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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW

(VENICE COMMISSION)

**LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
on Amendments and Additions to the Electoral Code
of the Republic of Armenia*
(Adopted on 17 May 2005 by the National Assembly of Armenia)**

***Unofficial translation kindly provided by the OSCE Office in Yerevan**

Article 1. In Article 1 Paragraph 4 of Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia (February 17, 1999, HO-284) add “, in the frames of their authorizations stipulated by the legislation governance, local self-governance bodies and entities and officials forming the Central Election Commission” after the word “state”, and replace the word “is” with the word “are.”

Article 2. In Article 7 of Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia (February 17, 1999, HO-284):

- a. Rephrase Paragraph 4 to read as follows:
“The Central Electoral Commission shall publish the total number of voters included in the Republic of Armenia Voter Register on the day preceding the voting in presidential or National Assembly elections.”
- b. Rephrase the third and fourth sentences in Paragraph 6 to read as follows:
“During national elections (national elections are either the presidential elections or the National Assembly elections under proportional contest), the Central Electoral Commission shall publish information on voting progress at 9:00 on the voting day; and then, from 12:00 till 21:00, every three hours, it shall publish information on voter turnout as of the preceding hour and about applications and complaints received.”
- c. Rephrase Paragraph 8 to read as follows: “In cases referred to in Paragraph 6 of this Article, the Central Electoral Commission shall announce the information in live radio and television reports on the Public Radio and Public Television of Armenia.”

Article 3. In Article 8 Paragraph 1 of the Code, add the words “training of commission members, notification of voters” after the word “(including)”.

Article 4. Rephrase Articles 9 to 14 of the Code to read as follows:

“Article 9. Compilation and Maintenance of Voter Lists

1. The Republic of Armenia Voter List shall be compiled and maintained by the Passport and Visa Department of the Republic of Armenia Police (hereinafter, “the Authorized Agency”) that registers citizens by their place of residence.
2. The Voter List shall be a permanently maintained document, and the Authorized Agency shall be responsible for its compliance with the requirements of this Code.
3. The Authorized Agency shall compile and maintain the Republic of Armenia Voter List by marzes and communities as a single list, i.e. the Republic of Armenia Voter Register (National Voter Register).
4. Community heads, heads of the respective units of the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Defense, and heads of civil acts registration authorities and detention facilities shall submit to the Authorized Agency information necessary to compile and maintain the Voter List.
5. In cases specified by and in accordance with procedures laid down in this Code, voter lists shall also be compiled by heads of the Republic of Armenia diplomatic or consular missions abroad, heads of detention facilities, and commanders of the Republic of Armenia military units.
6. Twice a year, in June and December, the Authorized Agency shall submit the electronic version of the Republic of Armenia Voter Register to the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 10. Inclusion of Citizens in the Voter List

1. Persons who have the right to vote in accordance with Article 2 of this Code shall be included in the Republic of Armenia Voter List.

2. The same person may be included in only one community voter list and only once.
3. A community voter list shall include all citizens who have the right to vote and who are registered in that community, as well as those citizens who are temporary or permanent residents of the community and have no registration and in the case of national elections, also citizens registered in other communities, who submit to the Authorized Body or its divisions an application to be included in the voter list, at least 5 days before the voting day and in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission. Citizens registered in other communities shall submit also a form approved by the Central Electoral Commission stating that they are not included in voter list in their place of registration. Citizens with no registration shall be included in a voter list on the basis of a document confirming their place of residence.
4. Everyone with the right to vote in local self-government elections shall be included in voter lists compiled during local self-government elections, on general grounds.
5. Military servicemen (citizens) in their regular term of duty or those engaged in military exercises, who have been temporarily released from their service in accordance with the laws, may be included in the voter list in their place of permanent residence in accordance with procedures set out in Paragraph 3 of this Article, upon their application to be included in the voter list.
6. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia who have the right to vote and who reside or are outside the Republic of Armenia shall be included in the voter list compiled outside the Republic of Armenia in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission.
7. If there is no Republic of Armenia diplomatic or consular mission in a given foreign country, then Republic of Armenia citizens in that country may apply to be included in voter lists in neighboring countries in which there is a Republic of Armenia diplomatic or consular mission.
8. During national elections, military servicemen on a regular tour of duty, military servicemen residing in the territory of military units and their family members who have the right to vote, as well as citizens who are engaged in military exercises, shall be included in the voter list in their respective military unit.
9. During national elections, heads of military units shall report the number of eligible voters registered in their respective military units to the respective community head, to the head of the Authorized Agency, and to the Territorial Electoral Commission, at least 45 days before the voting day.
10. Military servicemen residing outside the military unit shall be included in the voter list on general grounds.
11. Voter lists of detainees shall be compiled by heads of the respective detention facilities together with a member of the respective Territorial Electoral Commission, 3 days before the voting day. During National Assembly elections in the majority contest, only detained citizens registered in that particular district shall be included in the voter list of detainees.

Article 11. Criteria concerning Voter Lists

1. Voter lists shall be compiled on the basis of citizens' registered addresses.
2. Voter lists shall contain the name of the marz and community, and—in separate columns—the following information on citizens who have the right to vote:
 - a. Voter's number in the voter list;
 - b. Name, surname, and patronymic (patronymic is included only if it appears in the voter's passport);

- c. Day, month, and year of birth; and
 - d. Registered address or residence address, if the voter is registered in another community or has no registration.
3. In voter lists submitted to Precinct Electoral Commissions, the numbering mentioned in Paragraph 2(a) of this Article shall be done by precincts; every page of the list shall also contain the precinct number and two additional columns – one for the series and number of voter's identification document, and the other for the voter's signature.
 4. If there is concurrent voting in more than one election (presidential, National Assembly, local self-government elections, or a referendum), there shall be separate columns for citizen's signatures for each of the voting events.
 5. Voter lists shall be prepared in the form of registers, and pages shall be numbered for up to 1,000 voters. Each page of the voter list shall be signed and sealed by the head of the Authorized Agency's respective division.

Article 12. Provision of Voter Lists to Electoral Commissions and Precinct Centers

1. At least 40 days before the voting day, the head of the Authorized Agency or its respective division shall provide a copy of the voter lists, broken down by precincts, to each of the chairman of the appropriate Territorial Electoral Commission and to the heads of institutions in charge of the respective precinct centers (one copy to each) to be posted in the precinct centers.
2. The Authorized Agency or the head of its respective division shall provide the final voter lists by precincts and by addresses of residential buildings (houses) included in that precinct, in two copies and in electronic form, to the chairmen of appropriate Precinct Electoral Commissions at least 2 days before the voting day.
3. Voter lists compiled in military units shall be provided to the chairman of the respective Territorial Electoral Commission by the head of the military unit 3 days before the voting day in a sealed envelope, which shall be opened only on the voting day in the Precinct Electoral Commission.
4. 2 days before the voting day, heads of detention facilities shall submit the voter lists to the chairmen of Precinct Electoral Commissions formed in their facilities.

Article 13. Access to Voter Lists

1. The Republic of Armenia voter list, with the exception of lists compiled in military units and detention facilities and signed by voters, shall be open to access.
Lists compiled in military units and detention facilities and signed by voters shall not be publicized and may not be copied.
2. The Authorized Agency shall post the Republic of Armenia Voter List on the Internet.
3. Every citizen shall have the right to receive hard or electronic copies of the community voter lists or, in the case of elections, also precinct voter lists within three days of applying to the Authorized Agency or its respective division.
4. 40 days before the voting day, the head of an institution in charge of the precinct center territory shall post a copy of the voter lists in a place visible for everyone in the precinct center.
5. Voter lists posted in precinct centers shall be accompanied by announcements about the place and deadlines for submitting applications concerning errors in the lists, and procedures, timeframe, and conditions of reviewing such applications.
6. 2 days before the voting day, the chairman of a Precinct Electoral Commission shall post the final version of voter list in a place visible for everyone in the precinct center. The list shall remain posted in the precinct centers until termination of the Precinct Electoral Commission's authority.

7. Voter lists compiled in military units shall be posted in a place visible for military servicemen in military units 10 days before the voting day.
8. The Authorized Agency or its respective division shall send written notification to voters about the voting day, place, and time, in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 14. Procedures of Reviewing Applications concerning Errors in Voter Lists and of Correcting Voter Lists

1. No later than 7 days before the voting day, everyone shall have the right to apply to his community head about errors in voter lists, or with a request to add him to the lists or to remove him from the lists. No later than 5 days before the voting day, anyone may apply for the same purpose to the head of the Authorized Agency or its respective divisions.
2. Within two days of receiving the application, the community head shall forward the application and his opinion on the matter to the head of the respective division of the Authorized Agency.
3. Within one day of receiving the application, the head of the Authorized Agency or its respective division shall, if sufficient grounds are present as specified in this Code, make the appropriate changes or corrections in the voter list and notify the applicant in writing thereof.
4. The head of the respective division of the Authorized Agency shall inform the Authorized Agency of changes made in the voter list in order for the Authorized Agency to make appropriate changes or corrections in the Republic of Armenia Voter Register.
5. Disputes about errors in voter lists may be appealed to courts of first instance. Courts shall reach a verdict within a three-day period; the verdict shall be final and may not be appealed.
6. Verdicts on applications about including the applicant in voter lists, which are submitted within five days before the voting day or on the voting day, shall be reached in such a time period as to enable the voter to cast his vote.
7. Changes to voter lists that are based on verdicts to include applicants in voter lists, which were reached within five days before the voting day or on the voting day, shall be made by the respective Precinct Electoral Commissions by means of compiling supplementary lists in accordance with procedures defined in Article 14¹ of this Code.
8. Electoral commissions shall have no right to make any changes (corrections or additions) to voter lists, including supplementary lists, at their own initiative.”

