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(VENICE COMMISSION)

DRAFT

ELECTORAL CODE

OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

AS OF 6 APRIL 2016

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PART ONE

SECTION 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 1

MAIN PROVISIONS

Article 1. Fundamentals of elections

1. Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, elections of the National Assembly, council of elders of communities, heads of communities — except for the heads of communities provided for by this Code — shall be held by secret ballot on the basis of universal, equal, free and direct suffrage.

Article 2. Universal suffrage

1. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia having attained the age of 18 as of the day of election (hereinafter referred to as “the voting day”) shall have the right to elect during the elections of the National Assembly.

2. During the elections of local self-government bodies the right to elect shall be reserved to the following persons, having attained the age of 18 as of the voting day and registered in the Population Register of the community where the elections are being held:

- (1) citizens of the Republic of Armenia registered for at least 6 months before the voting day;
- (2) citizens having no registration for at least 6 months before the voting day who have been registered in that community by virtue of discharge from compulsory fixed-term military service or of release from serving punishment in the form of imprisonment;
- (3) persons not holding citizenship of the Republic of Armenia but registered for at least one year before the voting day.

3. During the elections of local self-government bodies, the rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code for citizens of the Republic of Armenia shall also extend to persons having the right to elect during the elections of local self-government bodies.

4. Persons lacking active legal capacity as declared by a civil judgment of a court having entered into force, as well as persons sentenced by a criminal judgment having entered into force and serving a punishment for grave and particularly grave offences, committed intentionally, do not have the right to elect.

Article 3. Equal suffrage

1. Electors shall participate in elections on equal grounds.

2. Public authorities shall ensure equal conditions for the exercise of the right of suffrage of electors.

3. Electors shall — irrespective of national origin, race, sex, language, religion, political or other views, social origin, property or other status — have the right to elect and to be elected.

Article 4. Free suffrage

1. Elections in the Republic of Armenia shall be held on the basis of the principles of free and voluntary exercise of the right of suffrage. No one shall have the right to force an elector to vote for or against a candidate (a political party) or have the right to force an elector to participate or not to participate in elections.

Article 5. Direct suffrage

1. The National Assembly, local self-government bodies — except for the heads of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor communities — shall be elected directly by electors.

Article 6. Secrecy of voting

1. Voting shall be held by secret ballot. Secrecy of voting shall not only be the right, but also the responsibility of an elector. Control over the free expression of will of an elector shall be prohibited.

Article 7. Mandatory and periodic nature of elections

1. Elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies shall be held periodically, within the time limits prescribed by the Constitution and this Code.

2. During martial law or state of emergency, elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies shall not be held. No earlier than 50 days and no later than 65 days after the end of the martial law or state of emergency, new elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies not having taken place due to martial law or state of emergency shall be held. The new election shall be called by the decision of the Central Electoral Commission no later than 7 days after the end of the martial law or state of emergency.

Article 8. Publicity of elections

1. Preparations for and holding of elections shall be public.

2. Secondary regulatory legal acts of the Central Electoral Commission shall be published as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On legal acts”. The individual legal acts of the Central Electoral Commission shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission by the end of the day following the adoption thereof.

Secondary regulatory legal acts of the Central Electoral Commission shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission by the end of the day following their state registration and filing with the Central Electoral Commission, and during the period of elections of the National Assembly — on the same day.

The website of the Central Electoral Commission shall be the following: www.elections.am.

3. For the purpose of ensuring publicity and transparency of organising and holding elections, raising the level of public awareness, ensuring security, protection and smooth operation of the website of the Central Electoral Commission and the “Elections” automated system, and properly exercising the powers vested in electoral commissions by this Code, they shall be provided with necessary software, hardware and communication means, equipment and property.

4. Political parties (alliances of political parties) running in elections of the National Assembly and the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor may submit their election programmes in the electronic format prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission for the purpose of posting them on the website of the Central Electoral Commission. The Central Electoral Commission shall post these programmes on the website by the end of the next working day following their submission.

5. Candidates shall, within 5 days following the expiry of the time limit prescribed by this Code for registration, submit a declaration of their property and income to the relevant electoral commission.

Within 5 days following the expiry of the time limit prescribed by this Code for registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections, the political parties (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall submit a declaration of property and income of the political party (alliances of political parties — that of the political parties included therein) to the Central Electoral Commission.

The forms (electronic forms) of declarations, the procedure for submission thereof, as well as the day as of which the declaration of property and financial means are submitted, and the period for which the declaration of income is submitted shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

6. Declarations of political parties (alliances of political parties) running in elections shall, within a 3-day period after being submitted, be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission, whereas carbon copies of declarations of other candidates shall, on the basis of a written application, be provided to members of district electoral commissions, proxies, mass media representatives and observers.

7. During elections of the National Assembly, the state administration body authorised by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, maintaining the State Population Register of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the authorised body”) shall — on the 30th, 20th, 10th day and on the day preceding the voting day — publish the total number of electors included in the Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia, indicating also the total number of electors by place of residence, electors having no registration, police officers seconded to electoral precincts, electors in a medical institution providing inpatient treatment.

8. Electors shall, as prescribed by this Code, be informed of the composition, locations, working hours of electoral commissions, the time limits for submission of applications on inaccuracies in the lists of electors, the nomination, registration of candidates, the day, venue, time of voting, as well as the results of voting and election.

