allowed to vote through an authorized reason.

Votes are given by secret ballot.

A person listed in the electoral register cannot be denied the right to vote, or be prevented from voting.

ARTICLE 10.

Freedom of choice and secrecy of voting must be granted to the voter.

Nobody can be called to account for his vote, or to be requested to answer whether he/she voted, whom he/she voted for, or why he/she did not vote.

ARTICLE 11.

The records of the right to vote are regulated by this Law.

CHAPTER III. GENERAL ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 12.

General elections to the Chamber of State are regular and irregular.

Regular elections take place every fourth year.

Irregular elections take place in the case that the Chamber of State is dissolved prior to the end of its four-year mandate.

ARTICLE 13.

Regular elections are conducted not more than two month and at least fifteen days prior to the expire of the four-year term from the first session of the former Chamber of State. In the case of a prolonged term of mandate the deadline is the day on which the prolonged term of mandate expires.

Irregular elections are conducted at least two months after the Chamber of State has been dissolved.

The term of mandate of the former Chamber of State ends with the first session of new Chamber of the State is the session at which more than half of delegate mandates are confirmed.

ARTICLE 14.

General elections are called by the President of the Republic.

Irregular elections are called by the President of the Republic through the act of dissolving of the Chamber of State.

The act of the calling of elections is published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

ARTICLE 15.

Regular elections are called not more than 135 days and at least 75 days prior to the expiration of the four year term from the first session of the former Chamber of State.

The period from a colling of elections may not last more than 90 days and not less than 60 days.

Irregular elections can be conducted at the earliest 40 days after the day when the elections were called.

ARTICLE 16.

The day of calling the election and the election day are regulated by the act on the calling of the election.

Terms for activities related to elections start on the day stated as the day of calling an election.

Sunday or any other non-working day is defined as the election day.

CHAPTER IV. BY-ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 17.

If a delegate's mandate expires, he is replaced for the rest of the mandate by the candidate, from the same list of candidates who would had been elected if the replaced delegate had not been elected. If the candidate fails to accept the mandate within eight days, the right is acquired by the next candidate on the list.

By-elections are conducted if there is no subsequent candidate on the list from the previous paragraph.

The provision from the previous paragraph is not applied if a delegate's mandate expired less than six months prior to the expiration of the term of the Chamber of State.

By-elections are conducted in any case if the term expires for a minority delegate.

A delegate is elected in by-elections for the term until the mandate of the Chamber of State expires.

ARTICLE 18.

By-elections are called by the President of the Republic at least fifteen days after the Chamber acknowledges the expiration of a mandate.

By-elections are conducted according to the provisions of this Law applying to general elections.

The candidate who wins the majority of votes is elected at by-elections.

CHAPTER V. CONSTITUENCIES

ARTICLE 19.

Eleven constituencies (variant: eight) are formed for elections of the delegates to the Chamber of State. Each constituency votes for eight (variant: eleven) delegates.

Constituencies are formed according to the principle that one delegate should be elected from an approximately equal number of inhabitants.

Electoral districts are formed within each constituency.

(A variant for the second paragraph:

The number of electoral districts within a constituency corresponds to the number of delegates voted for in that constituency.

Note: Electoral districts shall be formed according to the variant to the second paragraph in the case of each electoral district electing one delegate. This variant was elaborated in the first draft version in the chapter on nomination, in the chapter on the establishment of the electoral results. This variant will be elaborated also in other parts of the draft version if it wins support.)

Constituencies and electoral districts are regulated by this Law.

ARTICLE 20.

Special constituencies are formed in the territories inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian minorities for elections of minority delegates.

CHAPTER VI. ELECTORAL BODIES

ARTICLE 21.

Elections of delegates are connected by the electoral boards and polling committees (hereinafter electoral bodies).

An electoral body has a president, members and their deputies.

Electoral boards are appointed every fourth year. Polling committees are appointed for each election separately.

ARTICLE 22.

Members of electoral bodies and their deputies can only be persons who have the right to vote. A member of an electoral body cannot be a candidate at the elections. If a member of an electoral body stands as a candidate his duty as a member or deputy in this body expires. Nobody can be a member of more than one electoral body. Representatives and trustees from the list if candidates cannot be members of electoral bodies.

Duty in an electoral body is honorary. Members of electoral bodies must perform this duty thoroughly, responsibly and must abide by laws and other regulations, irrespective of any other instructions.

Members of electoral bodies and their deputies have, due to the work in an electoral body, the right to an appropriate substitute.

ARTICLE 23.

An electoral body forms a quorum if all its members or their deputies are present. If in this way an electoral body lacks a quorum, any deputies can be present in place of the absent members. The president can be deputized only his deputy.

An electoral body reaches decisions by majority votes of its members. (Variant addition: In case a decision is not reached due to an equal number of votes in favour of an against that decision, the vote of the president of an electoral body is decisive.) If an electoral body in due time fails to reach a decision needed for the holding of elections, the president of an electoral body should make the decision.

State bodies and bodies of local authorities must assist electoral bodies in their work and provide them with data needed for the work of electoral bodies, if required.

ARTICLE 24.

Representatives of lists of candidates have the right to be present at the work of electoral boards, and to attend electoral activities. A representative cannot be a candidate. A representative of a list of candidates is appointed by the proposal of the list of candidates. Trustees of lists of candidates participate in the work of polling committees.

Representatives of lists of candidates have the right to warn the president of an electoral body of any irregularities.

ARTICLE 25.

There are the following electoral boards:

1) state electoral board;
2) constituency electoral board;
3) district electoral boards.

The district electoral board is appointed for the territory of an electoral district.

Special constituency electoral boards are appointed for the election of the Italian and Hungarian minority delegates.

ARTICLE 26.

A president and five members constitute the state electoral board.

A president and three members constitute a constituency electoral board.

The minority member must take part in a constituency electoral board for the election of minority delegates.

A president and three members constitute a district electoral board.

An electoral board has a secretary, who is appointed from the State Administration officials.

The secretary of the state electoral board is the chief of the board's professional service.

ARTICLE 27.

The state electoral board and constituency electoral boards are appointed by the President of the Republic (a variant: Chamber of State).

Judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia are appointed as the president of the state board and his/her deputy, and judges of other courts are appointed as presidents and their deputies of constituency and district electoral boards.

Two members and two deputies of the state electoral board are appointed from the legal profession. Three members of the state electoral board are appointed on the proposal of delegate clubs of three parties with the highest number of seats in the Chamber of State. Three deputies of the state electoral board are appointed on the proposal of delegate clubs of three parties with the next highest number of seats in the Chamber of State.

(A variant to the second and third paragraph:

Three members and deputies of the state electoral board are appointed on the proposals of party groups, whereby the proportional representation of political parties must be taken into account.)

One member and one deputy of a constituency electoral board are appointed from the legal profession. Two members of a constituency electoral board are appointed on the proposals of delegate groups, whereby the proportional representation of political parties must be taken into account.

ARTICLE 28.

District electoral boards are appointed by the state electoral board.

ARTICLE 29.

If the mandate of the electoral board members expires in the period after the calling of elections, it should be prolonged until the end of elections.

ARTICLE 30.

The state electoral board:

1) monitors the lawful conduct of elections, lays down the uniform application of the provisions of this law, which regulate the procedure;
2) co-ordinates the work of constituency electoral boards and district electoral boards, and provides expert advice on the application of this law, and supervises their work;
3) regulates the forms for the application of this law;
4) regulates uniform standards for voting materials and other physical conditions of election proceedings;
5) declares the results of elections to the Chamber of State;
6) issues electoral returns;
7) performs other duties regulated by this law.

The state electoral board regulates which official electoral papers should be sent to it by constituency electoral boards and district electoral boards. It also regulates the deadline and manner of sending.

The state electoral board may for some of its competencies authorize a constituency electoral board for elections or minority delegates.

ARTICLE 31.

A constituency electoral board:

1) monitors the lawful conduct of elections of delegates in a constituency;
2) states whether individual nominations and lists of candidates are in accordance with the law;
3) determines election results and declares which delegates were elected in a constituency, and issues reports on the outcome of elections;
4) performs other duties regulated by this Law.

ARTICLE 32.

A district electoral board:

1) designates polling stations;
2) appoints polling committees;
3) determines election results at polling stations;
4) supervise technical work related to elections;
5) performs other duties regulated by this Law.

Duties from the previous paragraph can be performed by a special constituency electoral board when elections of delegates of the Italian or Hungarian minorities are in question.

ARTICLE 33.

Polling committees directly supervise the voting at polling stations, and ensure regularity and secrecy of voting. At least one polling committee is appointed for one polling station.

A polling committee consists of a president and even number of members, of which each has a deputy. Members of the polling committee must have residential status in the territory of the district electoral board. Parties should submit their proposals for the appointment of a president and members of polling committee to the district electoral committee no later than ten days after the calling of elections.

CHAPTER VII. NOMINATION

ARTICLE 34.

Candidates can be proposed by political parties, other political organizations and voters.

ARTICLE 35.

Political parties and other political organizations define candidates according to the procedure regulated by their regulations. The list of candidates is compiled by secret ballot. Members of political parties or other political organizations, who have the residential status in a constituency and the right to vote, define the list of candidates in a constituency. The list of candidates must be supported by signatures of at least thirty voters, who have residential status in the constituency.

(A variant to the second paragraph:

Political parties and other political organizations can submit a list of candidates in every constituency, provided that these lists are supported by signatures of at least three delegates to the Chamber of State or at least five hundred voters. Signatures of delegates and voters must be submitted to the state electoral board. If a political party or any other political organization fails to receive such support, it is entitled to submit a list of candidates in a constituency, provided that the list is supported by at least one hundred voters who have residential status in the constituency.)

Two or more political parties can lodge a joint list of candidates.

ARTICLE 36.

Political organizations of the Italian and the Hungarian minorities can register their candidates for a minority delegate in a special constituency irrespective of the conditions from the second (third in the variant) paragraph of the previous Article.

ARTICLE 37.

Voters define a list of candidates by signatures. A list of candidates in an individual constituency must be defined by at least a hundred voters who have residential status in the constituency.

A candidate for an Italian or Hungarian minority seat must be determined by at least thirty voters - members of the Italian or Hungarian minority.

ARTICLE 38.

A voter (in a variant: or a delegate) can give his support by signature only once.

A voter gives his/her support by signature on the prescribed form. The form is signed in person, before the authorized body keeping the records of the right to vote, or at the authorized local office.

The body from the previous paragraph keeps a special record of issued forms. The list of forms and data whom they were issued to, are an official secret. Only the authorized electoral board or court have the right of access to these data.

(An addendum to the second and third paragraph in the variant:

A delegate gives his/her support by the signature on the prescribed form, which is issued by the authorized service of the Chamber of State.)

The support by signatures can be given from the day determined for the beginning of electoral activities to the day determined for the submitting of lists of candidates.

ARTICLE 39.

(An addendum in the variant:

When lists of candidates are determined it has to be also stated in which constituency will each of the candidates from the list be nominated. A candidate can be nominated only in one constituency.)

ARTICLE 40.

A list of candidates is submitted to the constituency electoral board. The proposal for the list of candidates must bear the designation of the constituency, the name of the proposer, the name of the list, personal data of candidates - name, surname, date of birth, profession and occupation, permanent address of the representative of the list. Enclosed in the list must be written the consent of candidates, confirming that they agree with the nomination, and the minimum of forms with signatures of voters (Addendum in the variant: or delegates), according to this Law.

(A variant addendum to the previous paragraph:

With the proposal for the lists of candidates must also be enclosed the allocation of the candidates from the list of candidates in constituencies.)

The list of candidates, submitted by a political party or an other political organization, must also enclose the minutes of the determination of the list of candidates, and the regulations of the political party or any other organization.

ARTICLE 41.

The number of candidates on a list of candidates must not exceed the number of delegates to be elected in a constituency.

Each candidate can be nominated only in one constituency and form only one list of candidates.

The consent of a candidate is irrevocable.

CHAPTER VIII. VERIFICATION OF LISTS OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 42.

Lists of candidates are submitted to the authorized electoral board no later than twenty-five days prior to the election day.

The electoral board establishes that an individual candidate is not determined as a candidate on more than one list of candidates. Authorized electoral board immediately forward data on lists of candidates the state electoral board. The state electoral board establishes that an individual candidate is not nominated in more than one constituency. If the authorized electoral board ascertains that an individual candidate has been determined as a candidate in more than one constituency, or on more than one list of candidates, than the valid nomination is the one determined first. The authorized electoral board immediately informs the candidate and the representative of the list of candidates of this.

ARTICLE 43.

Immediately after lists of candidates are submitted to the authorized electoral board, it examines whether the lists of candidates have been compiled according to this law, and whether they were submitted in due time.

ARTICLE 44.

The authorized electoral board rejects the list of candidates if it determines that the list was not submitted in due time.

If the authorized electoral board determines formal shortcomings in an individual list of candidates, it immediately requires the proposing body to make corrections within three days. If the formal shortcomings are not corrected in due time, the authorized electoral board rejects the list of candidates.

The authorized electoral board rejects a list of candidates if it determines that the list is not in accordance with this Law.

In case from the previous two paragraphs the authorized electoral board can reject a list of candidates entirely or with regard to individual candidates.

ARTICLE 45.

If a proposed list of candidates does not have any shortcomings, or if the shortcomings were corrected in due time, the authorized electoral board verifies the list of candidates.

The authorized electoral board issues a certificate or verification or rejection of a list of candidates at least eighteen days prior to the election day. The certificate is sent by the electoral board to the representative of the list of candidates.

ARTICLE 46.

Verified lists of candidates are published at least fifteen days prior to the election day. The state electoral board is in charge of the publication.

ARTICLE 47.

Public media are obliged to publish lists of candidates with data regulated by this Law.

The state electoral board determines the public lists of candidates. Costs of publication are covered by the funds for the holding of elections.

ARTICLE 48.

The authorized electoral board compiles a list of verified lists of candidates in a constituency in an order decided by a draw (a variant: in the order of submitted proposals). The order on the ballot paper is identical to the order on the list.

CHAPTER IX. VOTING AT POLLING STATIONS

SECTION 1. THE ORGANIZATION AND WORK AT POLLING STATIONS

ARTICLE 49.

Polling stations are determined by the district electoral board.

Polling stations have serial numbers.

ARTICLE 50.

A special room is designated for the polling station. The room has to be organized in a manner ensuring secrecy of voting. The polling stations must be equipped in a manner preventing any observation of the voter completing a ballot paper.

A polling station is a building in which there is space for the elections throughout the building.

Electoral boards in due time prepare for all polling stations determined by them, the necessary number of ballot papers and other voting materials.

Public notices with registers of lists of candidates or individual candidates who are voted upon must be posted in a polling station.

ARTICLE 51.

Any sort of election campaigning is prohibited on the premises of a polling station on the election day.

ARTICLE 52.

The president and members of a polling committee gather a day prior to elections on the premises where elections will be conducted and ensure that the room is adequately arranged for the holding of elections and take over the necessary number of ballot boxes and ballot papers, the verified electoral register for the district of the polling station, verified public notices from Article 43 and anything else needed for the facilitation of voting at the polling station.

The president and members of polling committee must take over the voting materials from the previous paragraph at least an hour prior to the beginning of voting.

The polling committee draws up minutes on the taking over of the polling station and voting materials from the first paragraph of this article. The minutes must be signed by the president and a members of the polling committee.

ARTICLE 53.

The president and members of a polling committee gather in the room where elections will be conducted at least half an hour prior to the beginning of voting, and check whether the room and voting materials are in the same condition as they were at the day prior to elections. They check whether the ballot box is empty. Minutes on this are drawn up, and signed by the president and members of the polling committee.

SECTION 2. VOTING

ARTICLE 54.

Voting is conducted without interruption from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m.. A polling station at which all voters enrolled in the electoral register have already voted can close prior to 7 p. m..

Electoral boards can, in agreement with the district electoral board, regulate that the voting begins before 7 a. m. or ends after 7 p.m., if that is needed to accommodate voters who could otherwise not vote.

Irrespective of the provision from the second paragraph of this Article, voting cannot begin before 4 a.m. and after 11 p.m.

ARTICLE 55.

Voters who are absent on election day can vote prior to that day, but not more than five days prior to the election day, and no later than two days prior to election day. Voting is conducted at a special polling station at the headquarters of the district

electoral board.

ARTICLE 56.

The district electoral board informs voters of the election day, and of the polling station at which they are enrolled in the electoral register.

ARTICLE 57.

A voter votes in person at the polling station at which he/she is enrolled in the electoral register.

Voting is indicated on a ballot paper.

A ballot paper for voting on the lists of candidates comprises:

- the designation of a constituency;
- serial numbers and names of lists of candidates according to the order from the register of lists of candidates, and a space for the inscription of the serial number (a variant: surname and forename) of the candidate from the list, from the list, for whom a voter casts his/her preferential vote;
- an instruction on the manner of voting.

(addendum in a variant:

A ballot paper for voting on a candidate in an electoral district comprises:

- the designation of a constituency;
- the designation of an electoral district;
- serial numbers, surnames and names of candidates, and names of lists if candidates on which candidates are nominated, in the order from the register of lists of candidates;
- an instruction on the manner of voting.)

A ballot paper for voting of candidates for a delegate of the Italian or Hungarian minorities comprises:

- the designation of a constituency;
- serial numbers, surnames and names of candidates, and names of proposers in the order from the register of candidates;
- an instruction on the manner of voting.

ARTICLE 58.

A voter first gives his/her surname and given name, and if necessary, also his/her address. If needed, the president or a member of the polling committee can establish the identity of an individual by his personal document or in any other way. Identity can be established on the basis of any personal document which provides personal data of a voter. Thereupon the president or a member of the polling committee encircles the serial number alongside the name of the voter in the electoral register, and explains to the voter the manner of voting and him/her a ballot paper. If, by mistake, somebody is not enrolled in the electoral register, he/ she votes on the basis of a certificate issued by the authorized body, stating that the voter is enrolled as a voter in the district of the polling committee, in which he wishes to vote. This should be put into the minutes, and the certificate is added to the minutes.

ARTICLE 59.

The polling committee cannot deny the right to vote to anybody who is enrolled in the electoral register for that polling station, or to persons who have proven their eligibility with certificates. If a member of the polling committee has a remark related to individual voters, who want to vote, than such a remark should be put in the minutes. If a person whose name has already been encircled in the electoral register, wants to vote, then his/her surname, given name, occupation and address, and the person's possible statement, are put in the minutes. Such a person is denied the right to vote.

ARTICLE 60.

When voting for a list of candidates, a voter may vote only for one list.

A voter votes by encircling the serial number alongside the name of the list for which he/she votes.

A voter can give his/her preferential vote to one of the candidates from the list for which he/she voted. In this case a voter writes in a space on the ballot , provided for this purpose, the serial number (a variant: surname and name) of the candidates from the list, to whom he/she has given preferential vote.

(A variant in case of voting for delegates in an electoral district:

A voter may vote only for one candidate. A voter votes by encircling the serial number alongside the surname and name of a candidate he/she chooses to vote for.)

ARTICLE 61.

When voting for a delegate of the Italian or Hungarian minorities, a voter may vote only for one candidate. A voter votes by encircling the serial number alongside the surname and name of a candidate for whom he/she chooses to vote.

ARTICLE 62.

When a voter casts his/her vote, he/she put the ballot paper into the ballot box and leaves the polling station.

ARTICLE 63.

Incomplete ballot papers and ballot papers on which it cannot be clearly determined which list of candidates or which candidate for the minority delegate the voter has selected are declared invalid.

A ballot paper is invalid also if the voter voted in a manner different to the regulations of the first and second paragraph of Article 53 and 54, although it is clear which list of candidates or which candidate he/she voted for.

ARTICLE 64.

All the members of the polling committee and their deputies have the right to be present throughout the time of voting.

Trustees of individual lists or candidates for minority delegates have the right to be present all the time of voting.

Names of trustees are given by a representative of a list of candidates or a candidate from the previous sentence to the district electoral committee at least five days prior to the election day. A trustee can only be a person enrolled in the electoral register in the territory of a constituency. The list of candidates or the candidate from the first sentence of this paragraph can have only one trustee in the polling station. The district electoral board issues a certificate to the trustee by which he/she identifies him/herself to the polling committee.

ARTICLE 65.

The president of the polling committee, assisted by the members of the committee, keeps peace and order in the polling station. If necessary, he can ask police to help him/her. When policemen are in the polling station, they are under his/her authority, and the voting is interrupted.

The president of the polling committee has the right to remove from the polling station anybody who disturbs peace and order. This is recorded in the minutes. The polling committee decides whether to remove a trustee.

Nobody is allowed to come to the polling station armed or with dangerous implements, with the exception of the policemen in the case pursuant to the first paragraph of this Article.

The president of the polling committee can order voters to be allowed to enter singly or in small numbers, if that is needed to provide uninterrupted voting.

ARTICLE 66.

A voter is entitled to be accompanied by a person to assist him/her to cast the vote and deliver the ballot, if he/she is not able to vote due to a physical disability or illiteracy. The polling committee decides in this matter and puts it into the minutes.

ARTICLE 67.