Article 5. Add article Article 14¹ in the Code to read as follows:

“Article 14¹. Supplementary Voter Lists

1. The Precinct Electoral Commissions shall compile supplementary voter lists in accordance with the procedure defined in this Code.
2. Supplementary lists of precinct voters shall include citizens who have presented court verdicts in accordance with Paragraph 6 of Article 14 of the Code.
3. Supplementary voter lists shall be compiled in accordance with criteria for voter lists submitted to Precinct Electoral Commissions for voting, as set out in Article 11 of this Code, but they shall also have an additional column to record the number, day, month, and year of the court verdict on including the person in the voter lists.
4. Each page of supplementary voter lists shall be signed and sealed by the chairmen of the Precinct Electoral Commissions; after the voting is over, commission chairmen shall write the total number of voters in each supplementary voter list at the end of

that list. Documents supporting the inclusion of citizens in a supplementary voter list shall be attached to such supplementary lists.”

Article 6. In Article 15 of the Code:

a. Rephrase Paragraph 2 to read as follows:

“2. The Authorized Agency or its respective regional division shall, with the participation of the community heads and a representative of the Territorial Electoral Commission, form election precincts no later than 45 days before the voting day, taking into consideration local and other conditions, with the purpose of creating the most favorable conditions for voters to exercise their right to vote”,

b. In Paragraph 3, replace the words “to the respective community heads” with the words “to the head of the Authorized Agency or its respective regional division.”

Article 7. Add the following new Paragraph 5 to Article 16 of the Code:

“5. Local self-government bodies shall take necessary measures in precinct centers in order to facilitate the exercise of voting rights by the disabled.”

Article 8. Paraphrase Article 17¹ of the Code to read as follows:

“Article 17¹. Election Districts

1. Districts equal to the number of parliamentary places of the National Assembly by the majority contest are formed in the territory of the Republic of Armenia to organize and call elections.
2. Districts are formed and numbered by Central Electoral Commission.
3. Districts form a common constituency. It is not allowed to include non-bordering precincts in one district.
4. The boundaries of each district shall be determined in such a way as to make sure that all districts formed for the purposes of the given elections include approximately the same number of voters, taking into consideration the geographic, topographic, and physical characteristics of such district, as well as the availability of communication means, and social and administrative factors, provided that deviation caused by such characteristics not exceed 10 percent of the ratio of the total number of eligible voters to the number of districts, or 15 percent in exceptional cases. If the number of voters in any district exceeds 10 percent of the ratio of the total number of eligible voters to the number of districts, then the Central Electoral Commission must specify in its decision all the factors supporting such decision and justify their impact.
5. Central Electoral Commission shall publish the drawings and list of numbered election districts in the official gazette, in its website, and in a print press circulating in at least 3,000 copies within 30 days following the enforcement of modification in the number of election districts set out by this Code.
6. During special or majority contest by-elections to the National Assembly boundaries of the districts are not changed.
7. A decision of the Central Electoral Commission on formation and numbering of election districts may be appealed to court within seven days of the official publication of such a decision.”

Article 9. Add the following new sub-paragraph to Paragraph 4 of Article 18 of the Code:

“5. Members of electoral commission.”

Article 10. In Paragraph 4(2) of Article 18, Paragraph 4 of Article 27, Paragraph 4 of Article 34, Paragraph 1 or Article 54, and Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 97 of the Code, replace the words “Ministry of Interior and National Security” with the words “The Police and The National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia”, and, in Article 45, replace them with the words “The Police of the Republic of Armenia”.

Article 11. Rephrase Article 20 of the Code to read as follows:

“Article 20. Pre-Election Campaign in the Mass Media

1. Presidential candidates and parties (party alliances) running for the National Assembly shall have the right to use paid and free air time (including live broadcasts) on the Public Radio and the Public Television, on equal conditions.
2. For every national election, the procedure for allocating free air time on the Public Radio and Public Television to presidential candidates and parties (party alliances) running for the National Assembly, and the scheduling of such air time shall be set by the Central Electoral Commission within three days after the deadline for registering the candidates.
3. The Public Television and the Public Radio shall be required to ensure equal conditions for all candidates and parties (party alliances) running in any given election.
The media reporting broadcast on the Public Television and the Public Radio, the campaigns of candidates, parties, or party alliances shall be presented in the form of impartial and non-judgmental information, ensuring respect for fair and equal conditions.
If a candidate, party, or party alliance does not hold any campaign events, or if there is no information on such events, it may not justify the mass media not publishing information on the other participants’ campaign.
4. The price per minute of paid air time on the Public Radio and the Public Television shall be announced no later than before 10 days of setting the date for national elections. This price may not be changed during the pre-election campaign phase.
5. Candidates and parties running for the National Assembly shall have the right to make use, on equal conditions, of air time on other radio and television stations regardless of their form of ownership. The provisions of Paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article shall equally apply to other radio and television stations, regardless of their form of ownership.
6. Pre-election campaign in the mass media shall be conducted in the form of public debates, round-tables, press conferences, interviews, political advertisement, and other forms not prohibited by law.
7. It is forbidden to interrupt radio and television programs related to pre-election campaign with advertisement of goods or services.
8. When broadcast, radio and television programs related to pre-election campaign shall be audio and video recorded. All such records shall be kept for at least three months.
9. Compliance with pre-election campaign procedures by television and radio companies shall be monitored by the National Television and Radio Commission, which shall have the right to apply to a court of law if it notices any violation of such procedures. The Central Electoral Commission shall have the right to submit to court its opinion on the violations.
10. Newspapers and magazines, regardless of who their founders are, except for newspapers and magazines founded by political parties, shall be required to ensure equal conditions when publishing pre-election campaign materials.”

Article 12. In Article 22 of the Code:

- a. In Paragraph 2, replace the words “state and public” with the words “public ... and those founded by local self-government bodies,”
- b. Rephrase Paragraph 3 to read as follows:
 - “3. Whenever publishing results of opinion polls on the rating of candidates and parties (party alliances), the mass medium, citizen, or organization publishing such results shall specify the name of the organization conducting the poll, the timing of the poll, the number of respondents, the sample type, the collection method and area, the exact formulation of the question, the statistical estimate of the possible error, the client purchasing the product of the poll, and the source that financed publication of the results of the poll.
It is forbidden to publish results of opinion polls on the rating of candidates and parties (party alliances) during the 7 days preceding the voting day and until 8:00pm inclusive on the voting day.”

Article 13. Add Article 22¹ in the Code to read as follows:

“Article 22¹. Restrictions on Pre-Election Campaigning by Candidates Who have Political or Discretionary Positions, or are State Servants, Civil Servants, or Local Self-Government Servants Candidates who have political or discretionary positions or are state servants shall conduct their pre-election campaign on general grounds, subject to the exceptions prescribed in this Article:

1. It shall be prohibited to conduct pre-election campaign during the performance of one’s official duties, or to abuse official position in any way to gain an advantage during elections.
2. It shall be prohibited to use premises, vehicles, communication means, material resources, and human resources, available to one for the performance of one’s official duties, for the purposes of the pre-election campaign, with the exception of measures applied in respect of senior state officials subject to state protection under the Republic of Armenia Law on Security of Persons Subject to Special State Protection. Such candidates shall use state property for purposes of campaigning on general grounds.
3. It shall be prohibited to cover the activities of such candidates by the mass media, with the exception of cases prescribed in the Constitution, official visits, and official guests’ visits, and measures undertaken by such candidates during natural disasters.”

Article 14. Rephrase Paragraph 4 of Article 24 of the Code to read as follows:

- “4. Financial means designated for elections, including funds for running electoral commissions, shall be allocated to “The Central Electoral Commission Staff” state administration institution in accordance with the procedure defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and on the basis of estimates approved by the Central Electoral Commission. “The Central Electoral Commission Staff” state administration institution shall manage the funds in accordance with the procedure defined in the laws of the Republic of Armenia and shall be responsible for using the funds in compliance with estimates approved by the Central Electoral Commission.”

Article 15. In Article 25 of the Code:

- a. Rephrase 1 to 4 sentences in Paragraph 1 to read as follows:
 - “1. For the funding of pre-election campaigns, as well as paying the election deposit set out by this Code candidates, parties, party alliances have the right to set up pre-election funds. Only candidates of National Assembly slated by proportional

election may not set up pre-election funds. Resources of pre-election fund of presidential candidates, parties and party alliances are accumulated in the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia and that of other candidates – in a commercial bank having branches in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and designated by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia. Within a day after candidates and parties, party alliances submit all documents required by appropriate electoral commissions to be nominated as candidates, they shall receive documents confirming their nomination as candidates in order to set up pre-election funds; on the basis of those documents and written applications by candidates and parties, party alliances or, in the case of registered candidates and parties (party alliances), only on the basis of their written applications, banks shall open special temporary accounts.”

- b. After the words “as well as” in the second sentence of Paragraph 4, add the words “in case if candidates and parties (party alliances) are not registered”; after the word “after,” add the words “except in cases specified by this Code.”
- c. Rephrase Paragraph 11 to read as follows:

“11. No later than 6 days after the end of the voting, candidates and parties running for the National Assembly shall submit to the electoral commission that had registered them declarations about payments to their pre-election funds and the use of financial means in the fund. The form of the declaration and the procedures for submitting it shall be defined by the Central Electoral Commission.

The declaration shall contain:

1. The chronology of all contributions to the pre-election fund, the first and last names of all contributors, their registered addresses, and the amounts of their contribution,
2. All the expenses, date when they were made, and information about documents confirming the expenses,
3. The amount remaining in the pre-election fund (if any).

Electoral commissions, which had registered them, shall forward the declarations to the Central Electoral Commission’s Oversight and Audit Service within 3 days of receiving such declarations. Declarations submitted by presidential candidates and parties (party alliances) running for the National Assembly shall be posted on the Central Electoral Commission’s website within 3 days, whereas copies of other candidates’ declarations may be made available to proxies, representatives of the mass media, and observers.”

Article 16. In the first sentence of Article 26 of the Code add the word “National” after the word “Elections”, and replace the words “one month” with the words “20 days.” Add the following new paragraph to the same Article:

“The authority of the Central Electoral Commission’s Oversight and Audit Service shall be terminated on the 45th day after the announcement of final results of elections.”

Article 17. Add Article 27¹ in the Code:

“Article 27¹. Rights, Responsibilities, and Safeguards of Proxies

1. Proxies shall have the right:

1. To take part in commission sessions with a consultative vote and be present in the commission’s voting room during the commission's voting;

2. To examine voting documents, including the court decision on including a voter in the voter list, or the appropriate statement issued by the Authorized Agency;
 3. To examine election documents, electoral commission decisions and protocols in the presence of the electoral commission chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, or any of the commission members (as assigned by the commission chairman), to have unimpeded access to the respective documents, decisions of electoral commissions, and protocols, and to take excerpts from them; as well as to examine voted ballots in accordance with the same procedures. Copies of or excerpts from decisions, protocols, and operational registers shall be sealed and signed by the respective commission chairman and secretary. Documents received from Precinct Electoral Commissions shall be sealed on the voting day only;
 4. To appeal commission decisions, actions, or inaction;
 5. To observe the process of printing, transporting, storing, and counting ballots in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission;
 6. To be physically present near commission members who are registering voters and those controlling the ballot box and observe their activities without disrupting their work;
 7. To examine freely the voted ballots and notes made there in the presence of the electoral commission chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, or any of the commission members (as assigned by the commission chairman), be present during the counting and summarization of ballots; and
 8. To exercise other rights as specified in this Code.
2. Proxies shall exercise their rights in accordance with the procedures specified in this Code.
 3. One proxy of each candidate and each party (party alliances) running in National Assembly elections may be present during the electoral commission session (with a consultative vote) and during the voting.
 4. No limitation of the rights of proxies shall be allowed. No one, including electoral commissions, has the right to ask proxies to leave the voting room or to isolate them in any other way from the commission's work, except in the case of their arrest or detention.
 5. Proxies shall not be prosecuted for their opinions expressed about the course of elections or the about the summarization of results."

Article 18. In Paragraph 3 of Article 29 of the Code, add the words "as well as sealed ID cards issued to observers in accordance with submitted lists" after the word "accreditation", and add the following new paragraph:

"ID cards of persons carrying out an observer mission shall, in case of non-governmental organizations registered in the Republic of Armenia, also be sealed by the respective organization that has received accreditation to carry out an observer mission."

Article 19. In Article 30 of the Code:

- a. Take out the word "proxies" from the title and the entire article, as well as Article 3;
- b. Add the following new sentence to Paragraph 1(1): "To observe the process of printing, transporting, storing, and counting ballots in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission", and take out Paragraph 2(2);
- c. Add a new sub-paragraph 4 to Paragraph 1 to read as follows:

“4. To move freely around the precinct center in order to observe the ballots and the ballot box, in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission,”

d. Add the words “in all election processes” at the end of Paragraph 5.

Article 20. In Article 31 of the Code:

a. Add the following new sentence to Paragraph 2: “The seat of Precinct Electoral Commissions is determined by the Central Electoral Commission by National Assembly Decree on forming majority constituencies.”.

b. In Paragraph 3 add the word “at least” after the word “day” and consider the second paragraph void.

c. Add Paragraphs 4 to 6 to read as follows:

“4. If the constituency includes communities from different Marzes the Territorial Electoral Commission organizes and calls elections of local self-government bodies only for those communities of the constituency that are located in the territory of the Marz where the Territorial Electoral Commission is located.

5. Elections of local self-government bodies for the communities located in the territory of another Marz are organized and called by the Territorial Electoral Commission that is located in the territory of that Marz and is the closest to the communities. These Territorial Electoral Commissions are designated by the Central Electoral Commission at least 65 days before the voting day. 6. State and local self-government bodies provide the Territorial Electoral Commissions with working space free-of-charge, help the Commissions to ensure performance of their daily activities.”

Article 21. Rephrase Paragraph 2 of Article 32 of the Code to read as follows:

“2. Electoral commissions shall act on the basis of the principles of legality, collegiality, and transparency.”

Article 22. In Article 33 of the Code:

a. Add the sentence “Cassation Court Judges appointed in a procedure set out by this Code are volunteers.” in Paragraph 3.

b. Paraphrase Paragraph 9 to read as follows:

”9. Electoral commission members shall be remunerated from the State Budget.

The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, and members of the Central Electoral Commission shall be remunerated in accordance with the Republic of Armenia Law on Official Rates of Remuneration of Senior Officials in Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of Government.

The chairmen, deputy chairmen, secretary, and members of Territorial Electoral Commissions shall be remunerated in the amount of minimum salary defined by the Republic of Armenia legislation. In the period of national elections the chairmen, deputy chairmen and secretary shall be remunerated in the amount of 50% of the Central Electoral Commission chairman’s, deputy chairman’s and secretary’s remuneration, respectively, with the exception of universal court judges that are volunteers.

4. During the period of elections the chairmen, deputy chairmen, and secretaries of Precinct Electoral Commissions shall be remunerated in the amount of 2-fold the minimum salary defined by the Republic of Armenia legislation. Electoral commission members shall continue to receive their salaries in their main jobs.”

Article 23. In Article 34 of the Code:

- a. Add the following at the end of Paragraph 1: “who have passed professional training on how to conduct elections and received appropriate certificates in accordance with procedures defined by the Central Electoral Commission.”
- b. Rephrase Paragraph 4 to read as follows:
 - “4. Members of the National Assembly, ministers and deputy ministers, marzpets (governors), the Mayor of Yerevan, community heads, employees of national security, police, and defense agencies, employees of prosecutor’s office and the banking system, proxies, observers and candidates, as well as individuals who have conviction for crimes described in Articles 149-154 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia may not be members of electoral commissions.”

Article 24. In Article 35 of the Code:

Article 17. In Article 35 of the Code:

- a. Rephrase Paragraph 1 to read as follows:
 - “1. The Central Electoral Commission shall be formed:
 1. With the decree of the permanent body of each party having fraction in the National Assembly and in case of alliances – with one member appointed by the decree jointly approved with the majority of votes of permanent bodies of the parties that are a part of a party alliance.
If no party (alliance) appoints a candidate within the period set out in this law for Central Electoral Commission formation in accordance with the requirements of sub-paragraph 1 of this Paragraph, then the respective faction fills the vacancy in the Commission.
 2. With one member appointed by the President of the Republic;
 3. With one member appointed by decision of the group of parliamentarians endorsed during the first sitting of incumbent National Assembly. After the National Assembly elections that follow the adoption of this Law, as well as in case of liquidation of the group of parliamentarians operating in the National Assembly the power to nominate a Central Electoral Commission member under this sub-paragraph is transferred to the Board of Chairmen of the Republic of Armenia Courts from the judges of the Republic of Armenia Universal Jurisdiction Court;
 4. With one Cassation Court judge appointed by the Cassation Court.”
- b. Rephrase Paragraph 2 to read as follows:
 - “2. Data of the members of Central Electoral Commission shall be submitted to the Republic of Armenia President’s Staff no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days by 18:00 prior to the end of powers of the Central Electoral Commission. Entities specified under Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be informed about the expiry of the powers of Central Electoral Commission by the Chairman of Central Electoral Commission no later than 50 days prior to the end of powers.
The new Central Electoral Commission shall be deemed formed, if at least two thirds of the total number of its members has been appointed. If the minimum number of members required for Central Electoral Commission formation under Paragraph 1 above has not been nominated as of the last day for the formation of the new Central Electoral Commission, then the President of the

Republic shall appoint them from among the Cassation Court Judges pending nomination of the required minimum number.”

c. Rephrase Paragraph 3 to read as follows:

“3. Structure of Central Electoral Commission is approved by the Decree of the President of Republic of Armenia on the basis on recommendations made by the entities forming Central Electoral Commission.”.

Article 25. Paraphrase Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 36 of the Code to read as follows:

“1. Members of Territorial Electoral Commissions shall be appointed by the Central Electoral Commission members, subject to the principle “one member of Territorial Electoral Commission per one member of the Central Electoral Commission”, from those who have taken part and been qualified in professional training courses with the exception of members from the Cassation Court and Board of Chairmen of the Republic of Armenia Courts appointed to the Central Electoral Commission that appoint members to the Territorial Electoral Commissions from the corps of the Republic of Armenia Universal Jurisdiction Court judges.

A Territorial Electoral Commission shall form and assume its powers 15 days after the new Central Electoral Commission assumes its powers.

A Territorial Electoral Commission shall be deemed formed, if at least two thirds of the total number of its members has been appointed. If the minimum number of members required for Territorial Electoral Commission formation under Paragraph 1 of this Article has not been nominated over the period envisaged for the formation of the Territorial Electoral Commission, then the President of the Republic shall appoint it from the corps of universal court judges pending nomination of the required minimum number.

Structure of Central Electoral Commission is approved by the Decree of the President of Republic of Armenia on the basis on recommendations made by the entities forming Central Electoral Commission.

2. Data of the members of the Territorial Electoral Commission shall be submitted to the Central electoral Commission at least 10 days in advance prior to the formation of the Territorial Electoral Commission and the Central Electoral Commission shall submit these data to the Republic of Armenia President’s staff within a 2-day period.”.

Article 26. In Paragraph 3 of Article 37 of the Code, add a new sub-paragraph to read as follows:

“If the number of Precinct Electoral Commission members is less than two thirds as of 8:00am on voting day, then the Precinct Electoral Commission chairman shall notify the chairman of the respective Territorial Electoral Commission thereof using any available medium of communication.

The chairman of the Territorial Electoral Commission shall appoint the Precinct Electoral Commission member from among the total number of those who have been trained and received a certificate for working in Precinct Electoral Commissions taking into consideration their place of residence.”.

Article 27. In Article 38 of the Code:

a. Rephrase Paragraph 3 to read as follows:

“3. If the powers of electoral commission members terminate prematurely, vacancies shall be filled by the persons or bodies that have the power to appoint them, with the exception of cases set out by this Code.

b. Add Paragraph ³¹ to read as follows:

If the powers of electoral commission member are terminated prematurely in accordance with sub-paragraphs 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Paragraph 2 of this Article vacancy shall be filled by the bodies that has appointed the respective member of the Commission.