Minutes should be taken on voting, and all important events taking place in the polling station should be written in them.

At the request of any member of the polling committee and any trustee, his/her special opinion and remarks on the minutes, have to be written in the minutes. The minutes are signed by the president and members of the polling committee.

ARTICLE 68.

Voters who are not in the area where they have residential status, because they are doing military service, can vote by mail in the constituency in which they have residential status.

Voters cannot be called up for military exercises on the election day.

People in care in retirement homes, who do not have residential status there, can also vote by mail.

Voting by mail is conducted one day prior to the election day.

ARTICLE 69.

Voters, who are prevented by an illness from voting in person at the polling station, where they are enrolled in the electoral register, can vote in front of the polling committee at their homes. They should inform the district electoral board about such circumstances at least three days prior to the day of voting.

SECTION 3. DETERMINATION OF ELECTION RESULTS IN THE POLLING STATIONS

ARTICLE 70.

When voting is completed, the polling committee immediately starts to determine the election results. First unused ballot papers are counted, then they are put in a special box, which is afterwards sealed. Thereupon the committee ascertains, with the electoral register and certificates, the total number of voters, opens the ballot box, ascertains the number of delivered ballots, the number of invalid ballots, the number of voters given to each list and the number of preferential votes given to individuals on each list (the variant for voting in the electoral districts: how many votes were given to an individual candidate).

ARTICLE 71.

Minutes are taken on the determination of election results of the polling committee. The minutes comprise: the number of voters enrolled in the electoral register, the number of voters who voted with a certificate, and the total number of voters who voted by ballot paper, the number of invalid ballot papers, the number of votes given to each list, and the number of preferential votes given to individual candidates from lists of candidates (the variant for voting in electoral districts: the number of voters given to individual candidates).

Possible special opinions and remarks of the members of the polling committee and the trustees of lists of candidates should also be written in the minutes.

The minutes are signed by the president and the members of the polling committee.

ARTICLE 72.

The president of the polling committee declares the results of elections at the polling station, but not prior to 7 p. m..

The minutes on its work and other electoral materials should be sent to the district electoral board by the polling committee.

CHAPTER X. DETERMINATION OF ELECTION RESULTS IN A CONSTITUENCY

ARTICLE 73.

The district electoral board determines for the region of its district: the number of voters enrolled in the electoral register, the number of voters according to the electoral register, the number of voters who voted with certificates, the number of voters who voted by mail, the number of invalid ballot papers, the number of voters given to each list of candidates, the number of preferential votes given to individual candidates from the list (the variant for voting on individual candidates in electoral districts: the number of voters given to individual candidates). The electoral board determines the results of voting by mail, whereby it takes into account ballot papers received by mail until 12 noon on the day after the election day.

ARTICLE 74.

The district electoral board keeps minutes on the determination of election of election results for the electoral district. The minutes are signed by the president and the members of the electoral board.

The minutes are sent to the constituency electoral board by the district electoral board in due term regulated by the state electoral board.

ARTICLE 75.

The constituency electoral board determines for each list of candidates:

- the total number of voters cast for a list in the constituency;
- the number of preferential votes given to individual candidates from the list;
- the number of voters, who voted for a list, and gave preferential votes to individual candidates from the list (the variant for voting on individual candidates in electoral districts: the number of voters given to individual candidates).

The electoral board also determines the total number of votes given to all lists of candidates in a constituency.

ARTICLE 76.

The number of mandates given to an individual list is determined by the quotient calculated by dividing the total number of votes given to all lists of candidates in a constituency by the number of delegates voted for in a constituency, plus one. The quotient is calculated to four decimal places, plus one. The number of votes given to a list is divided by this quotient. The list is given the number of votes equal to how many times the quotient is contained in the number of votes for the list.

(The variant to the first paragraph: The number of mandates given to an individual list is determined by the quotient, which is calculated by dividing the total number of votes given to all lists of candidates in a constituency by the number of delegates voted for in a constituency. The quotient is calculated to four decimal places. The number of votes given to a list is divided by this quotient. The list is given the number of votes equal to how many times the quotient is contained in the number of voters

for the list).

ARTICLE 77.

Mandates which were not assigned in constituencies, are assigned on the state level to the lists having the same name, which were submitted in two or more constituencies, and were assigned at least one mandate when mandates were distributed in a constituency. In the distribution of mandates, the quotients are taken into account, which are calculated by dividing the sums of votes, given to lists of candidates with the same name in all constituencies, by all numbers from one to the number of undivided mandates (d'Hondt system).

(Variant to the first paragraph:

Mandates, which were not divided in constituencies, are divided on the state level. In the distribution of these mandates it should be first determined how many of all 88 mandates would be assigned to lists with the same name, in proportion to the number of votes given in all constituencies. This is determined on the basis of the quotients, which are calculated by dividing the sums of votes, given to lists with the same name in all constituencies, by all numbers from one to 88 (d'Hondt system). Lists of the same name, which would according to these quotients not be assigned at least three mandates, would not be taken into account on the state level of mandate distribution.)

Mandates not distributed in constituencies, are assigned to lists of the same name with the highest quotients from the previous paragraph in the order of highest quotients.

Mandates given to lists of the same name in distribution on the state level, are assigned to lists in constituencies, which are left with the highest remainder of votes in proportion to the quotient in a constituency. If all mandates in a constituency are distributed, the mandate is assigned to the list in a constituency in which the list has the next highest remainder of votes in proportion to the quotient in a constituency.

ARTICLE 78.

The number of elected candidates from the list is equal to the number of mandates assigned to the list.

Candidates from the list are elected in the order from the list except in the case when one or more candidates has been given a number of preferential votes exceeding the quotient between the number of votes given to a list and the number of candidates from the list. In the latter case, the candidates are first elected in the order according to the number of given preferential votes and then according to the order in the list.

(Variants to the third paragraph:

1. variant:

Candidates from the list of candidates are elected according to the order from the list, except in the case when the majority of voters who voted for the list cast a preferential vote. In this case candidates are first elected according to the number of given preferential votes, if a candidate received at least 10% of all votes cast, then candidates are elected according to the order from the list.

2. variant - for voting in electoral districts:

Candidates are elected from the list of candidates according to the order of the given share in the total number of votes in a constituency.)

If two canddidates were given an equal number of votes, a draw decides their election.

ARTICLE 79.

The state electoral board determines the election results on the state level. It keeps the minutes which are signed by the president and the members of the board.

ARTICLE 80.

The electoral board of a special constituency for the election of delegates of the Italian and Hungarian minorities determines the number of voters enrolled in the electoral register, the number of voters who voted, the number of voters who voted by mail, the number of votes given to each candidate, and the number of invalid ballot papers.

ARTICLE 81.

The candidate who receives the majority of votes in a constituency is elected as the delegate of the Italian or Hungarian minority. If two or more candidates are given an equal number of votes, a draw decides their election. The draw is performed by the special constituency electoral board in the presence of candidates or their representatives.

ARTICLE 82.

The election results from the previous paragraph are determined by the special constituency electoral board, which keeps the minutes on the result and on the work from the previous Article. The minutes are signed by the president and the members of the board. The minutes and other electoral materials are sent to the state electoral board by the special constituency electoral board.

The results of the elections to the Chamber of State are published in the Official Gazettte of the Republic of Slovenia.

ARTICLE 83.

The state electoral board issues a certificate of election to the elected delegate.

CHAPTER XI. ADDITIONAL AND REPEATED ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 84.

Additional elections are conducted if the voting was not carried out in a constituency or at an individual polling station on the day determined as the election day. Additional elections are called by the constituency electoral board. The provisions of this Law on general elections apply also to the additional elections. The latter must be conducted within 30 days of the day determined as the election day of general elections.

ARTICLE 85.

If the authorized electoral board determines, that there were irregularities in voting at polling stations, which could affect the outcome of elections in a constituency, then the voting at individual or all polling stations may be nullified, and repeated elections are called in the areas of the nullified voting.

Repeated elections are conducted on the basis of the existing lists of candidates.

ARTICLE 86.

Repeated elections are called by the constituency electoral board, but if the state electoral board has nullified the voting, than the elections are called by the state electoral board.

The election day of the repeated elections has to be stated in the act on the calling of elections. Repeated elections must be conducted within 15 days of the day when elections were called.

CHAPTER XII. PROTECTION OF VOTING RIGHTS

ARTICLE 87.

Each candidate or the representative of lists of candidates has the right, due to irregularities in the nomination procedure, to lodge a complaint with the constituency electoral board. The complaint must be lodged within the deadline for the submission of lists of candidates.

The constituency electoral board must reach a decision on the complaint in the procedure of determining the lawfulness of lists of candidates, within 48 hours of the deadline for the submission of lists of candidates.

ARTICLE 88.

The state electoral board can nullify or change the resolution of the constituency electoral board, which was issued in the procedure of determining the lawfulness of a list of candidates, if it is found out that the resolution is irregular or contrary to the law. This should be done at the latest by the day determined for the publication of lists of candidates.

ARTICLE 89.

A complaint can be lodged at the court authorized for contentious administrative matters, within 48 hours of the receipt of the decision, against the decision of the electoral board, by which the proposal of a list of candidates was rejected, against the decision of the electoral board from the second paragraph of Article 84, and against the decision of the state electoral board from Article 85.

The court must reach a decision on the complaint within 48 hours of the filing of the complaint. The court decides by a senate of three judges. The court decision is final.

The court decides through appropriate use of provisions of the Law on Contentious Administrative Matters.

ARTICLE 90.

With regard to irregularities in the work of the polling committee and district electoral board in elections, each candidate, the representative of a list of candidates and each voter has the right to lodge a complaint with the constituency electoral board.

A complaint must be lodged within three days of the election day. The constituency electoral board has to reach a decision on the complaint within 48 hours.

If a constituency electoral board established, on the basis of a complaint, such irregularities in the work of the polling committee, which considerable effect, or could effect, the election results, then it nullifies the voting at the polling station at which the voting was conducted by the polling committee in question, and decrees repeated elections in the areas, in which the voting was nullified.

If a constituency electoral board establishes, on the basis of a complaint, such irregularities in the work of the district electoral board, which considerably effect, or could effect, the election results, then it determines the election results in the district on its own.

ARTICLE 91.

Each candidate or representative of a list of candidates has the right to file a complaint with the Chamber of state against the decision of the electoral board, which could affect the confirmation of delegates mandates. The complaint must be filed at least by the first session of the Chamber of state. A complaint related to additional or repeated elections must be filed at the latest 15 days after the election day of additional or repeated elections. The Chamber of State decides on the complaint when confirming delegates' mandates.

CHAPTER XIII. SANCTIONS

CHAPTER XIV. TEMPORARY AND FINAL REGULATIONS

Ukraine

LAW OF UKRAINE "ON ELECTIONS OF PEOPLES' DEPUTIES OF UKRAINE"

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 1. The Main Principles and Grounds for Elections of Peoples' Deputies of Ukraine

1. The elections of Peoples' Deputies of Ukraine are free and shall be based on principles of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot.
2. The election process shall be based on the following principles: free and equal nomination of candidates for deputies; publicity and openness; equal possibilities for all candidates during the election campaign; non-intervention in the campaign by state bodies, institutions, and organizations, as well as local self-governing bodies; freedom of publicity.
3. Elections shall be held in 450 single mandate electoral constituencies on the basis of absolute majority.

ARTICLE 2. Universal Suffrage

1. The election of deputies shall be universal: citizens of Ukraine who are 18 years of age on election day, have the right to vote.
2. In order to be elected as a deputy, a person must be a citizen of Ukraine with the right to vote, must be 25 years of age on election day, and must have resided in Ukraine for no less than the previous two years.
3. Any direct or indirect benefits or restrictions on the suffrage of citizens of Ukraine due to birth, social or property status, race and nationality, sex, education, language, religious preference, political convictions, and type of occupation unforeseen by this law, are prohibited.
4. Those citizens found incompetent by a court, have no right to vote. Suffrage shall be suspended for a certain time period for persons incarcerated or institutionalized for mandatory treatment by court order.
5. Citizens of Ukraine, who, are actually performing military or alternative (non-military) service on the polling day may not be deputies.

Officers, ensigns, warrant officers, personnel of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, the Frontier Troops, the Department of Ukraine's State Defense, the Troops on Civil Defense of Ukraine, other military services in accordance to the legislation of Ukraine, Security Service, officer personnel of Ministry of Internal Affairs, and also judges and procurators can be registered as nominees for candidates only if they, at the moment of registration, shall submit to the constituency election commission an application of suspension for their term of office during the time of the election campaign.

In case of being elected as a Peoples' Deputy they will resign from their position. The military servants elected as Peoples' Deputies shall be sent to the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.

6. An Peoples' Deputy of Ukraine cannot be a deputy of another state representative body or local and regional self-governing bodies at the same time.

ARTICLE 3. Equal Suffrage

The elections of deputies of Ukraine shall be equal: citizens participate in elections on an equal basis; each voter has one vote.

ARTICLE 4. Direct Suffrage

The election of deputies of Ukraine shall be direct. The deputies shall be elected directly by the voters.

ARTICLE 5. Secret Ballot

The election of deputies of Ukraine are by secret ballot. Control over voters' freedom of choice is prohibited.

ARTICLE 6. Openness During the Preparation and Conduct of Elections

1. Preparation and conduct of elections of deputies shall be carried out openly and publicly.
2. Electoral commissions shall inform the citizens of their membership, location and working hours; of the formation of electoral constituencies and polling stations; of the voter lists with the enumeration and election programs (platforms) of the candidates for deputy, of parties and election blocs participating in the elections; the form and order of filling out the subscription list and bulletins; about the list of candidates for deputy; about the biographical data on the candidates for deputy; and about the results of the ballot and the elections.
3. Meetings of the commissions shall be mainly in the form of open sessions. Representatives of candidates for deputy or their agents, one representative from each party and electoral bloc participating in the election campaign, from each labor collective which nominated candidates for deputy, from non-party voters' committees formed to control the conduct of the election campaign as well as official observers from other countries and international organizations have the right to be present at election commission meetings, including meetings for the registration of candidates, during voting, meetings for the tallying of election results in polling stations and for the announcement of election results in electoral constituencies and general elections. The authority of these designated representatives shall be certified by appropriate documents. Interference by appointed representatives with the work of election commissions is prohibited.
4. In the event violations of the election law are revealed, the persons enumerated in part three of this Article have the right to submit an application to the appropriate or higher election commission regarding the elimination of violations or to draft a report about it, which shall be signed by the person who revealed the violation as well as by voters who witnessed the

violation. An application or a report are to be registered by the commission.

5. The mass media shall publicize the preparation and conduct of the elections of deputies and representatives of mass media shall be guaranteed unrestricted access to all assemblies and meetings related to the election. Electoral commissions, state bodies, and local and regional self-governing bodies shall provide them with information related to the preparation and conduct of the elections.

ARTICLE 7. The Right to Nominate Candidates for Deputies

The right to nominate candidates for deputies belongs to citizens of Ukraine entitled to vote. This right is realized both directly and through political parties and their election blocs registered according to law, as well as through labor collectives in accordance with this law.

ARTICLE 8. Conduct of the Elections

Electoral commissions, which are formed in accordance with this Law, shall organize the conduct of the elections of deputies.

CHAPTER II. THE PROCEDURE AND TERMS FOR CALLING OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 9. Types of Elections and Procedure for Their Calling

1. The elections of deputies may be successive, extra (pre-term), repeated, and to replace resigned deputies.
2. The Supreme Council Of Ukraine makes the decision regarding the conduct of successive and extra (pre-term) elections of deputies.
3. The Central Election Commission on Election of Deputies of Ukraine makes decisions on repeated elections as well as on elections to replace resigned deputies in cases and in accordance with the procedure included in this law.

ARTICLE 10. Terms for Calling of Elections

1. Successive elections of deputies shall be appointed by the Supreme Rada of Ukraine during the forty-fourth month from the day of the first session of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.
2. Successive and extra elections of deputies shall be appointed by the Supreme Council no later than four months before their conduct.
3. Repeated elections, and elections to replace resigned deputies shall be appointed by the Central Election Commission on Election of Deputies of Ukraine under the terms specified in this Law.
4. The elections shall be called on Sunday or another non-working day constituted by law.

The election shall be announced by the body which called the elections through the mass media no later than three days after the calling of the elections.

CHAPTER III. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS

ARTICLE 11. Formation of Electoral Districts

1. For conducting the elections of deputies, the Central Election Commission on Elections of Deputies of Ukraine - based upon submissions from the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, chairmen of regional, Kyiv and Sevastopil city councils of peoples' deputies - creates 450 single-mandate constituencies.
2. The electoral constituencies shall be formed with approximately equal numbers of voters per constituency all over Ukraine according to the administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine and to the density of minority population. The average number of voters for the electoral constituencies shall be determined by the Central Election Commission on Elections of Peoples' Deputies of Ukraine.

   Electoral constituencies must follow the following conditions:

   1) a deviation on the average across Ukraine in the number of voters in the electoral constituency, as a rule, shall not exceed 12%;
   2) territorial integrity: the formation of electoral constituencies which include territories without mutual borders is not allowed;
   3) periodical review, as a rule, once every eight years of the borders of the electoral constituencies.

3. The list of electoral constituencies, their designations, numbers, centers, borders, and number of voters shall be published by the Central Election Commission on Elections of Peoples' Deputies of Ukraine in the press and disseminated through the mass media no later than 100 days prior to the election date.

ARTICLE 12. Formation of Polling Stations

1. The electoral constituencies shall be divided into polling stations for voting and tabulation of votes.
2. The polling station shall be formed by constituency election commissions based upon submissions from local (district, municipal) state executive bodies or by the local self-governance bodies, situated within the borders of electoral constituencies. Polling divisions, for vessels at sea on election day, shall be formed by the same bodies at the vessel's port.

The polling stations for representative offices of Ukraine abroad shall be formed based upon submissions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and according to their place of registration as determined by the Central Election Commission on Election of Peoples' Deputies of Ukraine.

3. The polling stations shall be formed where 20 to 3000 voters are present and, in exceptional cases, with fewer or greater number of voters.
4. The polling stations shall be formed no later than 60 days prior to elections and, in exceptional cases, no later than five days before the election.
5. The constituency election commission shall inform voters about the boundaries of each polling station, membership and location of the election commissions and the location of voting booths no later than five days after the formation of polling station commissions.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 13. System of Electoral Commissions

For the purpose of the election of deputies, the following are established:

1) Central Election Commission on Election of Peoples' Deputies of Ukraine (further - Central Election Commission);
2) constituency election commissions; and
3) polling station election commissions.

ARTICLE 14. The Central Election Commission

1. The Central Election Commission is the highest electoral body on the organization and conduct of elections and shall be established no later than 120 days prior to their conduct.
2. The Central Election Commission shall be approved by the Supreme Rada of Ukraine on submission from the Chairman of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine and includes the Chairman, two Deputy Chairmen, Secretary and 11 members. The Chairman, Deputy Chairmen Secretary and no less than one third of the members of the Central Election Commission should have the highest legal education.
3. The Chairman, Deputy Chairmen and Secretary of the Central Election Commission should work on a full time basis.
4. All political parties and their election blocs participating in the election campaign according to this Law may appoint one representative to the Central Election Commission who is entitled to take the floor.
5. The term of authority of the Central Election Commission is four years.
   The authority of the Central Election Commission expires after new members of the commission are appointed.
6. The Central Election Commission, no later than five days after its creation, shall publish information on its personnel, area of location, postal address as well as the banking account for donation which may be paid to the centralized election fund, and provides explanations concerning rights of citizens and legal entities to donate to this fund.
7. The Central Election Commission:

   1) organizes the preparation and conduct of elections of Peoples' Deputies of Ukraine;
   2) carries out control over implementation of electoral legislation within the entire territory of Ukraine and secures its uniform application;
   3) provides explanations of application of electoral law, and in case of necessity applies to the Supreme Rada of Ukraine for interpretations, changes, or amendments to this Law;
   4) forms electoral constituencies;
   5) directs the activity of constituency and polling station commissions;
   6) establishes the order of use of the funds for conducting elections and distributes them among election commissions as well as local councils, assists in providing election commissions with premises, means of transportation and communication, and considers other issues of material and technical support for the elections;
   7) determines the form of election ballots of deputies, of voter lists, of reports of sessions of election commissions, of other electoral documents, of sample ballot boxes, of seals of election commissions, and determines the order of presentation of electoral documents;
   8) gathers information from election commissions, ministries, and agencies of Ukraine, other state bodies, local self-governance bodies on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections;
   9) publishes the list of electoral constituencies, information on the term of the election campaign and other materials of its activity;
   10) registers parties and their election blocs which declare intentions to nominate candidates for elections;
   11) registers elected deputies, tallies election results in general in Ukraine, publishes in the press and presents through other mass media, the election results and the list of elected deputies;
   12) informs the Supreme Rada of Ukraine on election results and the determination of the authority of the deputies;
   13) resolves questions regarding the calling and conducting of repeat elections, elections to replace resigned deputies and recall of deputies;
   14) considers applications, declarations and complaints of the citizens regarding decisions and actions of regional and polling station commissions (except for complaints regarding mistakes in the voter lists) and cancels decisions of election commissions or halts their activity and makes other such decisions regarding these issues;

15) on submissions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, decides issues regarding the assignment of polling stations formed at representative bodies of Ukraine abroad in relation to the electoral constituencies situated on the territory of Ukraine;
16) administers other authority in accordance with this Law and other legislation of Ukraine.