If powers of the Commission member are terminated prematurely with the grounds specified under sub-paragraph 7 of Paragraph 2 of this Article the vacancy is filled in the following procedure:

1. In case of premature termination of the powers of the member of Central Electoral Commission, vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of body having appointed that member and with the Republic of Armenia President's Decree. In case of premature termination of the powers of the member of Central Electoral Commission 20 days before the elections and the number of vacancies is more than 1/3 of the total number of Commission members these vacancies are filled by the appointment of President of the Republic of Armenia from among the Cassation Court Judges pending that the number of Commission members is not less than 1/3 of the total number of members. After 10 days following the official enforcement of the Decree approving the election results the position is considered to be vacant and is filled by the appointment of respective body and with the Republic of Armenia President's Decree within a 20-day period.
2. In case of premature termination of the powers of the member of Territorial Electoral Commission, vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of the superior Commission having appointed that member and with the Republic of Armenia President's Decree. In case of premature termination of the powers of the member of Territorial Electoral Commission 20 days before the voting day vacancy is filled by the appointment of the member from Central Electoral Commission having appointed that member and with the Republic of Armenia President's Decree 15 days before the voting day. If respective appointment is not made during the specified period and the number of vacancies is more than 1/3 of the total number of Commission members these vacancies are filled by the appointment of Central Electoral Commission and President of the Republic of Armenia from among the Cassation Court Judges pending that the number of Commission members is not less than 1/3 of the total number of members. After 10 days following the official enforcement of the Decree approving the election results the position is considered to be vacant and is filled by the appointment of respective body and with the Republic of Armenia President's Decree within a 20-day period.
3. In case of premature termination of the powers of the member of Precinct Electoral Commission, vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of the superior Commission having appointed that member. The appointment is approved by the Chairman of Territorial Electoral Commission. In case of premature termination of the powers of the member of Precinct Electoral Commission 20 days before the voting vacancy is filled by the appointment of the member from the superior Commission having appointed that member 15 days before the voting day. If respective appointment is not made during the specified period vacancies are filled by the appointment of the Chairman of Territorial Electoral Commission

selecting by lottery draw 1 day before the voting day and on the voting day and the preceding day without lottery draw from among the persons having been trained and received certificate for working in Precinct Electoral Commission and taking into consideration to which administrative unit they belong.”.

Article 28. In the second sentence of Paragraph 7 of Article 39, replace the words “participants in the vote” with the words “the total number of commission members,” and revoke the third sentence.

Article 29. Rephrase Article 40 of the Code to read as follows:

“Article 40. Complaints against the Decisions, Actions, and Inaction of Electoral Commissions

1. Complaints regarding the decisions, actions, and inaction of Precinct Electoral Commissions, including applications demanding a recount of the precinct voting results, shall be submitted to the appropriate Territorial Electoral Commission.
2. Complaints regarding the decisions, actions, and inaction of Territorial Electoral Commissions, with the exception of those concerning decisions on tabulating the results of National Assembly majority contest elections and local self-government elections, shall be submitted to the respective first instance courts.
3. Complaints regarding the decisions, actions, and inaction of the Central Electoral Commission, with the exception of those on the tabulation of election results, may be submitted to an appellate court.
4. The Central Electoral Commission is entitled to quash the decision of a Territorial Electoral Commission and adopt a decision on the matter, which the Territorial Electoral Commission shall have to enforce. The requirement in this paragraph does not apply to decisions adopted by a Territorial Electoral Commission on the election of a member of the National Assembly in the majority contest, or of a local self-government head or community councilor.
If during the voting process violations of the requirements of this Code were observed that could affect the voting results the Territorial Electoral Commission may consider the results of that precinct void. Where voting results of the precinct were considered void in a procedure established by this Procedure available materials related to the fact are submitted to the Prosecutor’s office with the objective of instituting legal proceedings.
5. Decisions of electoral commissions and/or the actions or inaction of an electoral commission or its officials may be appealed against within a 2-day period of publishing the decision, performing the action, or detecting the violation of law caused by the inaction, respectively, but no later than within 5 days following voting day, by noon of the 5th day, with the exception of cases prescribed in Paragraphs 6, 9, and 12 of this Article.
6. Applications demanding a recount of the voting results in a Precinct Electoral Commission may be submitted only to the respective Territorial Electoral Commission by 2pm of the day following voting day.
7. After scheduling the date of elections, at any time prior to tabulating the results of the election, electoral commissions shall respond to applications or, in cases prescribed hereunder, take decisions on such applications, within a 5-day period. Applications received during the 5 days preceding the voting day or the day of tabulating election results shall be reviewed, and decisions concerning such applications taken, prior to voting day or the tabulation of election results, respectively.

8. Courts shall adjudicate on complaints regarding decisions, actions, or the inaction of electoral commissions within the periods specified in paragraph 7 above. Court decisions shall be final and shall become effective at the time of their promulgation.
9. Disputes on the results of elections, with the exception of those concerning the results of local self-government elections, shall be resolved by the Republic of Armenia Constitutional Court.
10. Decision of a Territorial Electoral Commission on the results of the election of the head of local self-government may be appealed against:
 1. To a first instance court in the case of rural communities; or
 2. To the appellate court in the case of urban communities (including the district communities of Yerevan).
11. Decision of a Territorial Electoral Commission on the community council election results may be appealed to a first instance court.
12. Decisions of a Territorial Electoral Commission on local self-government election results may be appealed within 3 days of adopting such decisions. Where violations affecting the voting results are observed the court may declare the elections null and void.
13. If the voting results in a given precinct are declared null, then the voter turnout in that precinct shall be reported as the inaccuracy magnitude, which shall be duly accounted for when tabulating the election results in accordance with this Code.
14. In a procedure set out by this Code judges having been appointed as members of electoral commissions shall not examine applications related to the activities (inactivities) of respective Electoral Commissions.”

Article 30. Add the following new Articles 40¹ and 40² after Article 40 of the Code:

“Article 40¹. Procedure of Electoral Commission Review of Applications (Complaints) and Suggestions

1. Electoral commissions shall review applications (complaints) and suggestions and respond to them during the period specified in the Republic of Armenia legislation, except for cases prescribed under this Code.
2. An electoral commission shall receive, register, and discuss only applications (complaints) and suggestions (hereinafter, “applications”) addressed to that commission.
3. An application must be signed by the applicant and contain his name, surname, residence address, and date (day, month, and year). The applicant shall clearly state, justify the request and attach possible evidence to the application. Applications without such information and/or applications that contain fabricated information on the applicant shall be considered anonymous and shall not be reviewed.
4. An application shall be lodged with the electoral commission that has jurisdiction over the matter raised. An application shall be registered in the electoral commission and its chairman or, in his absence, the deputy chairman, shall sign to refer it to one of the commission members. The matters raised in the application shall be reviewed by the commission member, and a suggestion on how to address the matters shall be presented. The applicant may regularly get information on the progress of discussion of his/her application and where required provide justification proving the facts stated in the application.
5. Electoral commissions shall take appropriate measures concerning issues that need to be addressed urgently.

6. The response to the application shall be sent to the applicant with the signature of the commission chairman or deputy chairman. The commission member who prepared the response to the application shall sign the copy of the response retained by the commission.
7. Commission members, proxies, observers, and mass media representatives shall be regularly notified of transparent and impartial discussion of applications received by electoral commissions and measures taken in respect of such applications.

Article 40². Procedure of Precinct Electoral Commission Voting Result Recount in the Territorial Electoral Commission

1. A candidate, a member of the Precinct Electoral Commission who has produced a special opinion, and a proxy registered in the precinct in question shall have the right to appeal against the precinct election results in the period and procedure defined under this Code by presenting to the respective Territorial Electoral Commission a request demanding a recount of the voting results in the precinct in question.
2. An applicant shall lodge to the Territorial Electoral Commission the request demanding a recount in person, and shall present a personal identification document when doing so; if the applicant is a proxy, then the proxy ID shall be produced, as well.
3. The request demanding a recount shall contain the name, surname, and residence address of the applicant and the number of the precinct in which a recount is demanded, as well as the specific voting results (if several voting events have taken place concurrently) in respect of which a recount is demanded.
4. If several voting events have taken place concurrently, then the member of the Precinct Electoral Commission may lodge a request demanding a recount only on the results of the specific voting event concerning which that member has issued a special opinion.
5. If several voting events have taken place concurrently, a separate request shall be lodged for each demand of recount of the results of each voting event.
6. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall record requests demanding a recount in the operational register in the order in which such requests are received, marking the time of their receipt.
7. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall receive and record requests of a recount in the operational register prior to 2pm on the day following voting day. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall begin the recount activities at 9am in two days after voting day. When performing a recount, the Territorial Electoral Commission shall work without any days-off, from 9am to 6pm, unless the Commission decides to extend the work hours.
8. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall recount the voting results in the same order in which applications have been recorded, in accordance with the requirements hereof concerning the tabulation of precinct election results.
9. The recount of election results in each precinct may not last longer than 5 working hours.
10. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall use the recount results to compile a protocol on the recount of precinct results in the Precinct Electoral Commission. At the request of commission members, proxies, and observers, they shall be given copies of the summarization protocols.
12. Persons who are entitled to be present in electoral commission sessions under this Code may also be present in the election result recount activities in the Territorial

Electoral Commission. The absence of the person who has lodged a request demanding a recount of election results shall not constitute a ground for either not holding or terminating the recount.

12. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall stop the activities of recounting election results 5 days after voting day at 2pm.

13. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall turn down a request demanding a recount of the precinct election results and shall not do the recount, if the recount has been demanded in violation of this Article.”

Article 31. In Article 41 of the Code:

- a. In the first sentence of Paragraph 1, add the word “state” after the word “implementing” and remove the words “and has the status of a legal entity.” In sub-paragraph 1 of the same Paragraph, replace the words “shall manage State Budget funds allocated for preparing and holding elections, and shall oversee...” with the words “shall oversee State Budget funds allocated for preparing and holding elections”;
- b. Revoke sub-paragraphs 4 and 8 of Paragraph 1;
- c. Rephrase sub-paragraph 26 of Paragraph 1 to read as follows:
“26. Shall set out procedures for organizing trainings for and qualifying candidates for electoral commission membership”;
- c. Add a new sub-paragraph 29¹ to Paragraph 1, to read as follows:
“29¹. May set up institutions in accordance with the procedure defined in law.”
- b. Add a new paragraph 4 to read as follows:
“4. The Central Electoral Commission may submit to the Government of the Republic of Armenia draft recommendations on legislative amendments to improve the administration of elections.”

Article 32. In Paragraph 1 of Article 42 of the Code:

- a. Rephrase the first sentence to read as follows: “A Territorial Electoral Commission is a permanently operating state body in accordance with bylaws approved by the Central Electoral Commission.”
- b. In sub-paragraph 2, replace the word “manages” with the word “oversees,”
- c. Remove the words “presented by the community head” from sub-paragraph 3,
- d. Revoke sub-paragraph 9
- e. Remove the words “by the community head” from sub-paragraph 11,
- d. Remove the words “President of the Republic, proportional and” and “with the exception of election results of local self-government bodies,” from sub-paragraph 19.

Article 33. In Paragraph 1(2) of Article 43 of the Code, replace the words “and the results” with the words “, these results shall be posted in the precinct center.”

Article 34. Add a new paragraph to Article 45 of the Code to read as follows:

“Upon discovering violations of the Electoral Code, the member/members of the electoral commission shall inform the competent agencies within a five-day period. Violations of the requirements of this clause shall result in liability in the manner prescribed by law.”

Article 35. Revoke Article 49 of the Code.

Article 36. Add Articles 49¹ and 49² to the Code to read as follows:

“Article 49¹. The Ballot

1. The Central Electoral Commission approves the specimen (form and content) of ballots.
2. In the event of holding different elections simultaneously, the ballots shall be prepared in such a way as to obviously differ from one another.
3. A ballot shall be perforated and contain the name of the printing house(s) and a note on how the ballot must be marked. Ballots shall be made of non-see-through paper.
4. The number of the ballot shall be marked on the edge of the ballot—above the cutting line; the names, last names and patronymics of the candidates, and the names of parties/alliances, in alphabetical order, shall be marked below the cutting line on the left side; empty boxes designed for marking shall be below the cutting line on the right side.
5. If one candidate is voted, then the ballot shall contain the name, surname, and patronymic of that candidate in one line, followed by the “For” or “Against” words below the name, with a blank rectangles in front of each designed for marking on the right side.
6. The Central Electoral Commission shall approve the ballot specimen and ensure the printing of ballots and their preparation for the elections of the President of the Republic of Armenia and the National Assembly elections in the proportional contest.
7. In the majority contest and in local self-government elections, the Territorial Electoral Commissions shall approve the ballot specimen and ensure the printing of ballots and their preparation for the elections.
8. Ballots shall be issued no earlier than 9 and no later than 3 days prior to the voting day.
9. Ballots shall be handed to the Precinct Electoral Commissions on the day prior to the voting day, provided that the quantity of ballots does not exceed the number of voters in a given electoral precinct by more than 3 percent.
10. If registration of candidates and registration of party/alliance lists is declared null and void after issuing of ballots, or in the event of dissolution of an alliance, the name of the respective candidate or party/alliance shall be removed from the ballots in accordance with the procedure defined by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 49². Seals of Electoral Commissions and the Ballot Box

1. Specimens of electoral commissions’ seals shall be approved by the Central Electoral Commission.
2. Seals of electoral commissions shall be prepared at the order of the Central Electoral Commission in accordance with the specimen approved by the Central Electoral Commission.
3. The seals of Precinct Electoral Commissions shall have a four-digit number.
4. The Central Electoral Commission shall wrap the seals of Precinct Electoral Commissions in non-transparent parcels, without making any marks on them, shall seal them and, no earlier than 5 days and no later than 3 days prior to the voting day, shall hand them over to the respective Territorial Electoral Commissions, with a view to providing one seal to each precinct, and shall maintain a purely arithmetic record of seals handed over in such way.

5. The parcels are sealed by the Territorial Electoral Commission and handed to the Chairmen of Precinct Electoral Commissions on the day prior to the voting day, provided that one wrapped seal is given to each such chairman.
6. After the voting, at the session for summarization of election results, after the summarization of the election results, after making and approving the precinct protocols, after sealing and sealing the parcels of used ballots, after posting copies of the protocols on the walls of the precinct center, after providing duplicates of approved copies of protocols to proxies and observers at their request, and after approving the operational register of the TEC, the seal of the TEC shall be returned to the CEC in accordance with the procedure defined by the CEC, where they shall be registered, wrapped in special sacks, and sealed, and a protocol shall be made to that effect. In the event of having a second round of voting or a new election, new seals shall be given to the Precinct Electoral Commissions.
7. The ballot box shall be made of see-through material. The specimen (the sizes) of the ballot box shall be approved by the CEC.
8. More than one ballot box may be used at the precinct center in accordance with the procedure defined by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 37. “Rephrase Article 50 of the Electoral Code to read as follows:

“Article 50. Preparation for Voting

1. The Precinct Electoral Commissions shall be in charge of preparing the voting.
2. Ballots and the seal parcel shall be kept in a special fire-proof safe box in the voting room.
3. The Chairman of the Precinct Electoral Commission shall ensure compliance with the requirements of this Code and establish rule and order at the precinct center during voting.
4. Working desks for voter registration, handing out ballots to voters, and sealing ballots shall be set up at precinct centers.
5. The ballot box and the working desks of commission members shall be placed in a place visible to those who are entitled to be present at the precinct center.
6. Specimens of ballots shall be displayed either at the precinct center or at the entrance to the precinct center.
7. On the voting day, a poster with the photographs of the presidential nominees and their brief CVs, and, in the event of National Assembly proportional elections, the party/alliance voter lists shall be displayed at a visible place at the precinct center.”

Article 38. Rephrase Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 53 to read as follows:

- ”2. At 7:00am on the voting day, the Precinct Electoral Commission, at its session at the precinct center, select by lottery draw the members to carry out voter registration, provided that there is at least one member per 1,000 voters, plus one member to give out ballots, one member to seal the ballots, and one member in charge of the ballot box. The Chairman and Secretary of the commission shall not take part in the lottery draw. They shall replace the other commission members during their absence.
3. The Chairman of the Precinct Electoral Commission shall open the fire-proof safe box in the presence of the commission members and those entitled to be present at the voting, take out the ballots and the wrapped seal, unwrap the wrapped seal, and seal the operational register, after which he shall announce the serial number of the seal. He shall verify whether the ballot box is empty and seal the ballot

box; hand the voter lists to the members in charge of voter registration, the ballots (in packages of 100) to the member in charge of giving ballots to voters, and hands the addresses of residential buildings/houses included in the precinct and the seal over to the member who is in charge of sealing the ballots. The Chairman of the Precinct Electoral Commission shall make a relevant note in the operational register, after which he shall declare the precinct center open.”

Article 39. Rephrase the first sentence of Article 55(2) of the Code to read as follows: “The commission member in charge of voter registration shall check the identification documents of each voter, then he shall find the person’s name, surname, and patronymic and his number in the voter list, and fill out data of the identification document, after which the voter shall sign next to such data.”

Article 40. Rephrase Articles 56-59 of the Code to read as follows:

“Article 56. Voting

1. During voting, every citizen shall receive one ballot (or ballots, if several elections are held simultaneously).
2. Immediately after the registration, the voter shall approach the commission member responsible for allocating ballots. This commission member shall separate the edge of the ballot (or ballots, if several elections are held simultaneously) and shall give the lower part of the ballot to the voter, who shall proceed to the voting booth (room) for voting.
The commission member in charge of giving ballots shall sort the ballot edges in sequence order in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Electoral Commission, and shall give them to the Precinct Electoral Commission Chairman, who shall place separate stacks of such ballots in the fire-proof safe box.
3. A voter shall mark the ballot confidentially in the polling booth (room).
4. A citizen unable to mark the ballot on his own shall be entitled to invite another person, who may not be a proxy, into the polling booth (room) after notifying the Commission Chairman. Except for this case, the presence of another person in the polling booth (room) when the voter is marking the ballot is forbidden.
5. Where a voter believes that he has marked the ballot wrongly, he may turn to the Commission Chairman or, in his absence, to his Deputy, for receiving a new ballot. At the instruction of the Commission Chairman or, in his absence, of his Deputy, the respective commission member shall give out a new ballot and shall mark the voter list appropriately, next to the voter’s name and surname. The ballot filled out with mistake (the damaged ballot) shall be redeemed, of which an appropriate protocol shall be filed.
6. Persons registered in Diplomatic and Consular Representations, as well as persons being in detention or under arrest vote in accordance with the requirements of this Article, and military servicemen vote in accordance with the requirements of Articles 54 to 56.

Article 57. Procedure for Marking and Sealing the Ballot

1. The voter makes a mark identical with the one established by the Central Electoral Commission in the ballot next to the name of the candidate/party/alliance he is voting for.

2. When one candidate/party/alliance is being voted on, the voter, if he is going to vote for that candidate/party/alliance, marks the words "For," and if he is against, he marks the words "Against."
3. After making a mark in the ballot, the voter folds it in four while in the voting booth (room), and approaches the commission member who seals the ballots.
4. The commission member who seals the ballots, after making sure that the voter is registered at the precinct center, seals the ballot, after which the member in charge of the ballot box opens the ballot box slot and enables the voter to drop the ballot into the ballot box. After dropping the ballot into the ballot box, the voter leaves the precinct center.
5. It is prohibited to inquire in any way how the voter has voted.
6. During voting, at the demand of any one commission member or any one proxy, all cases of violations of voting procedures stipulated in this Code, and decisions adopted by the Precinct Electoral Commission shall be recorded in the operational register.

Article 58. Validity of Ballots

A ballot of the established specimen shall be deemed invalid, if:

1. It contains marks in favor of more than one candidate (party);
 2. It contains marks against both the "For" and "Against" words, if only candidate is voted;
 3. It does not contain any mark;
 4. It contains a mark that reveals the voter's identity; or
 5. It has not been sealed, or has been sealed with a different seal.
 6. Procedure of making a mark in a ballot set out by Article 57 of this Code was violated.
2. A ballot is valid, if the voter's intent is clear and unambiguous, and if there are no marks that could reveal the voter's identity.

Article 59. Ballots of Non-Established Specimen

1. Ballots differing from the established specimen shall be considered ballots of non-established specimen.
2. The electoral commission shall determine by vote how to address suspicious ballots."