ARTICLE 15. Regional Electoral Commissions

1. The constituency election commissions shall be formed no later than 95 days prior to the day of elections.
2. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, and the Secretary of the constituency election commissions and eight of its members are appointed by the appropriate Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, by the session of regional, or Kyiv and Sevastopil city councils of peoples' deputies based upon submissions of the Chairmen of these councils.
   All parties and their election blocs registered in a given electoral constituency may appoint to the constituency election commission one representative who is entitled to take the floor.
3. The authority of the constituency election commission expires 10 days after the Central Election Commission acknowledges the full authority of the newly-elected deputy.
4. The constituency election commission, no later than five days after its creation shall publish information on its personnel, area of location, post address as well as banking account for donation, which may be paid to the election fund of the constituency election commission, and provides explanations concerning rights of citizens and legal entities to donate to this fund.
5. The constituency election commission:

   1) controls the implementation of electoral law within the territory of the electoral constituency;
   2) creates polling stations, determines the common numeration of the polling stations within the electoral constituency, and publishes a list identifying the address of the location;
   3) coordinates the activity of polling station election commissions;
   4) monitors compilation of voter lists and their presentation to the general public;
   5) registers the nominated candidates for deputies and their authorized persons, gives the appropriate credentials, ensures publication of posters with biographical data about the candidates and their electoral programs (platforms);
   6) cooperates with appropriate councils in organizing meetings of candidates for deputy with voters;
   7) authorizes the text of the election ballot for the electoral constituency as well as invitations, ensures printing and supply of ballots to polling station commissions;
   8) determines the results of the election and organizes the publication in the press as well as in the mass media of results of elections in the electoral constituency, issues temporary credentials to the newly-elected deputy;
   9) organizes the conduct of re-election, and repeat voting as well as elections to replace resigned deputies;
   10) reviews applications and complaints regarding decisions and actions of polling station commissions and resolves those issues;
   11) fulfills other duties in accordance with this Law and other laws of Ukraine.

ARTICLE 16. Polling Station Commissions

1. Polling station commissions shall be formed by village, town, and city (district in cities) councils of peoples' deputies or executive bodies no later than 45 days before the elections and shall consist of a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and 5-11 members nominated on submission of the Chairman of the appropriate council who shall take into account the suggestions of the political parties, other unions of citizens, labor collectives, and groups of voters.
   All parties and election blocs whose candidates are registered in a given electoral constituency, may appoint one representative to the polling station commission who is entitled to take the floor.
2. The term of office of the polling station commissions expires 10 days after the Central Election Commission recognizes the credentials of the newly-elected deputy.
3. The polling station commission:

   1) compiles the list of voters in the polling station;
   2) familiarizes the voter with the voter list, accepts and considers applications regarding errors in the list and resolves questions of making appropriate changes in this list;
   3) notifies the population of the day of the elections and of the voting places and issues voters with their invitations, familiarizes the interested persons with the data of the candidates registered in the constituency as well as with information published by the Central Election Commission and the corresponding constituency election commission;
   4) ensures preparation of premises for voting and all ballot boxes;
   5) organizes voting in the electoral voting division;
   6) tabulates the votes in the electoral polling station;
   7) considers applications and complaints regarding preparation of elections and organization of voting and resolves them;
   8) fulfills other duties in accordance with this Law and other acts of legislation of Ukraine.

ARTICLE 17. Organization of the Work of the Electoral Commissions

1. Session is the main form of the work of the election commissions. A session of the election commission shall be called by its Chairman and in case of his absence by the Deputy Chairman,or upon the request of no less than half of its members with the obligatory information of all members of the commission about the time and location of the session.
2. A meeting of the election commission has legal authority if no less than two-thirds of the commission attend it. Decisions shall be made by an open majority vote of those present. The vote of the Chairman is decisive when the commission has a tie vote. Decisions of the election commissions must be motivated by and contain references to concrete articles or points of legislative acts as well as to the circumstances of the issue. Members of the commission who disagree with the adopted decision may voice a separate opinion, which shall be attached to the written minutes of the meeting.
3. The session of the election commission shall be conducted by its Chairman or Deputy Chairman, and in case they are for some reason unable to carry out this function, the commission shall appoint one of its members as the Chairman for the given session.
4. The commission may adopt the decision to deprive the right to participate at the session of those persons mentioned in part 3, Article 6 of this Law if they confuse its conduct.
5. Decisions of the election commissions, if made according to their competent jurisdictions, are binding upon all participants in elections and bodies coordinating their conduct.

State, local and regional self-governance bodies as well as state enterprises, institutions, and organizations must render all assistance to election commissions in implementation of their authority.

ARTICLE 18. Appeal of Decisions and Actions of the Electoral Commissions

1. Decisions and actions of the polling station or constituency election commissions can be appealed by candidates for deputy, their agents or authorized persons, voters and other participants of the elections to the higher election commission within 10 days after such decision is made or action is committed, if not otherwise foreseen by this Law.
2. Complaints regarding the polling station commission's refusal of application regarding errors in the voter lists are submitted to the court according to the place of location of the respective election commission and are considered within 3 days by the court.
3. Decisions and actions of the Central Election Commission in the cases foreseen by this Law, can be appealed to the Supreme Court of Ukraine and are considered within a 7 day period.
4. Decisions of the judicial agencies are final.

ARTICLE 19. Legal Status of Persons Who are Members of Electoral Commissions

1. Any citizen of Ukraine, who is eligible to vote, can be a member of an election commission. He cannot stand for election as a deputy or his authorized person, or be a person, mentioned in part 3 Article 6, part 4 Article 14, part 2 Article 15, and part 1 Article 16 of this Law. The Secretary of the election commission must obligatorily speak the state language.
2. According to a decision of an election commission, which is approved by the constituency or Central Election Commission, the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Secretary and separate members of an election commission during the period of the election campaign can be exempted from work or fulfillment of duties at the main place of work. The salary for work at the election commission is determined by the average pay for the last three months taking into account indexation or base salary at the principle place of work in proportion to the time of work at the commission. The salary is paid at the principal place of work with further compensation from the state budget to the enterprise, institution, or organization.
3. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary or members of the commission can be dismissed according to one's own initiative, or by the body which approved them for the serious violation of the requirements of election laws.

CHAPTER V. LISTS OF VOTERS

ARTICLE 20. Voter Lists and Procedures for Their Compilation

1. Lists of voters in the election shall be compiled in every polling station by the polling station commission and shall be approved by the Chairman and the Secretary of the polling station commission no later than 30 days before election day. Executive bodies of the city (district in cities), village and town councils of peoples' deputies (or bodies executing this function) ensure the calculation of voters and provide to polling station commissions the necessary data of voters which live on the appropriate territory.
2. Lists of voters shall include the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, and address of every voter. The surname of the voter shall be enumerated in voter lists in an order convenient for the organization of voting. Voters are entered on the list of that electoral polling station in which territory they live.
3. Lists of voters presently serving in units of the Armed Forces, as well as their family members and also other voters residing within military districts shall be compiled from data supplied by commanders of those military units to the appropriate city council and polling station commission no later than 30 days before the election day. Servicemen who live outside military districts shall be included in the list of voters at the place of their residence in general.
4. Lists of voters in polling stations for hospitals and other stationary health-care facilities, or for vessels at sea on election day, or for representative offices of Ukraine abroad shall be compiled from data supplied by the administration of those institutions and captains of those vessels.

ARTICLE 21. The General Procedure for Including Citizens In Voter Lists

1. All citizens of Ukraine who are 18 years of age on the date of the election, who reside in the polling station at the moment of voter list compiling, and who have the right to take part in the elections shall be included in the list of voters.
2. Voters shall be included in the voter list of only one polling station.

ARTICLE 22. Publication of Voter Lists and the Procedure of Changes in the Lists

1. Voter lists shall be announced to the general public by the polling station commission no later than 15 days prior to the election day. Voting lists for polling stations in hospitals and other stationary health care facilities, for sailing vessels at sea on election day, shall be presented to the general public no later than two days prior to election day.
2. Every citizen shall have the guaranteed opportunity to acquaint himself with voter lists and to check them for errors concerning him personally on the premises of the polling station commission.
3. Every citizen has the right to file complaints about any omissions, exclusions, erroneous inclusion in the list or other errors in voter data. Complaints about the errors shall be considered by the polling station commission which must, no later than 2 days, and on the day of the election immediately, make appropriate corrections in the list or give the complainant a formal letter explaining the denial. Such a decision may be appealed to the regional (city) peoples' court no later than 5 days before the election.
4. The polling station commission no later than 10 days prior to election day shall give every voter or send by mail an invitation to vote. An invitation shall contain the following information:

   1) name, patronymic, and surname of the voter;
   2) address of the voter;
   3) name and number of constituency where the voter votes; and,
   4) the address of the polling station commission.

CHAPTER VI. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY

ARTICLE 23. Nomination of Candidates for Deputy

1. Nomination of candidates for deputy begins 90 days and ends 60 days before the election day. Parties or their election blocs participating in the election campaign after their registration by the Central Election Commission have the right to nominate one candidate in each electoral constituency through their regional branches (local cells).

   Election blocs shall be organized by groups of parties or their regional branches. An agreement on creation of election bloc, certified by signatures of all subjects which have united (Leaders of parties) shall be registered by the constituency election commission.
2. A nominee for the candidate for deputy shall be a person who meets the requirements in Article 2 of this Law.
3. In order for voters to nominate a candidate for deputy, no less than 10 voters of a given electoral constituency who reside within the boundaries of an electoral constituency in which the candidate is nominated, must sign an application thereof indicating surnames, names and patronymics, date of birth, series and number of passports and addresses of each of these voters.
4. A regional branch of a party (election bloc) nominating a candidate for deputy shall apply to the appropriate constituency election commission. This application shall indicate surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, profession (occupation), place of work and domicile, party membership of the nominee, as well as surname, name and patronymic, address and telephone number of an authorized representative of the party (election bloc) which nominated the candidate.
5. A party (election bloc) nominating a candidate for deputy shall enclose with the application:

   1) an extract from the minutes of the meeting (conference) of the regional (the Republic of Crimea, region, Kyiv and Sevastopil city) party branch (election bloc). This extract from the minutes of the meeting shall indicate the name of the party (election bloc), the address of its regional branch, the telephone number, the general number of the members of the party (parties united into an election bloc) which belong to the appropriate regional branch, the number of participants in the meeting (conference), the results of the voting and the date of the decision. Minutes shall be certified by the signatures of the chairman and secretary of the meeting (conference).
   2) a list of party members (parties united into an election bloc) which belong to the appropriate regional branch (first 100 members) with an indication of their surname, name and patronymic, dates of birth, series and number of passports and home addresses.

6. In order for a meeting (conference) of a regional branch of the party (parties united into an election bloc) to be valid, no less than two-thirds of the party membership of the regional branch of the party (parties united into an election bloc) or delegates, elected to participate in a conference and which belong to the appropriate regional branch if it has no less than 100 members of the party, must participate in the meeting. The conference must have no less than 50 delegates.
7. In order for the labor collective to nominate a candidate for deputy an application on behalf of the collective must be signed by a person authorized for that by a meeting or conference, which nominates a candidate.
8. The constituency election commission shall issue to the person authorized to represent voters, parties (election blocs), labor collectives which nominated a candidate for deputy a dated certificate confirming the reception of the application.

The constituency election commission, no later than on the third day after the reception of the application shall issue to the mentioned authorized persons a certificate on the registration of the nominee for candidate for deputy and the necessary number of subscription papers for the collection of signatures in support of the candidate.

9. A candidate for deputy, nominated by voters, party (election bloc), labor collective may be registered as a candidate for deputy if he is supported by signatures of no less than 300 voters of a given electoral constituency. In order to be registered, money in the amount of five minimal salaries shall be deposited.
10. Collection of signatures for the support of a nominee for candidate for deputy may begin from the moment the certificate confirming the registration of the nominee is issued.
11. The money deposit shall be returned to the person who deposited it if the candidate receives no less than five percent of the votes of the voters who participated in the election. A deposit not subject to repayment shall go to the state budget.

ARTICLE 24. Lists of Voters Who Support Nominees for Candidates for Deputy

1. List of voters who support a nominee for deputy shall be submitted to the constituency election commission no later than 45 days before the election day.
2. The top of every subscription paper in support of a nominee for candidate for deputy shall indicate surname, name and patronymic, of the nominee, date of birth, profession (occupation), place of work and domicile, party membership.
3. Near every signature, a person who collected them shall indicate surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, the address (as it is indicated in the passport), series and number of the passport for each person who has signed, as well as the date of his signature. Signatures shall be numbered. The subscription paper shall be signed by the person responsible for the collection of the signatures and shall include his address and telephone number.
4. A voter has the right to endorse a subscription paper in support of only one nominee for the candidate for deputy from his electoral constituency.
5. Electoral commissions have the right to check the authenticity of signatures. If the same voter has supported more than one nominee, then all his signatures are considered void. Forged signatures as well as forced signatures are not valid if the coerced voter declares so in writing. If, due to above reasons, the number of signatures is less than necessary, the authorized person shall be advised to supplement within 5 days the list of signatures of voters who support the candidate. In the event the requirement is not met, the nominee cannot be registered as a candidate for deputy. Declarations regarding signatures shall be accepted by the constituency election commission no later than the 5th day after the submission to the commission of the list of voters who support the nominee.
6. Only members of the election commissions have the right to access the subscription lists of voters in support of a nominee, and in the event of proceedings initiated in the court - judicial bodies shall have this right.

ARTICLE 25. Registration of Candidates for Deputy

1. The candidate for deputy shall be registered by the appropriate constituency election commission no later than on the 5th day after the submission of all documents necessary for registration and upon a deposit of money.
2. Decisions on registration of candidates for deputy shall be made when there are the following documents:

   1) the application signed by the leading person of the regional branch of the party (leading persons of regional branches of parties united in an election bloc) for candidates nominated by a party or an election bloc, or the application signed by the authorized person of voters for candidates nominated by voters, or the application signed by a person authorized by a labor collective for a candidate nominated by a labor collective;
   2) the list of voters who support the nominee for the candidate for deputy;
   3) the application of the candidate for deputy about his commitment to resign from the former place of work in case he will be elected as a deputy;
   4) the document which confirms the money deposit;
   5) the program of the candidate;
   6) the application about temporary suspension of a primary activity for persons foreseen in part five Article 2 of this Law;
   7) the declaration of income during the previous year, compiled according to forms, determined by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.

3. The constituency election commission shall issue a certificate to a person who submitted the aforesaid documents, with an indication of the date and time of their acceptance.
4. If submitted documents do not meet the requirements of this Law, the constituency election commission, no later than the third day of the acceptance of the documents, informs the person who submitted the documents with the purpose of their correction. The corrected documents shall be submitted to the commission no later than 40 days prior to the election day.

   The constituency election commission, no later than within 3 days after the submission of documents, shall make a decision about registration of the nominee as a candidate for deputy and shall give him the required accreditation.
5. The report on registration of the candidate for deputy shall be sent to the Central Election Commission.
6. The constituency election commission, no later than on the fifth day after the registration of the candidate for deputy (and on his request - after the opening of a bank account of his personal election fund) shall announce through radio and publish in the press the information about registration of the candidate for deputy in a given constituency, as well as about the opening of the account (with requisites), and shall explain the rights of citizens and legal entities concerning donations.

   Surnames of the registered candidates for deputy shall be numbered in the constituency election commission in accordance with the sequence of the inflow of documents, which correspond to the requirements of this Law, and shall be published in

the press no later than on the fifth day after termination of registration of all candidates.

7. One and the same person cannot be a registered in more than one electoral constituency.

ARTICLE 26. Withdrawal of Candidacy By the Candidate

1. A candidate may withdraw his candidacy at any time prior to the day of election by sending a written declaration to the constituency election commission. In such cases the candidacy shall be withdrawn from the list of candidates by the constituency election commission, and a candidate is viewed as removed from balloting in the election.
2. In case of the death of a candidate, the constituency election commission shall announce as such, and the candidate's name is withdrawn from the ballot.
3. The constituency election commission shall immediately inform the Central Election Commission about the removal of the candidate from the list. The constituency election commission shall publish in the press information about the withdrawal of candidacy by the candidates themselves no later than on the third day after the approval of the declaration, and on receiving the declaration no later than 3 days before the day of elections. It must inform the polling station commissions the same day when the declaration is received.
4. In case, when 15 days prior to the termination of the terms of registration of candidates for deputy, only one candidate for deputy is running in the electoral constituency, the constituency election commission shall inform through press and radio the voters and address them, parties (election blocs) and labor collectives with the suggestion to nominate additional candidates.
5. In case the requirements of the election legislation of Ukraine are violated by a candidate for deputy, the Central Election Commission, on submissions of the constituency election commission or on its own initiative can address the Supreme Court of Ukraine with an application to cancel the decision on registration of the candidate for deputy.

The application of the Central Election Commission shall be considered by the Supreme Court of Ukraine no later than one day before the election day.

CHAPTER VII. GUARANTEES OF ACTIVITY OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 27. Rights of Candidates for Deputy During the Election Campaign

1. The candidates for deputies from the time they are registered by the election commissions and receive credentials have equal rights during the election campaign to speak at pre-election and other meetings and conferences as well as in mass media (press, radio and TV)
2. Regional election commissions, state institutions, local and regional self-governance bodies and their officials, administration of state enterprises, establishments, and organizations must assist candidates for deputy in organizing meetings with voters, and in obtaining the required information and reference materials.
3. A candidate for deputy is not allowed to use his official position to promote his election campaign.

ARTICLE 28. The Rights of Candidates for Deputy of Free Transportation

A candidate for deputy has a right to free transportation within the appropriate electoral constituency an all kinds of transport (except taxis) upon presenting his credentials.

ARTICLE 29. Dismissal of the Candidate for Deputy From Production or Office Duties During the Election Campaign

The candidates for deputy after being registered in the constituency election commission, may be relieved, at his request, from production or office duties while keeping a salary which is the average pay for the last three months taking into account indexation of the rate of pay at the principal place of work during the time of the election campaign to permit meetings with voters, and speaking at the election meetings, and on radio and TV. The salary is paid at the principle place of work with compensation to the enterprise, institution, or organization from the state budget.

ARTICLE 30. Immunity of the Candidate for Deputy

During the election campaign, criminal proceedings cannot be instituted against a candidate for deputy, nor can a candidate be arrested or subject to administrative prosecution, without the permission of the Central Election Commission.

ARTICLE 31. The Authorized Persons of a Candidate for Deputy

1. A candidate for deputy can have not more than five persons authorized to assist him to promote his election campaign, conduct pre-election activity, represent his interests in relations with the state bodies, public associations, bodies of local and regional self-governance, election commissions, as well as voters.
2. A candidate for deputy, after being registered, may appoint these authorized persons in his own way and shall apply to the constituency election commission for their registration. The application for every nominee to serve as an authorized person must have the surname, name, patronymic, office and home address, the telephone number as well as the written confirmation of this individual to serve as an authorized person.
3. The constituency election commission shall register the authorized persons not later than three days from the time that the application was received and shall give them the required accreditation. The authorized person cannot be a member of an election commission.

4. The candidate for deputy has the right to apply to the constituency election commission at any time prior to the day of the elections to dismiss an authorized person and register another person instead. An authorized person of the candidate may resign at any time at his own request by returning the accreditation and informing the candidate for deputy about his decision.
5. Authorized persons at the candidate for deputy's request may be relieved from production or office duties during the election campaign, in order to hold meetings and other election related activity.

Authorized persons (no more than two) at the candidate's request may be relieved from production or office duties during the whole period of the election campaign.

The salary of the authorized person is paid according to the same conditions as it is paid to the candidate for deputy.

The authority of authorized persons shall begin from the day of their registration at the constituency election commission and expire after the deputy is elected.

6. The appointment of persons, who are actually in the military or in alternative (non-military) service, who are officers, ensigns, warrant officers, personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, National Guard, Security Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and other military services of Ukraine, as authorized persons and agitators is prohibited.

CHAPTER VIII. PRE-ELECTION PUBLICITY

ARTICLE 32. Forms and Means of Pre-election Campaign Publicity

1. Citizens of Ukraine, public associations, labor collectives of enterprises, establishments and organizations, and authorized persons of candidates have the right to discuss freely and comprehensively election programs of candidates for deputy, their business and personal qualities, as well as platforms of those parties and election blocs which nominated candidates for deputy and carry out campaign publicity "for" or "against" a candidate for deputy at meetings, discussions, in the press, on radio, and television.
2. Candidates for deputy and their authorized persons can hold meetings or meet their voters in any other convenient form. The constituency election commission, jointly with state bodies as well as with bodies of local self-governance, and bodies of public associations shall promote such meetings by providing premises, notifying the time and place of meetings, and carrying out other necessary arrangements.
3. Pre-election campaign publicity may be conducted in any form and through any means which do not violate the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine.