Article 41. "Rephrase Chapter 12 of the Code to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 12. PROCEDURE FOR SUMMARISATION AND TABULATION OF VOTING RESULTS, DETERMINING THE INACCURACIES, AND SUMMARISATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Article 60. The Procedure for Summarization of Voting Results at a Precinct

1. The Chairman of the Precinct Electoral Commission shall forbid the entry of voters into the precinct center at 8pm, enable the voters already at the precinct center to vote, after which he shall close the ballot box slot, invite out all persons unauthorized to attend the session of the Precinct Electoral Commission, and close the precinct center. The Precinct Electoral Commission shall then start its session for summarizing the voting results. To this end, the Precinct Electoral Commission shall:

1. Count the total number of unused, incorrectly filled out and returned ballots, redeem such ballots in accordance with the procedure defined by the Central Electoral Commission, parcel them up, and seal the parcel;
 2. Stack the edges of used ballots in the order of sequence numbers and count the number of such edges, after which parcel up the edges of used ballots, and seal the parcel;
 3. Based on the voter lists, including the supplementary lists, count the total number of voters; and
 4. Based on the signatures in the voter lists, including the supplementary lists, count the number of voters who received ballots (i.e. those who participated in the voting), and parcel up the said lists and seal the parcel.
2. The results of sub-paragraphs 1-4 of this Article are announced and recorded in the operational register.

The Commission Chairman opens the ballot box, takes one ballot out of the ballot box, loudly announces whether the non-established ballot specimen is valid or invalid, in case of valid ballot – also how it has been cast. If demanded, the ballot shall be passed on to the other commission members. In the event of disagreement with the opinion of the Commission Chairman, a commission member raises an objection. In the event of an objection, based on the voting results, and in the case of no objection in accordance with his statement, the Commission Chairman puts the ballot in the stack of the ballots cast for the respective candidate (party, party alliance) or, if there is only one candidate, then in the stacks of “For” or “Against” votes. Invalid ballots or ballots of non-established specimen shall be put into the stack of invalid or non-established ballots, respectively.

3. After sorting the ballots available in the ballot-box the Commission Chairman shall count one by one all the ballots recognized as invalid, as well as the number of ballots cast for each candidate (party, party alliance and, if there is only one candidate, then the number of ballots “For” and “Against” that one candidate at the presence of Commission members
4. During summarization of results ballots of non-established specimen shall not be considered.
5. The counted and assorted ballots shall be parceled up, and parcels sealed, in accordance with the procedure defined by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 61. Protocol of Precinct Electoral Commission on Voting Results

1. Based on calculations made in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 60 hereof, the Precinct Electoral Commission makes a protocol on voting results in the precinct, which shall specify:
 1. The total number of voters as per voter lists;
 2. The number of ballots allocated to the Precinct Electoral Commission (A) and numbers of ballot edges;
 3. The total number of ballots redeemed at the Precinct Electoral Commission (C);
 4. The number of voters who registered and received ballots, according to signatures (B);
 5. The number of invalid ballots (d2);
 6. The number of used ballot edges (E);
 7. The number of ballots cast for each candidate/party/alliance;
 8. The total number of ballots cast for candidates/parties/alliances (this line is left blank if only one candidate is running); and

9. The number of ballots cast against the candidate (this line is filled out when one candidate is running).
 10. The number of valid ballots (d1);
 11. Level of inaccuracies.
2. The protocol shall be signed by the members attending the commission session and sealed by the Commission Chairman.
 3. If a commission member has a special opinion on the data in the protocol, he submits his opinion in writing, which is then attached to the protocol, and shall make a note next to his signature to that effect.
 4. If a commission member refuses to sign the protocol, the protocol mentions this.
 5. After the voting is over, before making a protocol on the voting results in the precinct, the session of the Precinct Electoral Commission may not be interrupted.
 6. At the end of the session but no later than after 10 hours following the end of voting, the commission shall complete compiling the protocol, and the Commission Chairman shall publicize the protocol made on the voting results in the precinct.
 7. The protocol shall be made in four copies, one copy being parceled with the documents which are deemed as basis, and the parcel shall be sealed and placed in a special sack that was numbered in advance and it will be impossible to use it after opening, another copy of the protocol shall be displayed at the precinct center in a clearly visible place immediately upon completing the actions envisaged by this Article, but no later than before taking the documents and the sealed parcel referred to in this paragraph out of the precinct center. The parcel and sack must carry the signatures of the three commission members; the other commission members and proxies may also sign on the sacks, to which effect a note shall be made in the commission's operational register
 8. Upon the request of a proxy of a candidate/party/alliance or of an observer, he shall be provided with copies of the statement from the precinct protocol on voting results, endorsed by the signatures of the Commission Chairman/Deputy Commission Chairman and the Secretary and by the seal of the commission.
 9. In a procedure defined by Articles 60 and 61 , the Chairman and the Secretary of the Precinct Electoral Commission shall submit the packed and sacked documents, one copy of the protocol on the voting results, operational register and seal to the relevant Territorial Electoral Commission in accordance with the procedure defined by the Central Electoral Commission no later than within 12 hours of the end of the voting.
 10. The formats of the protocol on the precinct voting results and of the statements from the protocols shall be approved by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 62. Procedure for Determining Inaccuracies

1. To calculate the inaccuracies in the precinct:
 1. The number of ballots of approved specimen allocated to the Precinct Electoral Commission (A) shall be compared to the number of redeemed ballots (C) and the sum (D) of the numbers of valid (d1) and invalid (d2) ballots in the ballot box. The difference (in absolute terms) shall be stated as the magnitude of the first inaccuracy.
 2. The number of signatures on the voter list (B) shall be compared to the sum of numbers of the valid and invalid ballots in the ballot box (D). Where the sum of numbers of the valid and invalid ballots in the ballot box (D) is greater than the number of signatures in the voter list (B), the difference shall be stated as

the magnitude of the second inaccuracy. Where the sum of numbers of the valid and invalid ballots in the ballot box (D) is smaller than or equal to the number of signatures in the voter list (B), the magnitude of the second inaccuracy shall be stated as zero.

3. The number of used ballot edges (E) shall be compared to the sum (D) of the total number of valid and invalid ballots. The difference (in absolute terms) shall be stated as the magnitude of the third inaccuracy.
The difference (in absolute terms) shall be stated as the magnitude of the fourth inaccuracy.
4. The figures of inaccuracies stated in sub-paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this paragraph shall be added up.
2. The result of each action specified in sub-paragraph 3 of Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be stated in the protocol on the precinct voting results. The member of the Territorial Electoral Commission who calculates the magnitude of inaccuracies shall fill out his name and surname in the appropriate line of the protocol and shall sign it. The Chairman of the Territorial Electoral Commission shall endorse the calculation of inaccuracies by his signature and the seal of the commission.
3. The magnitude of inaccuracy in a constituency (community) shall equal the sum of inaccuracies at the precincts in such constituency (community).
4. During national elections, the magnitude of inaccuracies shall equal the sum of inaccuracies in all the precincts.

Article 63. Actions of the Territorial Electoral Commission after Receiving Protocols of Precinct Electoral Commissions

1. Territorial Electoral Commission checks validity of protocols on voting results at Territorial Electoral Commissions and in case of availability of inaccuracies in the numbers Chairman and Secretary of the Territorial Electoral Commission remove them by ratifying the correction with their signatures.
2. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall enter the data of the protocol on precinct voting results into the computer in accordance with the procedure defined by the Central Electoral Commission. The commission shall regularly, but no later than once every 3 hours, tabulate the voting results by precinct stations using the computer. The Territorial Electoral Commission shall complete the precinct voting results protocol data entry into the computer no later than within 18 hours of the end of voting.
3. A copy of tabulated data on voting results in the constituency shall be displayed at the commission's office where everyone can see it. Upon demand, a proxy or an observer shall be provided with a copy of tabulated data on the voting results in the constituency, endorsed by the signatures of the Commission Chairman/Deputy Commission Chairman and the Secretary and the seal of the commission.
4. During national elections, the Territorial Electoral Commission shall not compile a protocol on the voting results in the constituency.

Article 63¹. The Procedure for Territorial Electoral Commission Summarizing Results of Elections to the National Assembly by Majority Contest and of Local Self-Government Elections

1. Based on protocols of voting results in precincts, the Territorial Electoral Commission shall, within 18 hours of the end of the voting, summarize the preliminary results of elections to the National Assembly by majority contest and

- the local self-government elections, as required under this Article, and approve them in the form of a protocol.
2. Where there is a complaint at court or at the Territorial Electoral Commission on the precinct voting results, the Territorial Electoral Commission shall summarize election results in the constituency no later than within 5 days of the voting day, based on the protocols on precinct voting results, court rulings, and constituency re-count results, and approve them in the form of a protocol.
 3. The protocol on the results of elections to the National Assembly by majority contest and the local self-government elections shall state:
 1. The total number of voters as per voter lists;
 2. The number of ballots allocated to the Precinct Electoral Commission (A) and numbers of ballot edges;
 3. The total number of ballots redeemed at the Precinct Electoral Commission (C);
 4. The number of voters who registered and received ballots, according to signatures (B);
 5. The number of invalid ballots (d2);
 6. The number of used ballot edges (E);
 7. The number of ballots cast for each candidate/party/alliance;
 8. The total number of ballots cast for candidates/parties/alliances (this line is left blank if only one candidate is running); and
 9. The number of ballots cast against the candidate (this line is filled out when one candidate is running).
 10. The number of valid ballots (d1);
 11. Level of inaccuracies.
Inaccuracies of the constituency (community) equals to the sum total of inaccuracies of precincts included in the constituency.
 4. The protocol shall be signed by the members attending the commission session and shall be sealed by the Commission Chairman.
 5. If a commission member has a special opinion on the data in the protocol, he submits his opinion in writing, which is then attached to the protocol, and shall make a note next to his signature to that effect.
 6. Where a commission member refuses to sign the protocol, the protocol shall state this fact.
 7. After endorsing the protocol, based on these results, the Territorial Electoral Commission shall adopt a decision on the election results.
 8. The Chairman of the Territorial Electoral Commission shall publicize the protocol and officially send copies of the protocol and the adopted decisions to the Central Electoral Commission.
 9. One copy of the protocol shall be displayed at the commission in a clearly visible place immediately upon completing the actions envisaged in this Article.
 10. Upon demand, a proxy of a candidate or an observer shall be provided with a copy of the protocol on election results, endorsed by the signatures of the Commission Chairman/Deputy Commission Chairman and the Secretary and the seal of the commission.
 11. The formats of the protocol compiled at the Territorial Electoral Commission on the results of elections to the National Assembly by majority contest and the local self-government elections shall be defined by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 63². Procedure of Central Electoral Commission Summarizing Presidential Election Results and National Assembly Majority Contest Election Results