ARTICLE 33. Publications of Pre-election Campaign Publicity

1. The constituency election commission shall finance from the central election fund the publication of pre-election placards of candidates for deputy in the amount of 2000 issues for each candidate no later than 20 days prior to the day of the election.
2. To publish pre-election placards, a candidate for deputy shall submit to the regional election commission his photo (the size to be prescribed by the commission), election program (platform) in the form of a typed up to two page paper, typed in one and a half interval, as well as an autobiography (the same size) with the most essential results of labor activity, not protected by the state secrets Law, shall be elucidated no later than 35 days before the day of the election. Pre-election placards shall be free of false information or commercial advertisements. Providing the printing of the pre-election placards of the candidates, the constituency election commission shall agree on their texts with them.
3. The publication through commercial means of pre-election campaign publicity is limited by the amount available in the personal election fund.
4. Local state executive bodies and bodies of local self-governance shall provide public places and assist to equip them with stands and advertisement boards where citizens may post up their pre-election campaign materials and where publications of pre-election campaign publicity, carried out by the constituency election commission, as well as its information concerning the election campaign and candidates as foreseen by the present Law may also be posted. These bodies may decide to prohibit the placement of election placards on buildings which are architectural monuments or to prevent interference with traffic safety.
5. The candidate shall submit to the constituency election commission the samples of pre-election publicity materials, which shall be signed by him and manufactured in consent with him.

ARTICLE 34. Use of the Mass Media

1. Candidates for deputy shall have the right to use free-of-charge the state mass media, in a way of providing them with equivalent and equal in measure, time for broadcasting.

The concrete amount and time of radio and television programs for pre-election publicity shall be established by the constituency election commission in accordance with the manager of the appropriate agencies of mass media.

2. Candidates for deputy also shall have the right to publication free-of charge of the text of their election platform in the form of a typed two-page paper, in equal foliographic execution, in printed mass media (newspapers) which are founded by state executive bodies, bodies of local and regional self-governance, which are distributed in the constituency in which the candidate is running, with the exclusion of national mass media.
3. Campaign publicity in non-state mass media shall be on equal terms of payment for all candidates and is limited only by the amount of the available in the personal election fund.

ARTICLE 35. Restrictions for Conduct of Pre-election Campaign Publicity

1. During the election campaign, candidates for deputy who are employed by radio and television are prohibited from appearing on radio and television during 30 days before the elections more frequently than the time allotted to all candidates.
2. Articles about candidates for deputy who are employees of newspapers and other means of state mass media are prohibited from appearing during 30 days prior to the day of the elections more frequently than the amount allotted to all candidates for deputy.
3. The pre-election campaign publicity shall be restricted in organizations, formations and units of the Ministry of Defense, National Guard, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Committee of Frontier Protection Affairs, Secret Service and Civil Defense. Meetings of candidates for deputy with voters who are servicemen of the mentioned departments shall be organized by the constituency election commission with obligatory invitation to all registered candidates no later than three days before the meeting. From the beginning of the election campaign, visits to organizations, formations and military units by separate candidates for deputy, their authorized persons, and agitators as well as by representatives of parties and their election blocs are prohibited.

Only printed publicity materials manufactured by the constituency election commission in compliance with part one Article 33 of this Law are allowed for propagation.

4. During the last week before the election day means of mass media must abstain from publication of unverified materials compromising a candidate for deputy, a political party or election bloc.

If mass media publishes compromising material about a candidate, a political party (election bloc), the mass media must give the appropriate candidate, representative of the political party (election bloc) an opportunity to refute it within a week, but no later than one day before the elections.

5. All disputes regarding pre-election campaign publicity shall be resolved by the constituency election commission, and in case of necessity, by the Central Election Commission.
6. Campaign publicity on the day of the elections, i.e. distribution of election leaflets, posters, appeals to vote for or against candidates or boycott the elections, expressed in any form, is forbidden.

ARTICLE 36. Financing of Pre-election Campaign Publicity

1. Pre-election campaign publicity shall be financed from funds received from the state, political parties, election blocs, candidates for deputy, and donations by physical and legal entities.
2. From the election funds established by this Law, constituency election commissions shall finance time on state radio and television and the publication of election placards and election programs (platforms) in state newspapers as well as in the newspapers of local and regional self-governance bodies.
3. Along with state financing of the election campaign, candidates for deputy may use personal election funds.
4. A personal election fund shall be created from the personal money of a candidate, the funds of political parties, the donations from citizens of Ukraine, and the legal entities registered in Ukraine except legal entities with foreign investments. The amount of a personal election fund of a candidate should not exceed 100 minimal salaries.
5. Upon the written request of a candidate for deputy, the Savings Bank of Ukraine in the candidate's electoral constituency shall open an account with the signature stamp "Election Fund" in the name of the fund manager.
6. The fund manager shall receive a separate cheque for the entire sum of the election fund.
7. Control of the use of the money from the personal election fund of the candidate for deputy shall be carried out by the constituency election commission.
8. Reports about the sources of personal election funds and their use shall be published in the press within 20 days after the election.

CHAPTER IX. VOTING

ARTICLE 37. Date and Time of Voting

1. Voting shall be conducted on the day of the elections from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The polling station commission shall inform voters about the date and place of voting no later than 15 days prior to the date of the elections.
2. The polling station commission can complete voting earlier than 8:00 p.m. in polling stations for hospitals, for health care institutions, for military units, for remote areas, for vessels at sea on election day, for representative offices of Ukraine abroad, if all the voters on the list have voted.

ARTICLE 38. Voting Organization

1. For the election of deputies, every voter shall receive a ballot.
2. Voting shall be carried out in specially allocated premises, equipped with an adequate number of cabins or rooms for secret voting and with designated places for issuing ballots and placing ballot boxes. Ballot boxes shall be placed so that the voter, in approaching them, shall be required to walk through the cabins or rooms for secret voting. Entrances to cabins or rooms for secret voting, exits from them, as well as the ways from them to the ballot boxes must be within the field of vision of the members of the polling station commission and observers.
3. The polling station commission shall be responsible for organizing the voting, ensuring the secrecy of the voters' will, and supplying and maintaining the equipment of the premises. A voter can remain on the election premises only for the time necessary to vote.
4. Information about candidates for deputy, and the text of this Law shall be placed on the election premises in places accessible to voters.

5. On election day, before the voting commences, the chairman of the polling station commission, in the presence of the other members of the commission and the persons defined in part three Article 6 of this Law, shall inspect and seal the ballot boxes and after that a verification document signed by the members of the commission and the first person to appear to vote should be dropped into the ballot boxes; the document should certify the time it was dropped into the ballot box.
6. Ballots shall be issued by the polling station commission, in accordance with the list of voters for the respective polling station when a voter produces a passport or other document to establish his identity. Upon the issuance of a ballot, the ballot should be stamped with a seal or signed by the member of the polling station commission who issued the ballot. A voter shall confirm the issuance of the ballot by placing his signature on the voters list.

ARTICLE 39. Ballots

1. The ballot should contain the name of the body which is being elected.
2. Surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, party affiliation, and position (occupation) of each registered candidate for deputy should be inscribed on the ballot in alphabetical order.
3. Ballots should be printed in a state language or in languages which the population of the electoral region speak.
4. Ballots should not contain names of those candidates who were removed from balloting. In a case where the candidate was removed from balloting in the elections after the ballots were printed, the constituency election commission shall accept the decision about reprinting the ballots or striking the name of the candidate off the ballot.
5. Ballots in the territory of the electoral region must be of the same size, material, color, and content and should correspond to the form constituted by the Central Election Commission.

ARTICLE 40. Voting Procedures

1. Every voter shall vote personally. Voting for another individual is not permitted.
2. An election ballot shall be completed by the voter in a cabin or room for secret voting. The presence of any other persons while the voter completes the ballot is prohibited. A voter who cannot complete the ballot himself has the right to invite another person of his choice into the cabin or room for secret voting, except members of the election commission, candidates for deputy for the respective electoral constituency, or their authorized persons.
3. A voter can choose only one candidate or he can not leave any of them, striking the names of those candidates against whom he votes off the ballot.
4. In a case where a voter cannot personally come to the polling station due to health or serious reasons, the polling station commission, on the voter's request, shall authorize no less than three members of the commission to organize a polling station for those voters at their place of residence. An extract from the list of voters in accordance with the form of the list shall be given by the Chairman of the polling station commission to the responsible members of the commission together with the necessary number of ballots. A voter who votes at his place of residence shall confirm the receipt of the ballot by indicating so on the extract of the voter's list and votes according to the procedure established in this Law. After voting, a special mark shall be made on the list of voters at the place of residence of the voter. The extract from the list of voters shall be attached to the list of voters.

ARTICLE 41. Pre-term Elections

If the voter changes his place of residence during the period between the submission of the lists of voters for publication and election day, he can vote before the appointed time.

CHAPTER X. CALCULATING THE VOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS (VOTING)

ARTICLE 42. The Tabulation of Votes at the Polling Divisions

1. After the completion of the elections, the polling station commission on the basis of the list, shall calculate the general number of voters who participated in the elections and who received ballots.
2. The tabulation of the votes at the polling station is conducted by the polling station commission separately for each candidate for deputy.
3. During the tabulation of votes the polling station commission should follow the following procedure:

   1) after voting is finished, the election commission cancels, counts, and packs in sealed envelops the unused ballots. The name and number of the polling station and the type and quantity of unused ballots shall be indicated on the packet. The packet shall be signed by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Secretary of the commission and shall be sealed.
   2) The election commission shall determine according to main and additional voter lists, the general number of voters at the polling station and the number of voters who participated in the election (received a ballot).
   3) The Chairman of the election commission in the presence of the members of the commission shall check the integrity of on the ballot boxes and open them.
   4) The commission shall determine the general number of ballots and the number of void ballots.

   Ballots which are unidentified as well as those which have more than one candidate remaining on them, or which do not have the stamp or signature of a member of the election commission who issued it, are deemed void.

   Any doubts as to the authenticity of a ballot shall be resolved by a vote of the commission. Void ballots shall be packed into separate envelops which are sealed in such a manner that it would be impossible to remove any ballot from the envelop or add any ballot into it without damaging the seal. The name, number of the polling station, and the quantity

of the inputted ballots shall be indicated on the envelop;

5) the commission separately calculates the number of votes for every candidate. After that, ballots shall be placed into individual envelops for every candidate and sealed as stipulated in paragraph 4 part three of this Article.

6) The commission shall review at its session the results of the tabulation of the votes which are entered into the minutes of the session.

The minutes shall include:

- the name and number of the polling station;
- the total number of voters included in the lists of voters of the electoral constituency;
- the number of voters who received ballots;
- the number of voters who participated in the election;
- the number of votes "for" and the number of votes "against" each candidate;
- the number of void ballots.

The number of copies of the minutes shall be three;

7) every copy of the minutes shall be signed by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and members of the commission. The first copy of the minutes and all ballots shall be sent to the appropriate constituency election commission according to established procedure, the second and the third copies shall be kept in the polling station commission. One of these shall be immediately posted up in the premises of the commission for general information.

ARTICLE 43. The Announcement of Election Results by Regional District

1. On the basis of the reports from the polling station commissions the constituency election commission determines the general number of voters in the electoral region; the number of voters who received ballots; the number of voters who participated in the elections; the number of votes "for" and the number of votes "against" each candidate for deputy; the number of void ballots; and, a report shall be made based upon these figures.
2. The number of copies of the report should exceed by two the total number of candidates for deputy. Each copy of the report shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the commission. The first copy of the report shall be immediately sent to the Central Election Commission, the second copy shall be kept in the constituency election commission and one copy shall be sent to each candidate for deputy who was nominated in the region.
3. Elections shall be considered not to be conducted if less than 50% of the voters on the voting list of the given region participates in the election, and if all of the candidates for deputy, registered in the electoral region, withdraw their candidacy.
4. A candidate for deputy shall be deemed elected if the candidate receives more than half of the votes of the voters who participated in the voting, but not less than 25% of the total number of voters put on the lists of voters of the given region. When the number of votes are equal, the repeat voting shall be conducted.
5. The constituency election commission can announce elections void if during the course of the elections or the tabulation of votes violations of this Law have taken place which essentially changed the results of the voting.

An appeal to announce the elections void may be submitted to the constituency election commission by the subjects of the election process as well as by Procurator Offices of Ukraine before the election results in a given region are announced.

6. Election results of the constituency shall be published in the press by the constituency election commission within the terms set up by the Central Election Commission. The announcement shall include:

- the general number of voters in the constituency;
- the number of voters who received their ballots (took part in the elections) and their percent to the general number of voters in the constituency;
- the number of voters who voted;
- the number of votes "for", and the number of votes "against" each candidate for deputy;
- the number of void ballots;
- the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, profession, position (occupation), place of work and residence, party affiliation of each elected deputy, as well as who nominated the candidate for deputy.

If the elections were considered not to be conducted, or void, this information, as well as the causes for that, shall also be mentioned in the announcement.

ARTICLE 44. Registration of Deputies and Publication of the Results of the Elections

1. The Central Election Commission, no later than on the tenth day after the results of the elections have been determined, shall register the deputies and shall publish in the newspaper "Voice of Ukraine" and shall announce through television and radio the results of the elections.
2. In the announcement of the general results of the elections in Ukraine and the list of elected Peoples' Deputies of Ukraine, the Central Election Commission shall publish in the press in alphabetical order, including: the surname, name, patronymic, professional position (occupation), party membership, place of work, the residence of each elected deputy, and the constituency where he was elected.

ARTICLE 45. Temporary Identification of the Deputy

After publishing in the press the list of deputies which were registered by the Central Election Commission, the constituency election commission shall issue a temporary identification of election to each elected deputy.

CHAPTER XI. REPEAT VOTING AND REPEAT ELECTIONS OF REPLACEMENT DEPUTIES

ARTICLE 46. Repeat Voting

1. If more than two candidates for deputy were nominated in an electoral constituency and no one was elected, the constituency election commission shall decide to conduct repeat voting in the constituency for the two candidates who received the most votes, except those candidates who resigned as a nominee before the repeat voting. The constituency election commission shall inform the Central Election Commission and the voters of the constituency about such a decision. Repeat voting in a constituency shall be conducted within two weeks after the general elections and in accordance with this Law.
2. The announcement of the election results of repeat voting shall be carried out according to procedure, specified in Article 43 of this Law.

ARTICLE 47. Definitions of Elections as Void

1. The Central Election Commission may declare elections or repeat voting as void if during the course of their conduct or tabulation of votes there were violations of this Law, which have substantially influenced the results of the voting.
2. A request to declare the election void can be submitted to the Central Election Commission by entities in the election process, as well as by the bodies of the Procurator's Office of Ukraine within ten days after the day of announcement of the results of the elections by the constituency election commission.
3. Decisions of the Central Election Commission can be appealed to the Supreme Court of Ukraine, whose decision is final.

ARTICLE 48. Repeat Elections

1. Repeat elections shall be conducted in constituencies where not more than two candidates for deputy were nominated and no one of them was elected, or where elections were considered not to be conducted, or were declared void.
2. The decision to conduct repeat elections shall be made by the Central Election Commission.
3. Repeat elections shall be fixed no later than one month after the general elections. Voting shall be carried out in the same polling stations and according to the same voter lists compiled for the conduct of the general elections. The nomination and registration of candidates for deputy and other electoral procedure shall be carried out in order as determined by this Law.
4. Candidates who resigned their candidacies or who did not receive the necessary quantity of votes and were not elected in the elections which were held and recognized void cannot be nominated in repeat elections. Also, in repeat elections citizens cannot be nominated whose registration as a candidate was cancelled, citizens due to whose actions elections were declared void, as well as citizens who pleaded guilty in a court for a violation of law as indicated in part 1 Article 51 of this Law and for whom the sentence of the court has been executed.

ARTICLE 49. Conduct of Elections of Replacement Deputies

1. In those cases where deputies have been recalled or where there is a pre-term termination of the deputy's authority for other reasons, then elections must be called within four-month period from the time of the resignation in the relevant electoral constituency.

   With that, the constituency election commission shall be created 50 days before the election day, the polling station commissions within one month before the election and the registration of candidates for deputy shall expire one month before the election. Voters lists shall be presented to the general public ten days before the day of the election.
2. These elections shall be called by the Central Election Commission no later than three months prior to their conduct and shall be organized according to this Law.
3. In case the deputy resigns with less than a year left in his mandate, elections for a new deputy shall not be held.
4. The Central Election Commission may decide not to conduct repeat elections for deputy to replace resigned ones if during one year they are twice deemed void.

CHAPTER XII. FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 50. Expenditures Associated With the Elections

1. The election commissions shall cover the costs associated with the preparation and conduct of elections from the centralized electoral fund established by the Central Election Commission. The Central Election Commission has the status of a legal entity and is a manager of the centralized electoral fund. The size of this fund shall be approved by the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.
2. Citizens of Ukraine, their organizations, legal entities, registered in Ukraine, except enterprises with foreign investments as well as state bodies, institutions and organizations maintained at the expense of the state budget, can make their donations to the centralized electoral fund as well as to the electoral funds of constituency election commissions.

ARTICLE 51. Responsibility for Violations of Legislation on Elections of Ukraine

1. Persons who interfere with the right of citizens of Ukraine to freely elect or to be elected as a Peoples' Deputy of Ukraine,or who conduct election agitation by means of violence, fraud, threat or other means, or who publicly call or agitate for boycott of elections, or members of election commissions, officials from state and public bodies who forge electoral documents, deliberately miscalculate votes, or who violate the secrecy of voting, or otherwise violate this Law, shall be accountable before the law.
2. Persons who publish or otherwise distribute false information about the candidates for deputy shall also carry the appropriate responsibility.

ARTICLE 52. Restrictions on Introduction of Amendments and Changes to this Law

Changes and amendments to this Law shall be introduced no later than one year before the mandate of the current Supreme Council expires and shall take effect after the call for new elections of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine.

LAW OF UKRAINE "ON THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE"

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 1. The main principles and guidelines for the elections for President.

1. The presidential elections are to be held based upon the principles of general, equal and direct suffrage by secret voting.
2. The electoral process is conducted on the following principles: equal and free nomination opportunities for all candidates; publicity and openness; equal campaign opportunities for all candidates; equal treatment of all candidates by state bodies, institutions, organizations, institutions and bodies of local self-government; the freedom of campaigning.

ARTICLE 2. General franchise.

1. The presidential elections shall be universal. All citizens of Ukraine aged eighteen or above on election day have the right to vote.
2. For a Ukrainian citizen to be elected President, he must be at least 35 years of age on election day, have the right to vote, have lived in the country no less than 10 years (including the last 5 years) and know the state language. One and the same person can be elected President for no more than two terms of office.
3. Any preferential treatment of or discrimination against Ukrainian citizens in the electoral process based on their ethnic origin, social and property status, religious attitudes, political convictions and occupation unless provided for by law is prohibited.
4. Citizens found incompetent by the Courts may be deprived of the right to vote. Suffrage may be suspended for a certain period for persons serving prison sentences or under compulsory medical treatment.

ARTICLE 3. Equal franchise.

The Ukrainian presidential elections are held on a one-person-one-vote basis: every voter has one vote.

ARTICLE 4. Direct franchise. Secret voting.

1. The President of Ukraine is Direct elected directly by voters.
2. The voting for elections for President is secret: any control over individual voting is prohibited.

ARTICLE 5. The right to nominate candidates for President.

1. The right to nominate candidates belongs to those citizens who have the right to vote. This right is realized through political parties and electoral blocs registered in accordance with the relevant laws on citizen associations as well as through voter meetings as set forth in this law.
2. A political party, election bloc or a voter meeting may nominate only one candidate for President.

ARTICLE 6. Organization and conduct of the Ukrainian elections for President by election commissions.

The Central Election Commission for Parliamentary Elections (the CEC), constituency election commissions and polling station commissions organize and conduct the Ukrainian presidential elections.

ARTICLE 7. Publicity and openness of the Ukrainian elections for President.

1. The Ukrainian elections of President are to be prepared and conducted publicly and openly.
2. The mass media must inform citizens of decisions by state and other competent authorities regarding the elections for President within 5 days after their adoption.
3. Election commissions shall inform citizens of their membership, location and working hours, of the formation of constituencies and polling stations, make available voter lists, biographical data on presidential candidates, their election programs or those of the parties that nominated them, the form and procedure for completing the signature-collection sheets and ballots; notify citizens of the voting and general election results and provide other information as provided for by this law.
4. Election commissions work mainly in meetings. Representatives of presidential candidates or persons authorized by them, one representative from each party (election bloc) which nominated presidential candidates and non-partisan voter organized to monitor the election campaign, as well as international observers from foreign states and international organizations have the right to attend such meetings and they shall adhere to the requirements of this law.
5. The mass media shall publicize the preparation and conduct of the Ukrainian presidential elections. Its representatives are guaranteed unrestricted access to all election-related meetings and gatherings. Election commissions, state bodies and bodies of local self-government shall provide them with information on the preparation and conduct of the elections.

ARTICLE 8. Legislation on the Ukrainian elections for President.

The organization and conduct of the elections for President is regulated by the Constitution of Ukraine, this law and other relevant legislative acts.

CHAPTER II. HOW TO SCHEDULE THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 9. Types of elections and how they are scheduled.

1. Elections for President may be regular, pre-term and repeat elections.
2. The Supreme Rada of Ukraine determines the date of elections for President.

ARTICLE 10. How to set a date for the elections for President.

1. Regular elections for President are to be scheduled no later than six months before the incumbent President's term in office expires and no later than four months before the date of the elections.
2. Pre-term elections for President are to be scheduled by the Supreme Rada no later than four months prior to the date of the presidential elections.
3. Repeat elections are scheduled within the time limits set in this law.
4. Elections are to be scheduled for Sunday or other non-working day as provided for by relevant law. The Supreme Rada announces the election date via mass media.

CHAPTER III. HOW TO ORGANIZE THE ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT

ARTICLE 11. Constituencies for the elections for President.

1. The CEC creates 27 constituencies for the purpose of conducting the elections for President (one in the Republic of Crimea, one in each oblast of Ukraine and in the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol).
2. The list of constituencies, containing their designations, numbers, and constituency centers shall be published by the CEC in the press and announced in other mass media no later than 100 days before election day.

ARTICLE 12. How to form constituencies.

1. Constituencies are divided into polling stations for the purpose of voting and tabulating votes for the elections for President.
2. Polling stations are formed by constituency election commissions upon submissions from local (district, city) executive bodies or executive bodies of local self-government. For vessels at sea on election day, polling stations are formed by the above-referenced bodies having jurisdiction over the port where the vessel is registered.
3. Polling stations at Ukrainian missions abroad are formed on submissions by the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine and their place of registration shall be determined by the Central Election Commission.
4. The polling stations shall consist of 20 to 3000 voters, although in exceptional cases the number may be smaller or greater.
5. Polling stations are formed no later than 60 days before election day and in exceptional cases, no later than 5 days before the presidential elections.
6. Constituency election commissions, no later than 5 days after the formation of polling station commissions, shall notify the electorate of the polling stations in their district, cities and city-districts, the location and composition of the polling station commissions, and the location of the voting premises.

ARTICLE 13. The Central Election Commission (CEC).

The CEC is formed according to the Law of Ukraine "On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine."
The CEC:

1) organizes the preparation and conduct of the elections for President;
2) controls the implementation of the election law on the elections for President over the entire territory of Ukraine and ensures its proper application;
3) explains the procedure for application of the election law and, if necessary, turns to the Supreme Rada for its interpretation or amendment of the election law;
4) creates constituencies for the elections for President;
5) directs the activities of the constituency election commissions and polling station commissions;
6) establishes the procedure for the use of funds allocated for the elections for President and distributes them between the election commissions and the respective local councils; assists election commissions in obtaining office space, means of transportation and communication, and deals with other issues bearing on the material and technical support for the elections for President;
7) establishes the format of the ballots for the presidential elections, the voter lists, session protocols of the election commissions, other election documents, ballot boxes, seals of election commissions, and determines the procedure for the safekeeping of election documents;
8) receives reports from election commissions, ministries and official institutions, other state bodies and bodies of local self-government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of the presidential elections;
9) publishes the list of constituencies, information on the time limits for the election campaign and other materials connected with its activity;
10) registers parties and their election blocs which declare their intention to nominate a candidate for President;
11) registers presidential candidates; extends the time set for collecting signatures in support of nominees for presidential candidacy, submits relevant documents, resolves other issues connected with the registration of presidential candidates

in those circumstances which are beyond the control of nominees and other electoral entities;

12) determines the general results for the presidential elections and makes them available to the public via press and other mass media;
13) requests the Supreme Rada for the assignment of repeat voting;
14) reviews requests, appeals and complaints by citizens regarding the decisions and actions of constituency election commissions and polling station commissions (with the exception of complaints about errors in voter-lists); revokes or suspends decisions of other election commissions and makes other decisions on these issues;
15) discharges other functions in accordance with this law and other relevant acts of the Ukrainian legislature.

ARTICLE 14. Constituency election commissions for the elections for President.

1. The constituency election commissions are to be formed no later than 95 days before election day.
2. The Chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of the constituency election commission and their members are appointed by respective oblast councils, Kyiv and Sevastopol city councils and the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea. The number of commission members is to be established by the body that creates it, within the range of 11 to 30 members.
3. The constituency election commission, within 5 days after its formation, publishes information on its composition and location and provides its postal address, banking accounts to which contributions towards the election fund can be credited and provides explanations regarding the rights of citizens and other legal entities to make contributions to the above-mentioned fund.
4. The constituency election commission:

1) controls the implementation of the election law within its constituency;
2) creates polling stations, assigns numbers to them and notifies voters thereof as established by this law;
3) directs the activities of polling station commissions;
4) oversees the compilation of voter lists and their presentation to the general public;
5) registers initiative voter groups which nominate a candidate for President and issues them an appropriate certificate;
6) ensures the printing of posters with biographical data of candidates and the planks of their programs (platforms);
7) in conjunction with the appropriate council, takes part in organizing meetings of presidential candidates with voters;
8) ensures the production and supply of ballots of the approved format and invitation blanks to the polling station commissions;
9) determines the election results within its constituency, draws up a protocol and sends it to the CEC;
10) ensures the conduct of repeat voting according to the CEC decision on repeat voting for the presidential elections as well as the conduct of repeat elections as set forth in this law;
11) reviews appeals, requests and complaints about the decisions and actions of polling station commissions and resolves them;
12) discharges other functions in accordance with this law and other acts of the Ukrainian legislature.

5. Parties and election blocs which nominated a candidate may appoint one representative per party or election bloc with the right to take the floor at meetings of a constituency election commission.
6. The mandate of the constituency election commission expires ten days after the CEC has published the results of the election of the President of Ukraine.

ARTICLE 15. Polling station commissions for the elections for President.

1. Polling station commissions for the elections for President are formed by village, town, city, city-district, councils or executive bodies no later than 45 days before election day and shall consist of a Chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and 5-11 members nominated upon submissions of the chairman of the respective Council and in consideration of the suggestions made by political parties, other citizen associations, labor collectives and voters.
2. The polling station commission:

1) compiles the voter list of its polling station;
2) makes the voter list available to the public, receives and reviews complaints about errors in the voter list and decides on introducing changes therein;
3) notifies the public of the election date and the place of voting, issues invitations to the electorate, provides interested parties with information on registered presidential candidates as well as any announcements published by the CEC and the respective constituency election commission;
4) ensures the preparation of voting premises and the manufacture of ballot boxes;
5) organizes the voting at the polling station;
6) counts votes cast at the polling station;
7) reviews requests and complaints connected with the preparation and organization of voting and makes decisions on them;
8) discharges other functions in accordance with this law and other acts of the Ukrainian legislature.

3. Political parties and election blocs which nominated a candidate for President of Ukraine may appoint one representative with the right to take the floor at polling station commission meetings.
4. The mandate of the polling station commission expires ten days after the CEC has published the results of the election of the President of Ukraine.

ARTICLE 16. Legal status of election commission members.

1. Any citizen with the right to vote may be appointed to an election commission.

Nominees for President, presidential candidates and other persons mentioned in Article 7, section 4, of this law may not be members of the election commission.

The secretary of the election commission must be fluent in the state language.

2. By the decision of the election commission, subject to approval by the respective constituency election commission or CEC, the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and certain members of the election commission may be released for the time of the election campaign from their current employment while retaining their salary. The salary of the commission member is determined by averaging his indexed pay for the previous 3 months. The salary is paid at his main place of work with subsequent compensation to the enterprise, institution or organization from the state budget or through the bodies that created by the commission in question.
3. The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or any commission member may be discharged from the commission upon their request or following a serious violation of the election law, by the body which appointed them.

ARTICLE 17. How to organize the work of the election commission.

1. The election commission works mainly in meetings. The meeting is called by the commission's chairman, and in case of his absence by the deputy chairman or upon demand by no less than half the commission members with mandatory notification of all commission members of the time and location of the meeting.
2. Meetings are conducted by the chairman or his deputy. In case neither is able to preside, the commission appoints an ad hoc chairman for a particular meeting from amongst its members.
3. The decisions made during a meeting are binding if no less than 2/3 of the members are present. Decisions are made by open majority vote. If an equal number of votes is cast on both sides, the chairman's vote is deciding. The decisions of the election commission must be based upon and contain references to specific articles or sections in relevant acts of the legislature and the circumstances of the case. Commission members who disagree with the decision made may express their individual opinion in writing, this to be appended to the minutes of the session.
4. The commission may decide to deprive the persons mentioned in Article 7, section 4, of this law of the right of participation in a meeting, if they obstruct the work of the meeting.
5. The commission's decisions, if made within its authority, are binding for all electoral entities and bodies which ensure the conduct of elections.
6. State bodies, bodies of local self-government as well as state enterprises, institutions and organizations are to assist election commissions in discharging their functions.

ARTICLE 18. Appeal of decisions and actions of election commissions.

1. Decisions and actions of constituency election commissions or polling station commissions may be appealed by nominees for President, presidential candidates, their campaign agents or persons authorized by them, parties, election blocs as well as persons authorized by voter meetings which nominated a candidate for President and voters, in an appeal to a higher level election commission within ten days after such a decision or action, if not otherwise foreseen in this law.
2. Complaints about a polling station commission's refusal to correct errors in the voter list upon request are filed with the court having jurisdiction over the area where the commission is located. A decision on the case is to be made within three days.
3. Decisions and actions of the CEC may be appealed in cases provided for in this law in an appeal to the Supreme Court of Ukraine, which is to make a decision within 7 days.
4. Decisions of the courts are final.

ARTICLE 19. Voter lists.

The procedure for compilation of the voter lists, inclusion of citizens' names therein, as well as the procedure for introducing changes to the lists are determined according to Articles 20, 21, and 22 of the Law of Ukraine "On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine".

ARTICLE 20. Financial and material provision for the elections for President.

1. Expenses associated with the preparation and conduct of the presidential elections are paid from the single centralized fund for presidential elections created by the CEC. This money is part of the state budget. The size of this fund is approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Rada.
2. The Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine ensures the financial and material provisions for the presidential elections.
3. Ukrainian citizens, their associations, legal entities registered in Ukraine with the exception of enterprises with foreign investments, as well as state bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations supported from the state budget, may make contributions to the centralized fund for the presidential elections.
4. In addition to state financing, a presidential candidate may use money from his personal election fund, set up for the purpose of financing his election campaign in keeping with the procedures envisioned in this Law.

CHAPTER IV. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 21. Registration of political parties and election blocs for the elections for President.

1. Political parties and election blocs, which number no less than 1000 members, have the right to nominate a candidate for President after their registration with the CEC as participants in the presidential elections.
2. The CEC registers political parties within a week after the submission of an application by the political party's governing body signed by its authorized person. A registration certificate issued by the Ministry of Justice, as well as a document certifying the number of party members at the moment of submission, are to be attached to the application.
3. An election bloc may be formed by a group of political parties by a decision of their governing bodies as stated in Article 22 of this law. An agreement on formation of an interpartisan election bloc for the presidential elections signed by the contracting parties' authorized persons, as well as the registration certificate of those political parties issued by the Ministry of Justice confirming the number of party members at the moment of registration is to be appended to the application on behalf of the bloc signed by the leaders of the above-referenced political parties. The application constitutes grounds for registration of the said election bloc within a week's time.
4. A decision of the CEC refusing registration to a political party or election bloc may be protested by this party or election bloc's authorized representative in an appeal to the Supreme Court of Ukraine within ten days after the decision has been made.

ARTICLE 22. The procedure for nomination of a presidential candidate by a party or election bloc.

1. Nomination of nominees for President begins ninety days before election day and ends sixty days prior to election day.
2. The candidate is nominated at a political party congress, conference, general meeting or any other gathering which is the political party's highest governing body according to its statute.

   The procedure for holding a congress (conference, general meeting) is set forth in the political party's statute.
3. An election bloc nominates a candidate at an interparty conference attended by elected delegates from the said parties according to the standards of representation determined in the agreement on formation of the election bloc.
4. The conference may nominate a candidate if there are more than 2/3 of the elected delegates, but no less than 200 persons, in attendance.
5. Having nominated a candidate, a political party or election bloc files a declaration with the CEC indicating the candidate's full name, date of birth, occupation, position, place of work, residence, confirmation of his residence in Ukraine for 10 years, including the last five years, his political party membership as well as the full name, address and the phone number of the party election bloc's authorized persons.

   Attached to the declaration are:

   1) an extract from the minutes of the decision of the executive body of the political party (election bloc) on nominating a candidate;
   2) the nominee's statement confirming his agreement to run for the presidency.

6. The CEC issues the political party or election bloc's authorized person with a certificate confirming receipt of the declaration no later than 2 days after its submission bearing the date and time of submission.

ARTICLE 23. Voter meetings.

1. A voter meeting, within the time limits set forth in Article 33, section 1, of this law, if attended by no less than 500 citizens of Ukraine with the right to vote, may nominate a candidate for President. A voter meeting may be held at one's place of residence, at enterprises, institutions, organizations.

   Those initiating the meeting must notify the constituency election commission and the executive body of local self-government no less than 3 days before it is to take place. The constituency election commission may send its representative to ensure that the meeting is conducted in a lawful manner.
2. At the start of the meeting a list of participants, including their full names, dates of birth and addresses is to be drawn up. Every participant signs against his name. Minutes of the meeting are to be kept, this including information on the compilation of the list of participants at the meeting and their number, election of the presidium and its membership. The list of the participants at the meeting is to be appended to the minutes.

   One and the same person may not participate in more than one voter meeting nominating a presidential candidate.
3. By the meeting's decision to be adopted by majority vote, one initiative group of voters numbering from 10 to 25 participants is to be approved. Its individual membership is to be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

ARTICLE 24. The procedure for nominating presidential candidates by voter meetings.

1. Voters may discuss one of several nominees for nomination at voter meetings. Every participant may propose any candidate, including himself. For a candidate to be nominated at a voter meeting, no less than 2/3 of participants must vote in favor thereof.
2. The voter group files an application for registration of the candidate and application for registration of the voter group with the constituency election commission.

   In the application for registration, the data on the candidate required by Article 22, section 5, of this law is to be stated. To be appended to the application are:

1) minutes of the meeting that nominated the candidate;
2) the list of participants at the meeting;
3) the nominee's statement confirming his agreement to run for President.

In the application for registration by the voter group the full name, address, and phone number of its authorized person is to be noted.

3. The constituency election commission issues the authorized person of the voter group with a certificate confirming receipt of the application for registration of the candidate. No later than on the fifth day after the application has been received, the constituency election commission draws up a protocol certifying conformity of the submitted documents with the law and makes a decision on registration of the voter group. The said protocol, together with other requisite documents, is immediately sent to the CEC, which makes a decision on registering the candidate. A copy of the protocol and a decision on registration of the voter group are handed over to the authorized person of the voter group.

   A decision refusing registration to the voter group may be appealed by its authorized person in an appeal to the court having jurisdiction over the territory in which the constituency election commission is located.
4. The Central Election Commission reviews the minutes of the constituency election commission together with the submitted documents for registration of the candidate nominated by the voter meeting and makes a decision on registration of the candidate or refusal thereof no later than within a week's time after receipt of the protocol.
5. In the event one and the same person has been nominated by more than one voter meeting, the CEC registers the said candidate based on the minutes of the constituency election commission which arrived first. At the same time the CEC registers the voter group mentioned in those minutes as having nominated the candidate. In the case of duplicate nomination, the minutes and materials from the voters meetings for the nomination of the said candidate are reviewed by the commission and then appended to the decision on registration. The decision will contain a listing of all the meetings that nominated the candidate. The voter groups indicated in the above-referenced minutes may form support groups of a given candidate from among their members.

ARTICLE 25. Registration of a candidate for candidate for President.

1. The candidate must conform to the requirements set forth in Article 2 of this Law.
2. The CEC decides on registration of the candidate within a week's time after the registration application has been submitted by the authorized person of the party (election bloc) or the protocol of the constituency election commission has arrived in accordance with section 4, Article 24 of this Law. Thereupon it issues the authorized person of the party (election bloc) or the initiative group of voters with a certificate confirming the registration of the candidate and a standard signature collection sheet.
3. The candidate may be registered as a candidate if his candidacy is supported by the signatures of no less than 100,000 Ukrainian citizens with the right to vote. The 100,000 must include no less than 1500 citizens in 2/3 of the total number of the constituencies.
4. The candidate, persons authorized by him, by the party or by the voter group have the right to receive signature sheets directly from the respective constituency election commission, this right to be confirmed by an appropriate certificate issued by the CEC. The CEC may also grant nominees the right to make copies of blank signature sheets themselves.

ARTICLE 26. The signature sheet.

The format of the signature sheet is approved by the CEC and must contain columns to contain the following data: the number of the signature, full name of the voter, his date of birth, permanent address, passport number or that of any other document verifying his identity, the voter's signature as well as any other data required by Article 2, section 1 of this law.

ARTICLE 27. Procedure for collecting voter signatures in support of the candidate for President.

1. Voters authorized to collect signatures in support of the candidate must indicate on the signature sheet the following data: full name of the candidate, his date of birth, profession, occupation, employment, permanent address, party affiliation as well as the collector's own full name, home address and phone number. Beside every signatory the signature-collector must enter the signatory's data, as provided for by Article 26 of this Law. The signature sheet is to be signed by the signature-collector.
2. An individual signature sheet should contain the signatures of residents of only one city (town, village).
3. A voter may support only one candidate with his signature.

   Election commissions have the right to check the validity of signatures. If one and the same voter supported more than one candidate, all his signatures are considered invalid. Signatures that have been forged or collected under duress, are also invalid, the latter to be ascertained in a written complaint by the voter.
4. Signature sheets are submitted to the respective constituency election commission for registration no later than 50 days before election day. The constituency election commission may issue a certificate confirming registration of the signature sheets that have been submitted upon request.

   Having ascertained that the signature sheets have been completed in accordance with the requirements of this law, the constituency election commission is to draw up a protocol to this effect within 5 days and no later than the next day, send them together with the protocol to the CEC. The procedure for determining whether the signatures have been collected in a lawful manner is established by the CEC.
5. If it is determined that submitted signature sheets have not been completed in conformity with the law, the constituency election commission notifies the persons who submitted them of its decision no later than within 3 days after their receipt.

Corrected or additional signature sheets are to be submitted to the CEC not later than 45 days before election day.

6. The CEC draws up a separate protocol for each candidate, which reflects his support among the electorate as shown by the signatures collected, and makes it available to the candidate or the party's (election bloc's) authorized person, or the authorized person of the voter group within 2 days.

The constituency election commissions are to provide the candidate with information on the number of signatures received in his support upon his written request.

7. Only constituency election commission members have the right of access to the lists of voters supporting a particular candidate or in the event the case is brought to court, entities participating in the judicial process.

ARTICLE 28. Registration of presidential candidates.

1. Registration of candidates for President is granted by the CEC no later than 5 days after all the required documents have been submitted.
2. The CEC decides on registration of presidential candidates if the following documents have been submitted:

   1) the application by the party's governing body which nominated the contender signed by the authorized person of this body (leaders of the parties making up the bloc) or an application by a voter group registered with the CEC as stipulated in Article 24, section 5 of this law on registration of the presidential candidates;
   2) signature sheets with the required number of signatures in support of the contender;
   3) the CEC protocol on results of the signature collection by voters in support of their contender;
   4) a declaration by the candidate stating his agreement to run for presidency;
   5) the nominee's program;
   6) the nominee's income statement for the previous year drawn up in accordance with the requirements established by the Ministry of Finance.

The above-mentioned documents (with the exception of those covered by items 2 and 3) should be submitted to the CEC no later than 40 days before election day.

3. The person who submitted the required documents is issued no later than on the next day a CEC certificate bearing the date and time when the documents were received. If the documents do not conform to the requirements of this law, the CEC should notify the person who submitted them within 3 days. The corrected documents should be submitted to the CEC no later than 35 days before election day.
4. The CEC makes a decision on registration of a candidate as a candidate for President within a week's time upon submission of all the documents, including corrected ones, mentioned in section 2 of this Article.

   Registration of candidates is to be completed no later than 30 days before election day.
5. Within 2 days after registration, the CEC issues the candidate with an appropriate certificate.
6. The names of the registered candidates are numbered by the CEC in the order in which the documents have been received. No later than on the 5th day after the registration process is over, the CEC publishes in the press and announces in the mass media the list of presidential candidates with the indication in the order of registration their full names, year of birth, occupation, party affiliation, place of work and residence, and the number of his banking account set up to receive contributions toward his personal election fund.
7. The CEC's refusal to register a candidate as a candidate for President may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Ukraine by the entities which nominated him. The Supreme Court makes a decision on the case within 3 days. The Supreme Court's decision is final.
8. A decision on the registration of the presidential candidate may be revoked by the Supreme Court upon receipt of a request to do so from the CEC, the party election bloc's authorized person or the initiative group of voters which nominated him.

ARTICLE 29. Income statement of a presidential candidate.