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall, based on precincts' voting results received from Territorial Electoral Commissions, no later than within 28 hours of the end of the voting and in accordance with the requirements of this Article, summarize the preliminary results of national elections and endorse them in a protocol, and officially publicize the preliminary results of elections by live broadcast on the Public Radio and the Public Television.
2. The session of the Central Electoral Commission shall not be interrupted before publicizing the preliminary results of elections.
3. Where there is a complaint at court or at the Territorial Electoral Commission concerning the precinct voting results, the Central Electoral Commission shall summarize the results of national elections no later than within 7 days following the voting day, based on protocols on precinct voting results received from Territorial Electoral Commissions, court rulings, and constituency re-count results, and endorse them in a protocol.
4. The protocol on results of national elections shall state:
 1. The total number of voters as per voter lists;
 2. The number of ballots allocated to the Precinct Electoral Commission (A) and numbers of ballot edges;
 3. The total number of ballots redeemed at the Precinct Electoral Commission (C);
 4. The number of voters who registered and received ballots, according to signatures (B);
 5. The number of invalid ballots (d2);
 6. The number of used ballot edges (E);
 7. The number of ballots cast for each candidate/party/alliance;
 8. The total number of ballots cast for candidates/parties/alliances (this line is left blank if only one candidate is running); and
 9. The number of ballots cast against the candidate (this line is filled out when one candidate is running).
 10. The number of valid ballots (d1);
 11. Level of inaccuracies.

During national elections inaccuracies of the constituency equals to the sum total of inaccuracies of all precincts.
5. The protocol shall be signed by the members attending the commission session and sealed by the Commission Chairman.
6. Where a commission member has a special opinion about the data in the protocol, he shall submit his opinion in writing, which shall be attached to the protocol, and shall make a note next to his signature to that effect.
7. Where a commission member refuses to sign the protocol, the protocol states this.
8. Upon endorsing the protocol, the Central Electoral Commission shall adopt a decision on the election results based on the results in the protocol.
9. Until a decision is adopted on the basis of the voting results, as specified in Paragraph 8 of this Article, the session of the Central Electoral Commission may not be interrupted. After the end of the session, but no later than within 3 hours, the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission or a commission member assigned by him shall publicize officially the final results of the elections and the decision adopted on their basis by live broadcast on the Public Radio and the Public Television.

10. Upon demand, a proxy of a candidate/party/alliance or an observer shall be provided with a copy of the summary protocol on election results, endorsed by the signature of the Commission Chairman/Deputy Commission Chairman and the Secretary and the seal of the commission.
11. The formats of protocols on national elections' results shall be defined by the Central Electoral Commission.
12. The Central Electoral Commission shall, as it receives the preliminary results of elections, regularly, but no later than once every 3 hours, publicize information about the preliminary results of the elections, broken down by precincts, through live broadcast on the Public Radio and the Public Television, and through the website of the Central Electoral Commission.
13. Within 3 months of publicizing the final results of national elections, the Central Electoral Commission shall publish an analysis of violations of the Code, indicating the measures undertaken against the perpetrators of violations."

Article 42. In Article 67 of the Code:

- a. In Paragraph 6 add the words "after setting the elections" after the word "Commission";
- b. Revoke sub-paragraph 7 of Paragraph 7;
- c. Replace the words "Paragraphs 2 and 3" in Paragraph 10 with the words "Paragraph 7"; and
- d. Revoke Paragraph 11.

Article 43. Revoke Article 68(4) of the Code.

Article 44. Revoke Article 69 and Article 70 of the Code.

Article 45. After the words "shall be returned" in Article 71(1) of the Code add the words "to the candidate, and where the electoral deposit has been paid from the pre-election fund, to the pre-election fund."

Article 46. In Article 72 of the Code:

- a. Replace the words "by Paragraphs 1 and 2" in Paragraph 2 with the words "by Paragraph 1";
- b. Revoke sub-paragraph 1 of Paragraph 2; and
- c. Rephrase sub-paragraph 6 of Paragraph 2 to read as follows:
"6. Declaration of property and income of the nominated citizen in accordance with the procedure defined in the Republic of Armenia Law on Declaration of Property and Income by Senior Public Officials of the Republic of Armenia."

Article 47. In Article 73 of the Code:

- a. Revoke sub-paragraph 2 of Paragraph 1; and
- b. Add a new sub-paragraph to Paragraph 1 to read as follows:
"In the event inaccuracies are discovered in the documents submitted for registration of a presidential nominee, or if some documents are missing, the Central Electoral Commission shall provide 48 hours to eliminate the said inaccuracies or to complete the documents. Registration shall be denied, if the inaccuracies are not eliminated or the documents not completed within this period."
- c. Add a new paragraph in Paragraph 2, add the words " , except for cases when the candidate applied with a written request to get the deposit back within 48 hours

envisaged for eliminating inaccuracies or completing the documents for registration” after the words “shall be transferred to the State Budget”.

- d. Add the following new paragraph to Paragraph 2 to read as follows:
“Within three months of refusing registration of a candidate, the moneys in the pre-election fund of a nominated presidential candidate may be used for charitable purposes, after which any money left shall be transferred to the State Budget.”

Article 48. Add the words “in case of submitting a written application” before the words “10 days in advance” in Paragraph 4 of Article 78 and Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 111 of the Code.

Article 49. In Article 79 of the Code:

- a. Add a new sub-paragraph to Paragraph 1 to read as follows:
“To pay the electoral deposit, a candidate for the President of the Republic may use the resources in the pre-election fund.”
- b. In Paragraph 4, replace the figure “60,000” with the figure “70,000”; and
- c. In Paragraph 6, after the words “shall be returned,” add the words “to the candidate, and where the electoral deposit is paid from the pre-election fund, to the pre-election fund”; replace the words “one month” with “three months.”

Article 50. In article 81 of the Code:

- a. Revoke Paragraph 2; and
- b. Add the following Paragraph 4¹ to read as follows:
“4.1. During the second round of elections of the President of the Republic, a presidential nominee may use no more than 15 minutes of free air time of the Public Television, and no more than 25 minutes of free air time of the Public Radio, and may use no more than 25 minutes of paid (out of the pre-election fund) air time on Public Television and no more than 35 minutes of paid air time on the Public Radio.”

Article 51. In Article 82(3) of the Code replace the figure “5” with the figure “3.”

Article 52. In Article 83(1) of the Code, replace the figure “60” by the figure “63²,” and replace the words “by Article 63(3)” by “Article 63²(3).”

Article 53. In Article 89 of the Code:

- a. Remove the word “alliance” from Paragraph 1; and
- b. Revoke Paragraph 4.

Article 54. Revoke Article 92(2) of the Code.

Article 55. Revoke Article 93(2) of the Code.

Article 56. Rephrase Article 94 of the Code to read as follows:

“The number of Deputies of the National Assembly shall be enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.”

Article 57. In Article 95 of the Code:

- a. In Paragraph 2, replace the number “75” with the number “90”;
- b. In Paragraph 3, replace the number “56” with the number “41.”

Article 58. Remove the words “Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Mayor of Yerevan, the Deputy Mayor of Yerevan, Marzpets (Governors), Deputy Marzpets, and Community Heads” from Article 97(2) of the Code.

Article 59. In Paragraph 2 of Article 99 of the Code add the words “after setting the election” after the word “Commission”, and in Paragraph 8 add the word “party alliances” after the word “parties.”

Article 60. In Article 100 of the Code:

- a. In Paragraph 2, replace the figure “5” with the figure “15” and add the words “at least each 10th part of the voter list shall be comprised of women” after the word “women” in the third sentence of the same Paragraph;
- b. In Paragraph 3, revoke sub-paragraphs 3), 4), 5), and 7);
- c. In Paragraph 8, after the words “shall be returned”, add the words “to the party/alliance, and where the electoral deposit is paid from the pre-election fund, to the pre-election fund.”; and
- d. Revoke sub-paragraphs 6), 9), and 10).

Article 61. In Article 101 of the Code, rephrase Paragraph 1 to read as follows:

- “1. The party/alliance voter list shall be registered, if the party has within the specified time period submitted, in accordance with the procedure defined in this Code, the following:
 1. The receipt of payment of the electoral deposit in the amount of 2,500- fold the minimum salary;
 2. A statement to the effect that the candidates nominated in the party list have been citizens of the Republic of Armenia for the last five years;
 3. A statement to the effect that the candidates nominated by the party list have had permanent residence in the Republic of Armenia for the last five years; and
 4. Declarations of property and income of the nominated citizen in accordance with the procedure defined in the Republic of Armenia Law on Declaration of Property and Income by Senior Public Officials of the Republic of Armenia.”

Article 62. In Article 102 of the Code:

- a. Revoke Paragraph 1(1);
- b. Add a new sub-paragraph to Paragraph 1 to read as follows:

“In the event inaccuracies are discovered in the documents submitted for registration of a party list, or if some documents are missing, the Central Electoral Commission shall provide 48 hours to eliminate the said inaccuracies or to complete the documents. Registration shall be denied, if the inaccuracies are not eliminated or the documents not completed within this period. The party list shall be registered, if the inaccuracies are eliminated or the documents are completed.”

and
- c. Add a new sub-paragraph to Paragraph 2 to read as follows:

“In the event inaccuracies are discovered in the documents submitted for registration of a citizen in the party list or if some documents are missing, the Central Electoral Commission shall provide 48 hours to eliminate the said inaccuracies or to complete the documents. Registration shall be denied, if the

inaccuracies are not eliminated or the documents are not completed within this period.”

- d. In Paragraph 3, the words “shall be transferred to the State Budget” shall be replaced with the words “with the exception of cases when the party (party alliance) applied with a written request of getting back within 48 hours envisaged for eliminating inaccuracies or completing the documents for registration.