1. The income statement of a candidate for President is completed according to the standard established by the Ministry of Finance. The candidate completes the statement and is responsible for the accuracy of the information given.
2. The CEC may request appropriate state bodies to review the income statement. If they find it contains any deliberately falsified information or anything deemed to be a grave violation of relevant laws, this is grounds to refuse registration of the candidate as presidential candidate. In case such facts are discovered after registration is granted, the CEC may appeal to the Supreme Court to invalidate the registration of the candidate in question in keeping with the procedure set forth in Article 28 of this Law.
3. Voters have the right of access to the income statements of the candidates for President. By the decision of the CEC income statements of all candidates are published in the newspaper "Holos Ukrainy".

ARTICLE 30. Withdrawal of presidential candidates from the ballot

1. A presidential candidate may withdraw his candidacy any time, having filed an appropriate written declaration with the CEC. In this case his name is crossed out from the list of candidates by the CEC.
2. In case of a candidate's death the CEC considers him to have withdrawn from the election, and his name is crossed out from the list of presidential candidates.
3. In case a presidential candidate violates relevant election laws, the CEC may appeal to the Supreme Court to invalidate the registration of the candidate in question.

If the Supreme Court of Ukraine decides to invalidate a registration, that candidacy shall be removed from the list of candidates for President of Ukraine and the candidate is regarded as having been removed from the voting.

The CEC conveys information on the candidate's withdrawal to constituency election commissions, publishes it in the press and announces it via other mass media within 5 days after the decision has been made, but no later than 1 day before the elections.

CHAPTER V. CAMPAIGNING

ARTICLE 31. Conduct of pre-election campaign publicity by the candidates for President.

1. The person receiving the candidate's registration certificate has the right to conduct the candidate's election campaign.
2. The rules for campaigning are set forth in Article 32 of the Law of the Ukraine "On Election of People's Deputies of Ukraine".
3. The CEC, acting through constituency election commissions, ensures the production of campaign posters of presidential candidates for each candidate no later than 20 days prior to the election. The number of copies is to exceed the number of polling stations within a given constituency by 8000. The production expenses are paid from the centralized fund for presidential elections. The above-referenced posters may be manufactured in a greater number at the expense of the candidate's personal election fund and from the materials provided by him if he makes an appropriate request.

To ensure the timely manufacture of campaign posters, a candidate's photos of the approved standard, his platform (program), an autobiography running for 4 pages of a printed one-and-a-half-spaced text are to be submitted to the CEC together with the candidate's registration documents, no later than on the second day after registration to the constituency election commissions. These materials may not contain information which contains secrets protected by the law, false information, instigation of violence or commercial advertising. The CEC and constituency election commissions review the submitted materials, and if they conform with this law, agree with the candidate on the text of his campaign poster and ensure its printing.

4. Each candidate can produce additional campaign materials at his own expense and within the limits of his personal election fund at his own discretion. Information provided in the above-referenced materials should conform with this law, and their texts must be approved before printing by the respective constituency election commission.
5. Local executive state bodies and bodies of local self-government set out campaign-advertising areas and boards in public places, ensure that appropriate materials manufactured by respective constituency election commissions are posted on them as well as announcements published by them pertaining to the campaigning and presidential candidates as envisioned by this law. They may forbid to place such materials on certain buildings which are architectural monuments or for reasons of traffic safety.
6. Restrictions with regard to campaigning are set forth in Article 35 of the Law of Ukraine "On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine" with the exception of section 3 of that article.

ARTICLE 32. Using state mass media for the purposes of campaigning.

1. Presidential candidates are granted the right to use state mass media free of charge by providing them with equal and commensurable time on the air on the state radio and TV and local mass media within a given constituency.

The extent and time of radio and TV programs allotted for the campaigning purposes of presidential candidates is set at a national level by the CEC and on the constituency level by constituency election commissions acting in agreement with the managers of local mass media.

2. Presidential candidates have a right to place the text of their program of no more than 2 pages in print mass media founded by state bodies of authority.
3. Election commissions pay for the campaign time on state radio and TV, the printing of election posters and publication of programs (platforms) of presidential candidates in print mass media founded by local bodies of state authority and self-government from the finances allocated for the elections from the centralized fund for presidential elections.
4. Spending for the campaign in other print mass media (newspapers) and non-state mass media is limited to the size of the candidate's personal fund, the terms of payment being equal for all candidates.

ARTICLE 33. The presidential candidate's personal fund.

1. Each candidate for President may have a personal fund. The personal fund is formed from the candidate's personal resources, finances of political parties, contributions from Ukrainian citizens, legal persons registered in Ukraine with the exception of state enterprises, state bodies, institutions and organizations, bodies of local self-government as well as foreign citizens and legal persons and enterprises with foreign investments. Any agreements or contracts between a contributor and a candidate, party (election bloc) with regard to money to be credited to the candidate's personal fund, are invalid.
2. The size of the candidate's personal fund may not exceed 10,000 minimal salaries.

   The size of contributions from one legal or physical person may not exceed 100 minimal salaries.
3. Following a written request from the presidential candidate, the Bank of Ukraine in the area of the CEC must open an account in his name under the heading "The election fund".
4. Election commissions, financial institutions and banks with which the account was opened control the contributions to and expenditures from the presidential candidate's personal election fund. Upon the candidate's request, the bank gives him full information on the size and sources of contributions to his personal election fund.
5. When the contributions to the candidate's personal fund reach the maximum set by the law, the CEC notifies voters thereof via mass media within 3 days.

6. The candidate, as well as his entrusted and authorized persons, are prohibited from obtaining or spending their own money for campaigning purposes outside the candidate's personal fund.
7. Citizens' participation in the election campaign is not considered as paid employment even if it involves the expenditure of personal finances or work on a civic basis in the time free from principal employment.
8. If contributions are made to the candidate's personal election fund by a physical or legal person who in accordance with this law does not have the right to make such contributions and also in cases of anonymous contributions made through other persons, or if the contributor's address is absent, these contributions are credited to the centralized fund for the presidential elections.
9. Money or that part of it which was contributed to the candidate's fund beyond the limits imposed by this law, is to be returned to the contributor.
10. Money remaining in the candidate's personal fund after his election as President of Ukraine or withdrawing from the election is credited to the centralized fund for presidential elections.
11. If a candidate who was not elected at the presidential election and if the elections were determined invalid or as such that had not take place is registered as a presidential candidate for repeat elections, he has the right to dispose of the funds remaining in his personal election fund on condition that the grounds on which the elections were invalidated are not attributable to the candidate's actions or those of his campaign agents or authorized persons.
12. A candidate may refuse to accept the money that came from a contributor. In such a case, he files a declaration to this effect with the institution where the account for his personal election fund was opened. This money is then returned by the above-referenced institution to the contributor at his expense and is not counted towards the maximal permissible size of the candidate's personal election fund.
13. In the event that a presidential candidate violates the requirements of this law with the regard to financial or material support, he may be removed from the ballot as stipulated by this law.

CHAPTER VI. GUARANTEES FOR THE ACTIVITY OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 34. The presidential candidate's rights in the conduct of the election campaign.

1. Presidential candidates, from the time of their registration by the CEC, take part in the election campaign on an equal basis and have equal rights to the use of state mass media on the territory of Ukraine.
2. All registered candidates for President are provided with equal opportunities regarding material and financial provision of their participation in the elections.
3. Registered candidates for President, during the time of the election campaign, have the right to be released from their current employment. Their compensation equals their average salary at their place of work, this to be paid from the funds allocated for the elections.
4. Presidential candidates have the right to travel using all means of public transportation free of charge on the territory of Ukraine with the exception of taxi.
5. Presidential candidates may not be dismissed from their place of work at the time of the election campaign or demoted (promoted) without their consent.
6. Presidential candidates may not be charged with any criminal or administrative violations without the consent of the CEC.

ARTICLE 35. Campaign agents (entrusted persons) of the presidential candidates.

1. The presidential candidate may have up to 30 campaign agents who help him in the conduct of his election campaign, campaign for his election as President, represent his interest in dealings with state bodies, bodies of local self-government, citizen associations, voters and election commissions.
2. The presidential candidate chooses his campaign agents at his discretion and informs the CEC of his choices which upon registration issues them with an appropriate certificate. The presidential candidate has the right to replace any of his campaign agents at any time.
3. The registered campaign agents may be released from their current employment for the time of the election campaign. Their pay will equal the average monthly salary at their permanent place of work. Compensation to their enterprises and expenses for their business trips within Ukraine is covered from the funds allocated for the elections.

ARTICLE 36. Participation of campaign agents and other electoral entities in the work of election commissions.

1. Campaign agents of presidential candidates and other persons mentioned in Article 7, section 4 of this law take part in the meetings of election commissions, during the registration of presidential candidates, voting, the vote count at the polling station, the tabulation of election results within a constituency and the announcement of the results of the presidential elections. The mandates of the aforementioned representatives are established in keeping with the procedure set forth in this law, and are certified by an appropriate document. The said persons may not interfere with the work of election commissions.
2. In case the persons mentioned in section 1 of this Article observe any violations of election laws, they have the right to produce a written declaration to this effect to be signed by the person (persons) who observed out the violations and voters who witnessed the violations and appeal to an appropriate election commission to resolve the violations mentioned. The act and the declaration are to be registered with the commission.

ARTICLE 37. Liability for violations of the Presidential Election Law.

1. Persons who in any way inhibit the rights of Ukrainian citizens to vote and be elected President of Ukraine, and conduct the campaign by way of violence, threats of violence, fraud or otherwise, publicly call for or incite the boycott of elections, as well as members of election commissions or civil servants who forge election documents, deliberately miscount the ballots, violate the secrecy of voting or commit any other violation of this law are legally responsible for their deeds.
2. Persons who publish or circulate deliberately falsified information about a presidential candidate shall be accountable for their deeds.

CHAPTER VII. THE CONDUCT OF BALLOTING AND TABULATION OF GENERAL RESULTS AT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 38. The ballot.

The format and text of the ballot for the presidential elections is established by the CEC.

The ballot must conform to the requirements set in Article 39 of the Law of Ukraine "On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine".

ARTICLE 39. The organization of voting and the order of counting the ballots at the polling stations.

The time and place, the organization of and procedure for voting and the vote count, and the terms under which early voting takes place are set in the Law of Ukraine "On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine".

ARTICLE 40. Tabulation of election results within a single constituency.

The results within a single constituency are tabulated in keeping with the procedure established in Article 43, sections 1 and 2 of the Law of Ukraine "On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine", the right of candidates as to receive copies of the protocol to be drawn up by the constituency election commission excepted. The number of copies of the above-referenced protocol is established by the CEC.

ARTICLE 41. Determination of the general results of the presidential elections.

1. The CEC, based on the protocols of constituency election commissions, determines the general election results no later than one week after the elections.
2. For the presidential elections to be considered valid, more than 50% of the voters on the voter list must participate in the elections.
3. The elections are considered invalid if 50% or less of the voters on the voters list participate, as well as in the case when all registered candidates withdraw.
4. A candidate is considered legitimately elected President if he receives more than 50% of the votes of the electorate which participated in the elections.
5. The presidential elections will be considered invalid if during the process, violations took place which substantially affected the outcome of the elections.
6. The announcement of general results of the presidential elections are published by the CEC within 3 days from the moment the final protocol is signed.

ARTICLE 42. Repeat voting

1. If more than 2 candidates were listed on the ballot and none of them was elected, the CEC organizes repeat voting between the 2 candidates receiving the greatest number of votes, excepting those candidates who withdrew after the first round. If as a result of withdrawals only one presidential candidate remains, the repeat voting will take place with only this one candidate running.
2. Repeat voting takes place within two weeks after election day and in keeping with the requirements of this law. The date of the repeat voting is published in the press.
3. The candidate is considered legitimately elected President if, as a result of the repeat voting, he received more votes than the other candidate and on condition that the votes cast for him exceed those cast against him. If in the repeat voting there is only one candidate running, he is considered elected President of Ukraine if the majority of the voters who took part in the elections voted for him.

ARTICLE 43. Invalidation of the presidential election results.

1. An appeal to invalidate the presidential election results may be lodged with the CEC by presidential candidates, authorized persons of the parties (election blocs) who nominated presidential candidates, as well as by the Prosector General of Ukraine within 10 days after the election results have been published by the CEC.
2. A decision to invalidate the election results is made by the CEC. This decision may be appealed by persons mentioned in section 1 of this Article in an appeal to the Supreme Court of Ukraine within 10 days after it was published.

ARTICLE 44. Repeat elections.

1. If during the presidential election two presidential candidates ran and none of them was elected, or in case the elections were considered not to have taken place or their results were invalidated, or if President was not elected as a result of repeat voting, the CEC requests the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, within 10 days after the election results have been announced, to

schedule repeat elections whereby new candidates will be nominated.

2. The Supreme Rada shall schedule repeat presidential elections within 2 months from the date of the general elections.
3. Nomination and registration of candidates for President and other activities related to the conduct of repeat presidential elections are carried out according to the procedure set forth in this law. By the decision of the CEC, repeat elections may be conducted by the previously formed constituency election commissions and polling station commissions.
4. Announcements regarding the conduct of repeat presidential elections are published in the press and made via other mass media.

ARTICLE 45. Certification of the elected Ukrainian President.

The CEC shall issue the elected candidate a certificate confirming his election as President of Ukraine.

LAW OF UKRAINE "ON THE ELECTION OF DEPUTIES AND CHAIRPERSONS OF VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP, DISTRICT (RAYON), MUNICIPAL, CITY DISTRICT (RAYON) AND REGIONAL (OBLAST) COUNCILS"

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1. Basic Principles of Elections

1. The elections of deputies and chairpersons of local Councils (except for chairpersons of city district (rayon) councils) shall be free and carried out in accordance with universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. The term of deputies and chairpersons of Councils shall be for four years.
2. The electoral process shall be based upon principles of free and equal nomination of candidates for deputies as well as candidates for the offices of chairpersons of Councils (hereinafter referred to as candidates); publicity and openness, equal possibilities for every candidate in conducting an electoral campaign; unbiased attitude toward candidates on the part of state bodies, local self-government authorities, establishments and organizations and local authorities; freedom of campaigning.
3. Deputies shall be elected by voters in single-mandate constituencies.
4. Council chairpersons shall be elected by the voters residing in the territory of respective administrative-territorial divisions within a single territorial constituency. The chairpersons of city district [rayon] Councils shall be elected by respective Council from among the deputies of these Councils.

ARTICLE 2. Universal Suffrage

1. The elections of deputies shall be universal: citizens of Ukraine aged 18 or more on election day who qualify as voters under law shall have the right to vote.
2. A citizen of Ukraine aged 18 or more on the election day, who has right to vote and permanently resides or works on the territory of the respective Council, may be elected a Council Deputy.
3. A citizen of Ukraine who has the right to vote may be elected chairperson of the Council, provided that a person at least 30 years old may be elected a chairperson of the regional [oblast], Kyiv and Sevastopol city councils, and persons at least 25 years old may be elected chairpersons of all other Councils.
4. Any restrictions, other than expressly stated by this Law, either direct or indirect, imposed on voting rights of the citizens of Ukraine in connection with their origin, social and property status, race and nationality, sex, education, language, religion, political views, and duration of permanent residence in the territory of the respective Council, or occupation, shall be prohibited.
5. Citizens found incompetent by court shall have no right to vote. The exercise of voting rights shall be suspended, for a certain period of time, for individuals serving a sentence of imprisonment as well as those who are undergoing compulsory medical treatment.
6. A citizen may be a deputy or chairperson of only one Council.

ARTICLE 3. Equal Suffrage

The election of Council deputies and chairpersons shall be equal: the voters shall take part in the election on an equal basis. In an election of deputies, a voter shall have one vote in each constituency on the territory of which he/she resides, and in an election of Council chairpersons - one vote to elect a chairperson of each Council on the territory of which he/she resides.

ARTICLE 4. Direct Suffrage

The election of Council deputies and chairpersons (except for chairpersons of city district [rayon] councils) shall be direct: Council deputies and chairpersons shall be elected directly by citizens.

ARTICLE 5. Secret Ballot

Council deputies and chairpersons shall be elected by secret ballot; any control over the will of voters shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE 6. The Conduct of Elections

Elections of Council deputies and chairpersons shall be organized by election commissions which are created and act in accordance with this Law.

ARTICLE 7. The Right to Nominate Candidates

Citizens of Ukraine who have the right to vote shall have the right to nominate candidates for Council deputies and chairpersons. The right shall be exercised either through assemblies (meetings) of citizens in their respective areas of residence or through political parties and their election blocs (hereinafter referred to as "parties"), public organizations registered in accordance with effective law and work collectives in compliance with the procedure set forth herein.

ARTICLE 8. Openness of the Preparation and Conduct of Elections

1. Elections shall be prepared and held openly and publicly.
2. The Councils shall make public their decisions concerning the number of constituencies for the elections of deputies, establishment of polling stations, election commissions and their composition not later than on the fifth day following their formation.

3. The election commissions shall inform citizens about their location and working schedule, the establishment of electoral constituencies, and their voters lists. The election commissions shall notify voters on registered candidates, the results of ballot counts, the outcome of elections, and the confirmation of powers of deputies elected.
4. Pursuant to the decision of respective election commissions, at meetings of election commissions as well as at polling stations during voting and vote counting, one representative of parties, public organizations, work collectives and meetings of voters having nominated a candidate, and authorized persons of candidates shall have the right to be present. Only persons permanently residing or working in the territory of the respective Council can be such representatives.
5. The powers of such representatives shall be confirmed by a corresponding document issued by the bodies of parties, public organizations, meeting of work collectives or meeting of voters.
6. Official observers from other countries and international organizations can be present at election campaign events specified by this Law.
7. Any interference by representatives with the work of election commissions and voting shall be prohibited. In the event of a violation of this provision, the election commission may deprive such representative of the right to be present at meetings of the commission or at polling stations during voting or vote counting.
8. The mass media shall publicize the preparations for the election and the election itself. The media shall be assured free access to all electoral events. The election commissions, state and self-government bodies shall provide them with information on the preparation and conduct of the election.

CHAPTER II. THE PROCEDURE AND SCHEDULE OF CALLING OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 9. The Types of Elections and the Procedures for Calling Them

1. The elections of deputies may be either regular or repeated, as well as election of Council deputies and chairpersons in lieu of those who have resigned. In specific cases provided for by the law, deputies for certain Councils may be elected in an early election.
2. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall be responsible for making decisions on the regular election of deputies as well as the holding of early (extraordinary) election.
3. Decisions on holding the election of chairpersons of certain Councils instead of those who have resigned shall be made by respective Councils.
4. Decisions on the holding of repeated elections of Council deputies or chairpersons, as well as elections of deputies in lieu of those who have resigned, shall be made by respective village, township, district [rayon], municipal city district [rayon] and regional [oblast] election commission.

ARTICLE 10. Time Limits for Calling of Elections

1. The regular elections of Council deputies and chairpersons shall be fixed no later than three month before the expiration of the powers of Council deputies and chairpersons.
2. Early and repeated elections, as well as elections of Council deputies in lieu of those who have resigned and chairpersons of individual Councils shall be fixed within the time limits stipulated herein.
3. The elections shall take place on Sundays or any other non-working day stipulated by law.
4. The body which has called the elections shall announce the election date through the mass media no later than on their third day after the decision.

CHAPTER III. ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES AND DISTRICTS (RAYON)

ARTICLE 11. The Formation of Constituencies

1. Electoral constituencies shall be formed to elect Council deputies.
2. The corresponding Council shall define the number of constituencies to elect deputies to regional [oblast], district [rayon], municipal, city district [rayon], township and village Councils no later than eighty-five days before the election day; the number of constituencies may not exceed:

   1) for township and village Councils with populations up to 3 thousand - 15, above 3 thousand - 20;
   2) for district [rayon] Councils with populations up to 50 thousand - 20, above 50 thousand - 30;
   3) for municipal and city district [rayon] Councils in cities with populations of up to 100 thousand - 25, above 100 thousand - 30;
   4) for municipal councils of cities with district [rayon] division with populations up to 500 thousand - 50, above 500 thousand - 75;
   5) for regional [oblast] Councils with populations of up to 1,5 million - 60, above 1,5 million -75.

3. Electoral constituencies shall be formed no later than eighty-five days before election day by the representative village, township, district [rayon], municipal, city district [rayon] and regional [oblast] election commissions with due attention to the administrative-territorial division and the aim of keeping an approximately equal number of voters per constituency.
4. Lists of constituencies with their names, boundaries and centers as well as the numbers of voters therein shall be made public by respective territorial election commissions not later than on the third day following their formation.