Article 63. In Article 104 of the Code:

- a. In the title, add the words “and alliances” after the word “parties”;
- b. Rephrase Paragraph 1 to read as follows:
“1. Parties (alliances) shall be entitled to nominate candidates for National Assembly Deputies in the majority contest.”
- c. In Paragraph 2, add the words “and alliances” after the word “parties”; and
- d. Remove the words “by secret vote” from Paragraph 3, and add a new sub-paragraph to read as follows:
“Alliances shall nominate candidates for National Assembly Deputies in the majority contest on the basis of a decision endorsed by the permanently functioning bodies of its member parties.”

Article 64. Revoke Article 105(4) of the Code.

Article 65. In Article 106 of the Code:

- a. In Paragraphs 1 and 2, add the words “of alliances” after the words “of party”;
- b. In Paragraph 1, after the word “Decision [adopted]”, add the words “or endorsed by permanently functioning bodies of its member parties,” and revoke sub-paragraph 6.

Article 66. Revoke Article 107 of the Code.

Article 67. In Article 108 of the Code:

- a. Revoke Paragraph 2(1), and in sub-paragraph 2,;
- b. Add new sub-paragraph 5 to Paragraph 2 to read as follows:
“5. Declarations of property and income of the nominated citizen in accordance with the procedure defined in the Republic of Armenia Law on Declaration of Property and Income by Senior Public Officials of the Republic of Armenia.”
- c. In Paragraph 3, after the words “shall be returned”, add the words “to the candidate, and where the electoral deposit is paid from the pre-election fund, to the pre-election fund”;
- d. Revoke Paragraph 4(1);
- e. Add a new sub-paragraph to Paragraph 4 to read as follows:
“In the event inaccuracies are discovered in the documents submitted for registration of a citizen as a candidate for Deputy, or if some documents are missing, the Territorial Electoral Commission shall provide 48 hours to eliminate the said inaccuracies or to complete the documents. Registration shall be denied, if the inaccuracies are not eliminated or the documents not completed within this period. The candidate shall be registered, if the inaccuracies are eliminated or the documents are completed.”
- f. In Paragraph 6, after the word “amount”, add the words “is returned to the state budget, with the exception of cases when the candidate applied with the request to

get the deposit back within 48 hours envisaged for eliminating inaccuracies or completing the documents for registration”.

Article 68. In Article 112 of the Code:

- a. Add a new sub-paragraph to Paragraph 1 to read as follows:
“A candidate for Deputy and the party (alliance) that has nominated voter lists for the National Assembly elections in the proportional contest may use the resources of the pre-election fund to pay the electoral deposit.”
- b. Rephrase Paragraph 2 to read as follows:
“2. A Candidate may make a contribution to his fund in the amount of up to 1,000-fold the minimum salary in the Republic of Armenia. A party, or each party included in an alliance, may make a contribution to its fund in the amount of up to 2,000-fold the minimum salary.”
- c. Add a new Paragraph 6 to read as follows:
“6. The resources left in the pre-election fund after the elections shall be used in accordance with the procedure stated in Article 79(6) of this Code.”

Article 69. In Article 114 of the Code:

- a. At the end of the first sentence of Paragraph 3, add the words “through one printing house”;
- b. In Paragraph 7, replace the figure “5” with the figure “3”; and
- c. In Paragraph 4, add the words “or party alliances” after the word “of parties.”

Article 70. In Article 115 of the Code:

- a. In Paragraph 1, replace the figure “63” with the figure “63²”;
- b. Rephrase Paragraph 2 to read as follows:
“Mandates envisaged for the National Assembly proportional contest are distributed among the party (alliance) lists that have received at least 5 percent and 7 percent, respectively, of the sum of the total number of votes cast for all the party (alliance) lists running in the elections and the inaccuracy figure. If only one party (alliance) list has received at least 5 percent and 7 percent, respectively, of the sum of the total number of votes cast for all the party (alliance) lists and the number of inaccuracies, then the two parties (alliances) that have received the next maximum votes shall participate in the distribution of mandates. If up to three parties (alliances) run in the elections to the National Assembly in the proportional contest, then all the parties (alliances) shall participate in the distribution of mandates.”

Article 71. In Article 116(1) of the Code, replace the figure “62” with the figure “63¹.”

Article 72. In Article 117 of the Code:

- a. Remove the words “and receive the official papers for supporting the nomination from the Central Electoral Commission no earlier than 65 and no later than 60 days prior to the voting day” from Paragraph 3;
- b. Remove the words “and receive the official papers for supporting the nomination from the Territorial Electoral Commission no earlier than 65 and no later than 60 days prior to the voting day” from Paragraph 6; and
- c. Revoke Paragraph 9.

Article 73. In Article 120 of the Code:

- a. Remove the first sentence of Paragraph 1;

- b. Rephrase Paragraph 2 to read as follows:
 - “2. Community leaders are comprise:
 - 1. 5 members – for communities having population up to 1000;
 - 2. 7 members - for communities having population 1001 to 3000
 - 3. 11 members - for communities having population 3001 to 20000
 - 4. 15 members - for communities having population over 20001
- c. Rephrase Paragraph 3 to read as follows:
 - “3. For community council elections, one multi-mandate majority constituency shall be formed on the territory of the community.”

Article 74. In Article 122 of the Code In Paragraphs 1 and 2 replace the word “one” with the word “two”.

Article 75. In Article 123 of the Code:

- a. In Paragraphs 2 and 3, after the words “shall be returned”, add the words “to the candidate, and where the electoral deposit is paid from the pre-election fund, to the pre-election fund”;
- b. In Paragraph 5(2) and Paragraph 5(3), replace the word “one” with “two”, and rephrase Paragraph 5(4) to read as follows:
 - “4. Declaration of property and incomes of the nominated citizen in accordance with the procedure defined in the Republic of Armenia Law on Declaration of Property and Income by Senior Public Officials of the Republic of Armenia.”
- c. Remove the second sentence of Paragraph 8; and
- d. Add a new Paragraph 9 to read as follows:
 - “9. The same person may not be elected as the community head for more than two consecutive terms.”

Article 76. In Article 124 of the Code:

- a. In Paragraph 2(2), after the words “amount”, add the words “is returned to the State Budget, with the exception of cases when the candidate applied with the request to get the deposit back within 48 hours envisaged for eliminating inaccuracies or completing the documents for registration”.
- b. Add a new paragraph to Article 124(2) of the Code to read as follows:
 - “If inaccuracies are discovered in the documents submitted for registration of a nominated candidate for community head or councilor, or some documents are missing, the Territorial Electoral Commission shall provide 48 hours to eliminate the said inaccuracies or to complete the documents. Registration shall be denied, if the inaccuracies are not eliminated or the documents not completed within this period, and the candidate shall be registered, if the inaccuracies are eliminated or the documents completed.”

Article 77. In Article 128 of the Code:

- a. Add a new sub-paragraph to Paragraph 1 to read as follows:
 - “A nominated candidate for community head or councilor may use the resources of the pre-election fund to pay the electoral deposit.”
- b. Add a new Paragraph 3 to read as follows:
 - “6. The resources left in the pre-election fund after the elections shall be used in accordance with the procedure defined in Article 79(6) of this Code.”

Article 78. In Article 130(4) of the Code, replace “5” with “3.”

Article 79. In Article 132(3) of the Code, replace “62” with “63¹.”

Article 80. In Article 133(1) of the Code, replace “62” with “63¹.”

Article 81. In Article 134 of the Code:

- a. Revoke Paragraphs 1 and 2; and
- b. Rephrase Paragraph 4 to read as follows:
“4. In one multi-mandate majority constituency, the candidates who have received a maximum number of “For” votes shall be deemed elected as councilors, provided that their number be in accordance with that specified in Article 120(2) of this Code. If candidates receive equal votes, lottery shall be drawn in accordance with the procedure established by the Central Electoral Commission.”

Article 82. In Article 135(2), replace the figure “60” with the figure “90.”

Article 83. Revoke Article 136 of the Code.

Article 84. Add Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Code to read as follows:

- “6. Electoral precincts and precinct centers are formed at least 20 days before the elections, list of voters is displayed in a visible for everyone place of the precinct center at least 18 days before the voting day.
7. Members of Territorial Electoral Commission submit applications to the Chairman of their Commission for forming Precinct Electoral Commission not earlier than 20 days and not later than 17 days by 18:00 before the voting day and the first sitting of the Commission is held in the precinct at 12:00 of day following the formation of the Commission.”.

Article 85. In Article 139 of the Code:

- a. Rephrase Paragraphs 2, 7 and 23 to read as follows:
“2. Violating the procedure and deadlines for preparing voter lists;
7. Faking ballots and electoral commission seals;
23. Deceiving a person who is unable to vote on his own.”;
- b. Revoke Paragraph 3.

Article 86. Transitional Provisions

1. Within one month of this Law’s entry into force, a new Central Electoral Commission shall be formed, and within one month of formation of the Central Electoral Commission, Territorial Electoral Commissions shall be formed. Data of members of Central Electoral Commission are submitted to the staff of the President of the Republic of Armenia within 25 days by 18:00 following the enforcement of this law and data of Territorial Electoral Commissions - within 25 days by 18:00 following the formation of Central Electoral Commission.
2. Within 15 days of its formation, the Central Electoral Commission shall establish the procedure for organizing professional courses for and qualifying electoral commission members.
The professional courses for members of the Central Electoral Commission and the Territorial Electoral Commissions shall be organized starting from September 1,

2005, and for the nominated candidate members of Precinct Electoral Commissions, starting from January 1, 2006.

3. By the end of powers of the National Assembly by-elections of majority contest candidates to the National Assembly is conducted in the districts defined before the enforcement of this law and the Territorial Electoral Commission is designated by the Central Electoral Commission 65 days before the voting day.
4. Precinct Electoral Commissions are formed from the participants of specialized trainings and having corresponding qualification starting from the first national elections after the enforcement of this law.
5. The requirement of using special numbered sacks stipulated by Article 7 of this law shall be applied starting from the first national elections after the enforcement of this law.

Before the first national elections Chairman and secretary of the Precinct Electoral Commission submit one copy of the protocol on voting results, seal, register and sealed parcels of ballots to the respective Territorial Electoral Commission within 12 hours following the end of voting in procedure established by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 87. This Law shall take legal effect as of July 1, 2005.