ARTICLE 12. The Formation of Electoral Districts [rayon]

1. The territories of district [rayon]s, cities of regional [oblast] subordination, and city district [rayon]s shall be divided into polling stations for voting and calculating votes during the elections of Council deputies and chairpersons. Polling stations shall be also set up at military units.
2. The polling stations which belong to the constituencies according to their location or the ship's port of registration may be set up at hospitals and other in-patient medical centers, difficult-access areas, or aboard ships at sea on election day.
3. The polling stations shall be formed by the respective district [rayon], city (cities and towns of regional [oblast] subordination without district [rayon] division), or city district [rayon] council. The polling stations shall be set up by the respective city Council (or its executive body), township and village Council to run the election instead of the resigned deputies and Chairpersons of village, township, and city (cities and towns of district [rayon] subordination) Councils.
4. The polling stations shall be set up no later than 50 days before election day. Within military units, difficult-access areas, and aboard ships at sea on election day, the polling stations shall be formed in the same time frame, and as an exception no later than 5 days before the election date.
5. The polling stations shall be established where the electorate body ranges from 20 to 3,000 voters, and in exceptional cases, with a higher or lower number of voters.
6. The Council (or its executive body) responsible for setting up polling stations, on agreement with territorial election commission, shall endorse a single numeration within the boundaries of a district [rayon], a city or town of regional [oblast] subordination, city district [rayon].

CHAPTER IV. ELECTION COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 13. The System of Election Committees

1. The following election commissions shall be established to elect Council deputies and chairpersons:

   - village, township, district [rayon], municipal, city district [rayon] and regional [oblast] hereinafter - territorial) election commissions on the election of Council deputies and chairpersons;
   - constituency election commissions on the election of deputies to regional [oblast], Kyiv and Sevastopol City Councils; constituency election commissions may be established to elect the deputies of district [rayon], city (cities and towns of regional [oblast] subordination), city district [rayon] Councils;
   - polling station commissions.

2. The constituency election commissions shall not be established in the constituencies to elect the deputies and chairpersons of city (cities and towns of district [rayon] subordination), township, and village Councils. The respective territorial election commissions shall be granted the powers of the above constituent election commissions on the election of the deputies to district [rayon], city (cities and towns of regional [oblast] subordination), and city district [rayon] Councils.

ARTICLE 14. The Establishment of Territorial Election Commissions

1. The territorial election commissions shall be set up by the representative Council and shall be comprised of the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and 6-12 commission members, considering the suggestions of bodies (local organizations) of parties, public organizations, labor collectives which are effective on its territory, no later than on the eighty-fifth day preceding the election day.
2. The bodies (local organizations) of parties, public organizations, labor collectives, electorate meetings by request of the respective Council and due to the terms fixed, render to the Council their petitions on the representatives to the territorial election commission, and said petitions shall be considered by the Council.
3. The territorial election commission shall inform its electorate on its location, working schedule and its bank account for donations to the election commissions' fund, clarify the right of citizens and legal entities to donate to this fund, in a 5-day period from the day it has been established.
4. The term of office of the territorial election commissions shall be 4 years.

ARTICLE 15. The Powers of the Territorial Election Commissions

1. The territorial election commissions shall have the power to:

   1) take control over the observance of this Law and provide its just application, and provide explanations and clarifications with respect to the procedure of the application of this Law;
   2) set up constituencies to elect the deputies to the respective Council and number them;
   3) direct activities of the constituency election commissions and polling station commissions responsible for the election of respective Council chairpersons and deputies;
   4) audit expenditures appropriated for the conduct of the election, distribute costs among election commissions; provide election commissions with premises, transportation, means of communication and deal with other electoral provisional tasks;
   5) hear reports of the constituency and polling station commissions responsible for the election of the respective Councils chairpersons and deputies, local bodies of state power and self-government on preparing and conducting the election;
   6) register candidates for the Council Chairperson, their authorized persons and issue their respective certificates;

7) inform voters of the reports on the composition of the registered candidates;
8) approve the text of the ballot for the election of the Chairperson of the respective Council, ensure printing and delivery ballots to polling station commissions;
9) tabulate the results of elections in the respective territory, entitle the deputies-elect with their powers, issue their respective certificates, inform the Council and population of the election results;
10) resolves questions regarding the organization and conduct of repeat voting for the Chairpersons of Council and re-electing deputies and Chairpersons of Council;
11) consider the issues concerning the cancellation of the decision to register candidates for deputy as well as candidates for Chairperson of Council in cases mentioned in this law;
12) decide on recalling deputies and Chairperson of Council;
13) organize the election of the deputies in the event of Council's dissolution, self-dissolution, schedule and organize the election in any other cases of pre-term cessation of powers of deputies;
14) arrange the election of the Chairperson of Council either in the event of his/her recall by the electorate or in any other cases of his/her pre-term cessation of powers of the Chairperson of Council envisaged by the Law;
15) consider statements and complaints against the decisions and actions of the constituency and polling station commissions, abolish decisions of the commissions, or make other decisions.
16) commissions carry out other powers according to this Law and other Laws of Ukraine;

2. In addition, the territorial election commissions while being empowered by a constituency election commission shall:

1) compile the voter list and present it to the public;
2) register candidates to the deputies and their authorized persons and issue their respective credentials;
3) authorize the text of the ballot to elect the deputies of the respective Council, provide for printing ballots and supplying the station election commissions with them;
4) tabulate candidate's election results around the constituency;
5) organize conduct of repeat voting.

ARTICLE 16. The Formation of Constituency Election commissions

1. The constituency election commissions shall be formed by the respective Council or its executive body, considering the proposals by the bodies (local organizations) of parties, public organizations, labor collectives effective on the territory of the constituency, consisting of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson, a secretary and 4-8 commission members no later than on the 75th day preceding the election day.
2. The bodies (local organizations) of parties, public organizations, labor collectives, electorate meetings by request of the respective Council, shall submit proposals to the Council on the composition of representatives to the constituent election commission on the deadline fixed by the Council, the proposals shall be considered by the Council or its executive body while the commission is being set up.
3. The constituent election commission shall notify its electorate about its location and working schedule in a 5 day-period following the day it was set up.
4. The terms of powers of the constituent election commission shall be terminated after the determination by a respective territorial election commission of powers of elected deputies to Council and the Chairperson of the Council.

ARTICLE 17. The Powers of the Constituency Election commissions

The Constituency election commissions shall have the power to:

1) take control over the observance of this Law on the territory of the constituency;
2) administer powers envisaged in part II of Article 15 of this Law;
3) consider matters concerning the cancellation of the decision on the registration of the deputies in cases envisaged by the Law;
4) organize the conduct of repeat voting and repeat elections, as well as election of the deputies in the event of Council's dissolution and self-dissolution and in any other cases of pre-term termination of powers of some deputies envisaged by the law;
5) consider statements and complaints about decisions and activities of the polling station election commissions and make further decisions about them;
6) carry out any other powers according to this law.

ARTICLE 18. The Institution of the Polling Station Commissions

1. The polling station commissions shall be formed by the respective village, city, district (rayon) city Council or its executive body consisting of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson, a secretary and 5-11 commission members not later than 45 days before the election starts, taking into account the proposals by the local organizations of parties, public organizations, labor collectives effective on the territory of these Councils, electorate meetings.
2. The local organizations of parties, public organizations, labor collectives and voter meetings by request of the respective Council shall submit proposals to the Council concerning the representatives into the composition of the station election

commissions on the deadline fixed by the respective Council, said proposals shall be considered either by the Council or by its executive body while setting up commissions.

3. The polling station commissions shall notify its electorate about its location and working schedule within 5 days following the day it starts working.
4. The terms of powers of the polling station commissions shall expire after the deputies and Chairpersons of Councils elected are empowered by the respective territorial election commissions.

ARTICLE 19. The Powers of the Polling Station Commissions

The polling station commissions shall have the power to:

1) compile the voter list for the polling stations;
2) publicize the voter list, receive and administer statements on errors and make necessary changes to the list;
3) make changes on the ballot by the decision of the respective territorial (constituency) commission;
4) provide voting premises, poll booths or secret ballot chambers, ballot boxes;
5) provide necessary conditions to inform the electorate body of the records on the candidates being voted for at the station;
6) organize voting in the polling station;
7) tabulate votes at the polling station;
8) consider statements and complaints about the election preparation and voting as well as making decisions about them;
9) carry out any other powers according to this law.

ARTICLE 20. Organizing the Activities of the Commissions

1. The basic working routine of the election commission is by meeting. The meeting of the election commission shall be convened by the commission Chairperson, in case of his/her absence, by his/her deputy. The commission meeting shall also be assembled under the demand of no less than a half of commission members.
2. The meeting of the election commission shall be presided either by its Chairperson or deputy, but in the event when they for any reason cannot exercise this duty, the commission shall select a Chairperson from its staff at a meeting.
3. The meeting of the election commission shall be considered competent if two-thirds of the election commission members takes part in it. In the event of equal votes, the decisive vote shall be the vote of the Chairperson of the meeting. The persons who constitute the commission staff and object against the decision voted, shall have the right to express other thoughts which are attached to the meeting protocol of the election commission in a written form.
4. The commission may make decisions about depriving persons of their right to participate at the meeting according to Part IV, Article 8 of this Law, if they interrupt this meeting.
5. The decisions of the election commissions made in the scope of its powers shall be obligatory for the implementation by all state and self-government bodies, public organizations, enterprises, establishments and organizations, officials.
6. The decisions and activities of a polling station or constituency election commission may be appealed to the respective territorial commission within a three-day term following the adoption of the decision or undertaking an action. The decision of the territorial commission may be appealed in the court which shall consider the appeal within a 5-day term but not later than one day preceding the elections. The decisions of the court shall be final.

ARTICLE 21. The Legal Status of the Persons who Comprise the Election Commissions

1. Citizens of Ukraine except for candidates and their agents, may be enrolled as members of an election commission.
2. The Council may either immediately terminate the powers of the election commission or partially substitute its composition in the event when the commission or some of its members violate this Law.
3. The person who is a member of an election commission may be dismissed from his/her duties by the body which set up this commission:

   1) under conditions envisaged by Parts I and II of this Article;
   2) by a personal request;
   3) in the event of his/her being recalled by the bodies which suggested this person to the commission.

4. The approval of a new representative onto the election commission is carried out according to the regulations envisaged by this Law.
5. By the decision of the election commission, not more than three persons enrolled to its composition may be discharged of his/her working or office duties for the period of election preparation and conduct with either the reservation of his/her average wages for the last 3 months or salary on the indexation basis on his/her basic work-place proportionally to his/her work-time in the commission. The wages shall be paid at the place of employment with further compensation to the enterprise, institution, organization at the expense of the funds allocated for the elections.

ARTICLE 22. Assistance to be Provided to Electoral Commissions in Administering of Their Duties

1. The state and self-government bodies, parties, public organizations, enterprises, establishments, organizations, officials shall be required to assist the election commissions in the fulfillment of their powers, to provide relevant premises, equipment, means of transportation and communication, as well as necessary information and materials required for their activities.
2. The election commission shall have the right to appeal to the state, self-government and party bodies, public organizations, enterprises, establishments, organizations, officials to resolve issues concerning the preparation of the election and its conduct, they should consider the request and respond to the election commission no later than 3 days following the submission of the appeal.

CHAPTER V. VOTER LISTS

ARTICLE 23. The Voter Lists and the Procedure for Their Compilation

1. The voter list for elections of Council's Chairperson shall be compiled by the polling station election commission at each polling station and signed by the Chairperson and secretary of the polling station commission. The polling station commission may involve public representatives to assist in composing an electorate list..
2. The executive bodies of city, city district (rayon), village and settlement Councils shall provide voter registration and pass necessary records on the voters residing on the respective territory of the station election commission.
3. The voter list shall comprise each voter's first name, father's name, family name, date of birth, address. The voters shall be enrolled on the list of that station on the territory of which they reside.
4. The lists of voting servicemen in military units as well as their family members and other voters, if they reside in the vicinity of military units, shall be made up on the basis of the data reported by their military commanders. The servicemen who reside outside the military units shall be enrolled on the electorate list according to their place of living under general terms.
5. The voter lists of the stations set up in the hospitals and other in-patient medical centers as well as aboard the vessels at midsea on the election day shall be composed on the basis of the data submitted by the Heads of such establishments and captains in charge of such vessels.
6. Last names of the voters shall be arranged in the voter list in a manner facilitating the organization of voting.

ARTICLE 24. Including the Citizens in the Voter List

1. The voter list shall include all citizens of Ukraine who are 18 years old or reach the age of 18 on the election day, reside in the territory of the district at the time that voter lists are compiled and have the right to vote.
2. The voter may be placed on the voter list at one station only.
3. The voters residing on the territory of the respective district that, for some reason, are not included on the list shall have their names placed on the list pursuant to the decision of the polling station commission or, in the cases provided by the law, ruling of a court.

ARTICLE 25. Access of Citizens to Voter Lists. The Right of Appeal Against Inaccuracies in Voter Lists

1. The voter lists shall be made accessible to the public 15 days before election day. At the stations set up in the hospitals and other in-patient medical centers and, also, in exclusive cases, in the military units, aboard the vessels at midsea on the election day, the voter lists shall be made public two days before the election.
2. Every citizen shall be given the possibility to acquaint himself with the voter list and check the authenticity of the respective data in the voting premises of the station election commission.
3. Every voter shall have the right to make an appeal against omission, inaccurate inclusion or deletion of his/her name from the list as well as against inaccuracy in records made with respect to him/her. The appeal against inaccuracies in the list shall be considered by the polling station commission, the commission being obliged to consider the appeal within 3 days or, if one is filed on the eve of or on the election day, immediately and make necessary corrections to the list or to give an applicant a copy of a motivated refusal to take action. This decision may be appealed against at least five days before the election day in a court, which the court shall consider the case appeal within three days. The judgment of the court shall have final force. The amendments of the voter list pursuant to the court judgment shall be made immediately by the district election commission.

CHAPTER VI. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 26. The Procedure of Nomination of the Candidates

1. The nomination of candidates for the deputies and candidates for the Chairpersons of Councils shall begin 70 days and end on 45 days before the election day.
2. Political parties, public organizations, shall nominate their candidates:

   - to village, township and town (of district (rayon) subordination) Councils, at the meetings of respective local organizations composed of at least 15 members and operational on the territory of the respective Councils;
   - to district (rayon), city and city district Councils, at the meetings (conferences) of district (rayon), town and city district party bodies or public organizations composed of at least 50 members and operational on the territory of the respective Council;

- to regional (oblast) Councils, at the meetings (conferences) of respective regional (oblast) bodies of a party or public organization composed of at least 100 members.

A party or public organization shall have the right to nominate one candidate for a deputy in any one constituency and one candidate for a Chairperson.

3. Work collectives shall nominate their candidates at a meeting (conference) of respective work collectives whereas the right to nominate shall rest with the collectives:

- of at least 20 members, to village, township and town (of district (rayon) subordination) Councils;
- of at least 100 members, to district (rayon), town (of regional (oblast) subordination) city district Councils; and
- of at least 200 members, to regional (oblast), Kyiv City and Sevastopol City Councils.

A work collective may nominate only one candidate for a deputy in the constituency that such work collective is operational, and one candidate for the Chairperson of the respective Council.

4. A meeting of voters who reside within the territory of a given Council shall qualify to nominate candidates:

- to village, township and town (of district (rayon) subordination) Councils if attended by at least 20 voters;
- to district (rayon), town (of regional (oblast) subordination) and city district Councils if attended by at least 100 voters;
- and to regional (oblast), Kyiv City and Sevastopol City Councils if attended by at least 200 voters.

A meeting of voters may nominate only one candidate for a deputy in the constituency that such voters reside, and one candidate for the Chairperson of the respective Council.

5. Every person attending the session of a party body, that of a public organization's or a meeting (conference) where nominations are made shall have the right to propose a nominee of his/her own choice for discussion.
6. One and the same person may not run for a deputy and the Chairperson of the same Council.
7. A candidate shall be deemed nominated if his/her candidacy has been voted for by not less than 50% of the participants in the respective session or meeting (conference). The candidate shall be notified of such decision.
8. The nomination of candidates shall be recorded in a protocol. Such a protocol shall contain the reference to the date and place that the respective session or meeting (conference) was held, indicate the number of persons attending it as well as the number of votes cast for and against the respective nominee and the relevant information on such a nominee (full name, inc. the patronymic, date of birth, citizenship, party affiliation, position (occupation), place of work and residence).
9. The protocol of a session or meeting shall be submitted to the respective constituency (territorial) election commission in pursuance of the procedure established by such commission.
10. The nominees are required to make a deposit:

    1) in the amount equal to 5 minimum wages if nominated as deputies of district (rayon), town (of republican and regional (oblast) subordination) and regional (oblast) Councils;
    2) in the amount of 10 and 15 minimum wages if nominated as a Chairperson of district (rayon), town (of regional (oblast) subordination without district subdivision) Council and, respectively, town (with district subdivision) or regional (oblast)Councils. Such deposit is refunded to the respective candidate if she /he has won at least 5% of the votes in the turnout. Deposits that are not subject to refund shall be transferred to the local budget.

ARTICLE 27. Special Requirements for Candidates for Chairperson of a District (rayon) and Town (of republican and regional (oblast) subordination) Council

1. The registration of the candidates nominated in compliance with this Law for the Chairperson of a district (rayon) and town (of republican and regional (oblast) subordination) Council may be carried out by the respective constituency (territorial) election commission if at least 1% of the voters who reside within the territory of the respective Council signed their names on the list of support of his/her candidacy; a candidate for the Chairperson of district (rayon) Council must be supported by at least 1,000 signatures, a candidate for the Chairperson of a regional (oblast) Council, at least 10,000 signatures.
2. Upon the receipt of the protocol of nomination of a candidate for a Chairperson, the territorial electoral commission shall hand to such candidate the sufficient quantity of sign-in lists.
3. A sign-in list shall contain a reference to the name of the respective Council, full name of the candidate as well as the data of the person collecting the signatures (full name, address and occupation). With respect to persons signing in support of the candidate the list shall provide the following data: full name, date of birth, place of residence, serial No. of passport or other applicable identification, and the personal signature of a supporter.
4. Signatures in support of a candidacy shall be procured by the candidate in person or by other persons authorized by him/her. The sign-in list is filled out by such persons in reliance on the data provided in the passport or other relevant ID of the voter who then affixes his hand in witness of the data entered an his/her support of the candidate. Any one voter may sign in support of only one candidate.
5. Each sign-in list shall indicate the total number of voters that have signed in and be signed by the person who collected the signatures. Completed list shall then be submitted by the respective candidate to the respective territorial electoral commission at least 35 days before the voting day.

6. The commission shall check and register the received sign-in lists. If it is revealed that the same voter signed in support of more than one candidate, all his/her signatures shall be considered invalid. Also considered invalid shall be forged signatures or those gathered under pressure, provided that the voter who has been forced to sign or whose signature has provided that the voter who has been forced to sign or whose signature has been forged, makes a written complain to such effect. If, for the reasons mentioned above, the number of signatures has become less than required, the candidate shall be offered to collect, within the three-days term, the required number of signatures. In the event of failure to meet this requirement, the candidate shall not be registered.

ARTICLE 28. Registration of Candidates

1. Registration of the candidates shall be carried out by the corresponding territorial commission. Registration shall commence sixty days and end thirty days before the election day.
2. The decision to register a candidate shall be made by the corresponding commission if the following documents have been made available to it:

   1) protocol of nomination of the candidate;
   2) candidate's application stating his/her consent to run;
   3) declaration on candidate's income for the previous year, compiled in accordance with the form established by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.

To register a candidate for a deputy or for the Chairperson of a district (rayon), town (or republican and regional (oblast) subordination), or regional (oblast) Council, the above documents shall be accompanied by the document confirming a candidate's payment of deposit.

In addition, with the aim of registration of the candidacy for the Chairperson of a district (rayon), town (of republican and regional (oblast) subordination), or regional (oblast) Council, the candidate shall submit to the election commission sign-in lists containing the required number of signatures in support of his/her candidacy.

The candidate for the Chairperson of village, township, district (rayon), town, city district, and regional (oblast) Council, provided that she/he resides beyond the limits of a corresponding administrative-territorial unit, in his/her application stating the consent to run, shall undertake, in the event of his/her election, to move to permanent residence to the corresponding locality.

3. The refusal to register may be appealed against either by the nominee or his/her authorized person within the three-day term and under provisions set forth by this Law.
4. The candidate for a deputy may run only in one constituency, a candidate for the Chairperson of a Council, only for such office in one Council.
5. The person who is a member of an election commission, if nominated as a candidate, shall be considered dismissed from his/her duties in the commission at the moment he/she registered as a candidate.
6. The constituency (territorial) election commission, no later than on the fifth day upon the registration of the candidates, shall publicize in the mass media or otherwise, the list of candidates with the indication of the first and last name and patronymic, date of birth, position, party affiliation, place of work and residence of each candidate.

ARTICLE 29. Cancellation of a Decision to Register a Candidate

1. The territorial election commission may cancel its decision to register a deputy at his/her personal request; or if the corresponding nominating body canceled its decision to nominate; or if the candidate has lost the suffrage right or the right to run in the given constituency pursuant to effective legislation.
2. A territorial election commission shall inform the electorate of the given constituency (territory) of its decision to cancel the registration of a candidate.

ARTICLE 30. authorized persons of a Candidate

1. A candidate may have authorized persons to assist him/her in his/her election campaign, campaign for his/her election as a Council deputy (Chairperson), and represent his/her interests in dealing with bodies of the state, self-government and public associations, work collectives and the electorate as well as election commissions.
2. A candidate for a deputy may have up to three, and a candidate for the Chairperson of a district (rayon) or regional (oblast) Council, up to ten authorized persons; a candidate to other councils, up to five authorized persons. The authorized persons shall work on a voluntary basis.
3. A candidate shall choose his/her authorized persons solely at his/her own discretion and submits an application on their registration to the corresponding constituency (territorial) election commission. Upon registration, the election commission shall issue them certificates of authorized persons.
4. A candidate shall have the right to replace his/her authorized person(s), making a due notice of this to his/her respective constituency (territorial) election commission, and a authorized person, refuse his/her office.
5. The powers of an authorized person shall take effect on the day of his/her registration by the respective territorial election commission and expire on the day the territorial election commission makes its decision on the outcome of the election.

ARTICLE 31. Procedures for Nomination and Registration of a Replacement Deputy for a Remove Candidate

1. If a candidate withdraws his/her candidacy after his/her registration and there are no other candidates in that constituency (Council territory), the territorial election commission shall request the party, public organization and work collective bodies and the electorate to nominate a new candidate.

2. If a candidate withdraws from the campaign less than 15 days before the election day, the election in that constituency (Council territory) shall be held within two months after the general election.
3. The nomination and registration of a candidate shall take place in accordance with this Law.

ARTICLE 32. The Ballot

1. The ballot in the election of deputies shall contain the name of the Council and the number of the constituency, and the one in the election of Council Chairpersons, the name of the Council to which election is being held.
2. The ballot shall list, in alphabetical order, all Council deputy (Chairperson) candidates registered in the relevant constituency (Council territory), stating their full names, years of birth, party affiliation, office (occupation) and place of employment.
3. Ballots shall be printed in the state language or the one which is used by the majority of population of the given constituency (Council territory).
4. If a candidacy is withdrawn from the campaign after the ballots have been printed, the territorial election commission shall make decision to re-print the ballot or strike out that candidate's name from the existing ballots.
5. 10% of the ballots shall be delivered to the polling station commission not less than fifteen days before the election day, and the rest of them, three days before the election day.
6. Ballots shall be accounted for. The Chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and members of election commission shall be personally responsible for their safekeeping and use in compliance with this Law. On the eve of voting, the polling station commission shall sign each ballot to further protect it.

CHAPTER VII. GUARANTEES OF ACTIVITIES OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 33. The Right of a Candidate to Speak to Meetings, Make Use of the Mass Media and Receive Information

1. From the moment of their registration by election commissions, the candidates shall have equal right to speak to pre-election meetings, conventions, conferences and rallies and make use of the mass media.
2. State and local self-government bodies and the management of state-run enterprises, organizations and establishments shall assist the candidates in organizing meetings with the voters and obtaining necessary reference materials and making available the premises to organize the events envisaged by this Law.

ARTICLE 34. Relieving a Candidate from the Performance of Official Duties for the Purpose of Participating in an Election

After his/her registration and on his/her request, a candidate shall be relived from official duties for the time of his/her meetings with voters or participation in other events envisaged by this Law, his/her average salary for the past three months being indexed and reserved. Such compensation shall be made by the primary employer and the relevant enterprise, establishment or organization shall at a later date revive indemnification from the election budget.

ARTICLE 35. The Right of a Candidate to Free Transportation.

The candidates shall enjoy the right of free transportation in any kind of public transportation (with the exception of taxi) within the boundaries of the respective Council.

CHAPTER VIII. ELECTORAL PUBLICITY

ARTICLE 37. Electoral Program of a Candidate

A candidate may make public his/her program of his/her future activities. The contents of a program shall not contravene the Constitution and the legislation of Ukraine.

ARTICLE 38. Electoral Publicity

1. Citizens of Ukraine, public organizations, work collectives shall have the right of free and comprehensive discussion of electoral program, the candidate's political and personal background as well as the platforms of parties that have nominated their candidates, to campaign for or against any candidate during discussions, at conferences, meetings, also, in accordance with the effective legislation, through the means of mass communication.
2. The candidates and their authorized persons shall be able to meet with the voters at rallies as well as in any other form convenient to the voters. The voters shall be informed about the time and place of meetings in advance.
3. The organizers of, and participants in the meetings and other pre-election events shall be responsible for the observance of the effective legislation, law and order during the events.

ARTICLE 39. Materials of Electoral Campaign

1. The territorial election commission shall provide for printing of the information about the candidates at the expense of funds allotted for the electoral campaign. The circulation in print shall be specified by the election commission and must be the same for every candidate.
2. A candidate shall submit to the territorial election commission for publication key provisions of his/her electoral program and his/her biography (not more than two typewritten pages) not later than 30 days before the election day.

3. The bodies of self-government designate space and furnish billboards in public places for the campaign materials to be posted, ensure the availability of the materials published by territorial election commissions or any announcements made by it in pursuance of this Law. A body of self-government may by its decision prohibit posting such materials in other places.

ARTICLE 40. Limitations Applicable to the Electoral Campaign

1. The candidates or their authorized persons shall not use any of mass media which they control as officials. Should this provision be violated, the election commission that registered the candidate in question, may appeal to the court, requesting the voiding of the registration. The court shall make the decision within a five-day term, however, at the latest on the last day before the election day.
2. Electoral campaigning shall be limited in military formations, units and detachments of the Armed Forces, the National Guards, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Committee for the Protection of the State Border, the Security Service, and the Civil Defense of Ukraine. Meetings of the candidates with their electorate in the service in the above mentioned units shall be organized by the territorial commission; all the candidates being invited to such meetings at least three days in advance. From the beginning of the electoral campaign, visits to such organizations and units by individual candidates, their authorized persons, representatives of parties and public organizations, shall be prohibited. Only electoral materials printed by the respective election commission can be disseminated among the servicemen.
3. The mass media should refrain from publishing materials which having not been properly verified, defame the candidates, or the party or public organization that nominated a candidate. If a means of mass media information publishes material discrediting a candidate, a party or a public organization, it should offer an opportunity to disprove the information at least five days before the voting day.
4. All disputes concerning electoral propaganda shall be resolved by the relevant territorial election commission as well as in due course of the law.
5. Any form of electoral propaganda on the election day, i.e. the distribution of campaign leaflets, posters, appeals to the electorate to vote for or against certain candidates, or boycott the elections, shall be forbidden.

CHAPTER IX. PROCEDURES FOR VOTING AND DETERMINATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 41. Time and Place of Voting

1. The voting shall be conducted from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. The polling station commission shall inform the electorate about the place and time of voting at least 15 days before election day.
2. At the polling stations set up in hospitals and other health care establishments, military units, at difficult-access areas, at vessels at sea on the day of vote, the respective polling station commission can declare the vote finished before 8 p.m., if all the voters entered in the voter list have voted by then.

ARTICLE 42. Organization of the Voting

1. The vote shall be held in specially allocated places which should be furnished with the appropriate number of booths or rooms for the secret ballot, designated places where the ballots are handed out and installed ballot boxes. The boxes shall be positioned in a manner that will make require a voter's passing through a booth or room for secret balloting. Entrances to and exits out of the booths or rooms for secret ballot should be clearly visible to the members of the polling station commission. The official information about the candidates as well as the text of this Law should be posted in places easily accessible to the voters.
2. The polling station commission shall be responsible for organizing the voting, securing the secrecy of voters' vote, furnishing the premises and maintaining order therein. A voter may remain in the premises of the polling station only for the period of time necessary for voting.
3. On the election day, before the beginning of voting, the chairperson of the polling station commission shall inspect and seal the ballot boxes in the presence of other members of the polling station commission. After that, a control ballot is place into every box, signed by the members of the polling station commission and the first voter that has come to vote; the time when this control ballot was place in the box shall be indicated on the ballot.
4. Every voter shall vote in person. To vote on behalf of another person is not permitted. A ballot shall be handed out by the polling station commission in reliance on the election register, the voter presenting his/her passport or confirm his/her receipt of a ballot paper.
5. In the event a voter cannot appear at the polling station because of poor health or for some other important reason, the respective polling station commission shall, at the voter's request, dispatch at least two members of the polling station commission to arrange for voting at the place of the voter's residence. Also, an extract of the election register shall be made and handed to the members of the polling station commission by the chairperson of the polling station commission alongside the required number of ballots. Voting at the place of his/her residence a voter shall sign an extract from the election register to confirm the receipt of a ballot and vote in accordance with this Law. An appropriate note shall be made in the election register after the voting at the place of voter's residence. The excerpt from the election register shall be appended to the general register.

ARTICLE 43. Voting Procedure

1. The ballot shall be completed by a voter in a booth or room for secret voting. No other person may be present at the time of completing a ballot. A voter who incapable of completing the ballot by him/herself shall be allowed to invite a person of his/her choice, except a member of the election commission, a candidate, or their authorized persons, to the booth or room for secret ballot to help him/her fill out the ballot.

2. A voter may leave only one name, if at all, on the ballot, striking out the names of the candidates he/she wishes to vote against.
3. When completed, the ballot shall be put by the voter into the ballot box.
4. Opening the ballot box before the end of the vote is forbidden.

ARTICLE 44. Early Voting

If a voter changes place of residence within the period between publication of the election register and the voting day, she/he can vote ahead of time. In this case, the election commission, at the request of the voter and on his/her submitting a passport or any other identification, shall hand him/her a ballot. The voter signs in the election register and indicates the date of voting. The ballot filled out by the voter shall be placed into a box duly sealed thereafter. The box shall be kept by the commission and shall be opened during tabulation on voting day.

ARTICLE 45. The Procedure of Tabulation at the Polling Station

1. The votes shall be tabulated by the polling station commission for each constituency and each candidate separately.
2. During the tabulation, the following sequence of actions must be observed:

   1) after the chairperson of the commission declares the voting closed, the election commission shall void and count any unused ballots, pack them into packages separately for each constituency. The number of the station, constituency, name of the Council, and the quantity of unused ballots shall be designated in the package, which then shall be sealed and signed either by the chairperson of the commission or his deputy or secretary;
   2) the election commission shall identify the total number of voters in the station for every constituency as well as the turnout;
   3) the chairperson of the commission, in the presence of the members of the commission, shall determine if the seals on the ballot boxes are intact, open the boxes and determine if the control ballots are present in the boxes;
   4) in reliance on the ballots found in the boxes, the commission shall determine for the given electoral district the following with respect to each constituency (candidate):

      - the turnout;
      - the number of votes for and against each candidate;
      - the number of invalidated ballots;

3. Citizens whose names were added to the ballot by voters will not be considered.
4. The following ballots shall be deemed invalid: ballots of a form different from that established, those in which more than one candidate was left as well as ballots not issued by the respective polling station commission. In the event there is doubt whether a ballot is valid, the issue shall be resolved among the members of the commission by vote.
5. The election commission shall thereafter pack the ballots in the way as prescribed by Clause 45.2. 1, above.
6. The results of the tabulation shall be discussed at the session of the commission and recorded in a protocol. The protocol shall be signed by chairperson, deputy chairperson, the secretary, and the members of the commission and immediately sent to the respective territorial election commission. The ballots shall be turned in to the respective territorial commissions under the procedure established by them.

ARTICLE 46. Determining the Outcome of Elections of the Deputies and the Chairpersons of the Councils for a Given Constituency

1. The territorial election commission, on the basis of the protocols submitted by the district election commissions shall establish the following: the number of voters for the constituency (the territory of the respective Council); the number of voters who received the ballots and the turnout; the number of votes for and against every candidate for a deputy (candidates for Chairperson of a Council); the quantity of invalidated ballots.
2. A Council deputy candidate shall be considered elected if he has gained the greatest number of votes cast, which must comprise at least 10% of the voters on the voter list. A candidate is elected Chairperson, if the same requirement is met, provided, however, at least 25 % of the registered voters have voted for his candidacy.
3. The elections of the deputies (Chairperson) of a Council shall be regarded invalid if the turnout is less than a half of the registered voters as well as if all the candidates registered for the given constituency have withdrawn from the election.
4. A territorial election commission may declare the elections invalid either in some polling station or in the entire constituency (territory of the Council) if during voting or tabulation a violation has occurred that may influence the outcome of the elections. Complaints about such violations must be filed with the respective constituency (territorial) election commission on the day following the voting day at the latest, and examined by the commission within a three-day term. The decision of the constituency (territorial) election commission can be appealed in the court where such an appeal should be considered in a five-day term. The right to appeal from a decision of the constituency (territorial) commission shall belong to the candidates and their authorized persons.
5. The outcome of the elections in a given constituency (territory) shall be established at a session of the territorial election commission and recorded in a protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, his/her deputy, the secretary and the members of the commission and sealed by the seal of the commission or the body that has set up the commission. The protocol shall be sent to the territorial election commission on the next day at the latest in accordance with the procedure

established by it.

6. The territorial election commission, within the five days after the election day, shall inform the electorate about the outcome of the elections of the deputy or the Chairperson of the Council in the given constituency. The communique should include the reference to the following: the number of voters on the election register, the turnout in the elections; the number of votes for and against each candidate; the number of the ballots found invalid; the name and number of the stations or the name of constituency where the elections have been declared invalid or such that have not taken place.

CHAPTER X. ESTABLISHMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

ARTICLE 47. Decision-making with Respect to the Outcome of the Elections and Publicizing of Same

1. A territorial election commission, in reliance on the protocols on the returns of election of deputies in the constituencies and Chairperson of the Council, shall make a decision on the outcome of elections in the entire Council and confirm the powers of elected deputies and the Chairperson.
2. The declaration of the outcome of elections and the list of the deputies elect with the indication of their first and last names, patronymics, party affiliation, position (occupation), place of work and residence of each deputy elect, the constituency s/he has been nominated for as well as the name, surname, and patronymic, party affiliation and place of residence of the Council Chairperson elect shall be published in the press or made otherwise known to the population of the respective territory on the tenth day after the ballot at the latest.
3. The decision of the territorial election commission on the outcome of the election may be appealed in a court by a candidate for the deputies (Chairperson)of the Council or their authorized persons, within three days after the publication of the outcome of the election by the territorial election commission. The court should consider the application within the five-day term of filing. In compliance with the decision of the court, the district election commission shall within the two days make a decision in accordance with this Law
4. The territorial election commission shall inform the respective Council of the outcome of the election of the deputies and the Chairperson of the Council at the first session of the Council of new convocation.

CHAPTER XI. REPEAT VOTING, REPEAT ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS TO REPLACE COUNCIL DEPUTIES AND CHAIRPERSONS OF COUNCILS, ELECTIONS IN NEWLY CREATED ADMINISTRATIVE AND TERRITORIAL UNITS

ARTICLE 48. Repeat Voting

1. In the event that more than two candidates ran in the election in the constituency (Council territory) and two or more candidates have won the same number of votes, thus leaving the election of deputies (Chairperson)undecided, the respective territorial election commission shall decide to schedule repeat voting in the constituency or the territory of the respective Council with respect to these two candidates.
2. Repeat Voting shall be held within the two-week term after the election day in accordance with this Law. The voters shall be advised of this repeated vote.
3. A candidate for a deputy (or Chairperson) of the Council shall be considered elected if he wins the majority of votes, compared to the other candidates, in the turnout of the repeat voting.

ARTICLE 49. Repeat Elections

1. In the event that not more than two candidates ran in the elections in a constituency (territory of the Council), or the election in the constituency was declared invalid, or did not taken place, the territorial election commission shall decide that in the constituency or the territory of the Council repeat elections be conducted. The commission may concurrently propose to the respective Council that new constituency and polling station commissions be appointed to conduct the repeat elections.
2. The repeat elections shall be scheduled for the date within a month after the general elections. The voting shall be conducted at the same polling stations in accordance with the election registers compiled for the purpose of the general elections. The organization of election commissions, the nomination and registration of candidates as well as other events shall be in accordance with the regulations set forth in Article 50 herein. The voter shall be informed of the repeat elections.
3. The candidates who withdrew their candidacies, or were not elected in elections that were held to be valid may not run in the repeat elections. The citizens whose registration as candidates was canceled or the citizens whose actions have resulted in the election's being declared invalid as well as the citizens found guilty by the court in wrongdoing envisaged by Article 55 herein, the relevant sentence having come into legal force, may not stand for the repeat election.

ARTICLE 50. Conduct of Elections of Replacement Council Deputies and Chairpersons of Councils

1. In the event the respective Council declares the powers of a deputy or the Chairperson of the Council invalid, or a deputy (Chairperson) is recalled, or their powers are terminated for any valid reason, off-year elections shall be scheduled in the respective constituencies or the territory of the respective Council within two months of the withdrawal or termination of the powers of a deputy (deputies) or the Chairperson.
2. The elections shall be scheduled by the respective territorial commission no later than a month before the voting day and conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Law. In such a case constituency election commissions and electoral districts shall be organized no later than on the fifth day, and polling station commissions, on the seventh day after the announcement of the elections. The nomination shall begin on the seventh day and end on the tenth day following the announcement of the elections, the registration of candidates shall commence twenty days before the voting day and end

fifteen days before the voting day. The election registers shall be made public ten days before the voting day. From this time on the voters who change their place of residence shall have the right of absentee voting.

3. During the elections of the deputies to village, township, or town (of district (rayon) subordination) Councils, the election commissions may not be created, their functions carried out by the respective territorial election commissions.
4. In the event a deputy or the Chairperson of a Council withdraws less than six months before the next deputy or Chairperson is to take the office, by-election of the new deputy or Chairperson of the Council shall not be conducted.

ARTICLE 51. Procedure of Elections in the Case of Early Termination of Powers and in Newly-Created Administrative Units

1. In the event that the powers of a Council are suspended and off-year elections are scheduled in compliance with the effective legislation, these shall be conducted pursuant to Article 50 herein; the election commissions created by the senior Council or its executive body.
2. Elections of the deputies in newly created administrative and territorial units shall be conducted in the event that the creation of another Council and its bodies is not deemed possible due to the absence or lack of the deputies elected to the Council from the territory which became a part of the newly-created region (oblast), district (rayon), town, district in the city, township, or village Council.
3. The election of the deputies and the Chairpersons of regional (oblast) Councils shall be scheduled by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; the elections of the deputies and the Chairpersons of district (rayon) and town (of regional (oblast) subordination) Councils, by the respective regional (oblast) Council; the deputies and the Chairpersons of a city or town (of district (rayon) subordination), township or village Councils, by the respective district (rayon) Council, not later than within a two-month term following the creation of the administrative and territorial unit and conducted pursuant to the procedure under Article 50 herein. The respective election commission shall be created within three days after the scheduling of the election by the respective body.

CHAPTER XII. ELECTORAL DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF THEIR KEEPING. THE BALLOT BOX

ARTICLE 52. The Forms of Electoral Documents, Design of Ballot Box

1. The forms of sign-in sheets for the collection of signatures in support of candidate for the Chairperson of a district (rayon), town (of republican and regional(oblast) subordination) as well as of the election registers, protocols of election commissions, certificates of a Council deputy (Chairperson) candidates and a candidate's authorized persons, certificates of deputies (Chairpersons) elect as well as the design of the ballot boxes shall be approved by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, or, on its authorization, by the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada.
2. Samples of other electoral documents shall be approved by the respective territorial election commission.

ARTICLE 53. Procedure and Terms of Keeping of the Electoral Documents

1. The documentation of constituency and polling station commissions after the expiration of their powers shall be transferred to the respective territorial election commissions.
2. Procedure and terms of keeping of the electoral documents shall be established by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, or, on its authorization, by the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada.

CHAPTER XII. FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 54. Expenditures Related to Elections of the Deputies and the Chairpersons of Councils

1. The expenses related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections shall be carried by the election commissions, using the funds created by the territorial commissions at the expense of the budgets of the respective Councils. The territorial election commission shall have the status of a legal entity and have the right of managing the electoral funds. The size of the funds shall be subject to the decision of the respective Council.
2. Citizens of Ukraine, civic associations, legal entities duly registered in Ukraine, with the exception of the enterprises with foreign investment as well as the enterprises funded from the respective legal budgets, can make their donations to the electoral fund of the territorial commission.
3. With the purpose of conducting the campaign, the candidate may utilize money from his/her personal election fund which is created from the contributions of the candidate, contributions made by political parties, public organizations, individuals and legal persons registered in Ukraine with the exception of enterprises with foreign capital. The size of such personal election fund shall be defined by the respective territorial election commission, however, within the following limits:

   1) 30 minimum wages, for village, township, town (of district (rayon) subordination) Councils;
   2) 50 minimum wages, for district (rayon) and town (of regional (oblast) subordination without district subdivision) Councils; and
   3) 100 minimum wages, for town (with district subdivision) and Regional (oblast) Councils.

4. The local branch of Oshchadbank (Savings Bank) of Ukraine shall open an account designated as Election Fund in the name of a candidate who has so requested; such candidate shall then be issued a checkbook for the amount of his/her personal electoral fund.

5. The territorial election commission shall have supervision over the formation and use of such funds.

ARTICLE 55. Responsibility for the Violation of this Law

Individuals who by means of violation, intimidation, or fraud, or by any other means hinder a citizen of Ukraine from him/her enjoying his/her electoral rights, electioneering, publicly calling or campaigning for boycotting the election; as well as the members of the election commissions and officials who violated this Law, shall be held responsible in accordance with the effective legislation.