9. On the voting day, by 11:30, 14:30, 17:30 and 20:30, precinct electoral commissions shall be obliged to communicate to the district electoral commission the number of electors having participated in the voting at the given electoral precinct as of 11:00, 14:00, 17:00 and 20:00, respectively. District electoral commissions shall summarise, publish and communicate such data to the Central Electoral Commission with the same interval. During the election of the National Assembly, the Central Electoral Commission shall, on the voting day at 9:00, publish information on the progress of elections, and starting from 12:00 to 21:00 it shall publish, every 3 hours, information on the number of electors having participated in the voting as of the previous hour, by electoral districts, Marz centres and electoral district communities having more than 10 000 electors and the city of Yerevan. After the information on the number of electors having participated in the voting is published, it shall be posted on the website of the Commission by electoral precincts.

In cases provided for by this part, the Central Electoral Commission shall publish the data by live broadcasting on public radio and public television, from the seat of the Central Electoral Commission.

10. During elections of the National Assembly, as well as Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the Central Electoral Commission shall — no later than the day following the voting, starting at 00:00 — carry out tabulation of voting results by electoral precincts. The Central Electoral Commission shall finalise the tabulation of preliminary voting results and shall post preliminary voting results on the website of the Commission no later than within one hour following the receipt of the latest information from the electoral precinct on the voting results, but no later than within 24 hours following the end of the voting.

11. Proxies, observers, mass media representatives and — upon the consent or assignment of the chairperson of the higher level commission — members of the higher level electoral commission shall have the right, as prescribed by this Code, to be present at the sittings of electoral commissions, as well as in the voting room during the entire voting process. Proxies, observers, mass media representatives may photograph and videotape the sittings of electoral commissions, as well as the voting process without violating the right of electors to secrecy of voting.

12. Both the general number of electors registered in military units and the number of those registered by electoral precincts, the lists of electors being drawn up in military units, the numbers and locations of the electoral precincts, where the electors included in the lists of electors being drawn up in military units are to vote, shall not be subject to publication, extracts therefrom shall not be made.

CHAPTER 2

LISTS OF ELECTORS

Article 9. Maintaining the Register of Electors, drawing up lists of electors

1. The Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia shall be a permanently maintained document which is drawn up by electoral districts and communities. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia included in the State Population Register of the Republic of Armenia, registered in any community of the Republic of Armenia and having the right to elect shall be included in the Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia.

Electors having no registration in the Republic of Armenia, as well as persons not holding citizenship of the Republic of Armenia but having the right to elect during elections of self-government bodies shall not be included in the Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia, which does not restrict their right to elect.

2. The Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia shall be maintained, and the list of electors shall be drawn up by the authorised body. The authorised body shall be responsible for maintaining and drawing up the Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia and the list of electors in accordance with the requirements of this Code.

3. Heads of penitentiary institutions and facilities for holding arrestees, as well as commanders of military units shall also draw up lists of electors in cases and as prescribed by this Code.

4. The authorised body shall, twice a year, in June and November (during the first week), submit the Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia by communities, and in case of the election of the National Assembly also by electoral precincts to the Central Electoral Commission in an electronic format no later than 41 days and 3 days before the voting day, for posting it on the website of the Central Electoral Commission with search functionality. The Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia shall be a permanent and integral part of the website of the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 10. Including electors in the list

1. The list of electors of a community shall be drawn up on the basis of the Register of Electors of the Republic of Armenia by electoral precincts, which shall include persons having the right to elect during the relevant election pursuant to Article 2 of this Code.

2. In case of each election, an elector may be included only in one list of electors and only once.

3. In case of the election of the National Assembly, electors having registration of another community shall, no later than 7 days before the voting day, submit an application to the authorised body or to the head of its relevant subdivision (hereinafter referred to as “the authorised body”) on temporary withdrawal from the list of electors by place of registration, indicating the address of their place of residence on the voting day.

The authorised body shall, within a 3-day period following the receipt of the application, temporarily remove the data of the elector from the list of electors by place of registration and add them in the list of electors of the electoral precinct by place of residence. The form of the application shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. During the election of the National Assembly, members of precinct electoral commissions may be temporarily included in the electoral precinct list of electors of the electoral precinct by place of residence where they are appointed as members of a precinct electoral commission, by being removed from the list of electors by place of registration. The application for including members of precinct electoral commissions in the lists of electors of the electoral precinct by place of residence shall be submitted to the authorised body by the political party that has appointed him or her, or by the chairperson of the district electoral commission on the basis of the application of the member of the precinct electoral commission no later than 5 days before the voting day, by 14:00.

The form of the application shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

5. For the purpose of participating in the voting, during the election of the National Assembly, electors having no registration in the Republic of Armenia shall, no later than 7 days before the voting day, submit an application to the authorised body on being temporarily included in the list of electors, indicating the address of their place of residence in the Republic of Armenia on the voting day. The authorised body shall, within a 3-day period following the receipt of the application, include the elector in the list of electors of the electoral precinct of his or her place of residence in the Republic of Armenia on the voting day and shall provide him or her with a statement of information thereon. The forms of the application and the statement of information shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

6. During the election of the National Assembly, the Police under the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the Police”) shall — no later than 5 days before the voting day, by 14:00 — draw up a list of police officers seconded to electoral precincts on the voting day, indicating therein the surname, name, patronymic, type and number of personal identification document, year, month and day of birth (hereinafter referred to as “the date”), the address of the place of registration of police officers and the number of the electoral precinct. Based on these lists, the authorised body shall remove police officers from the list of electors of their place of registration and shall temporarily include them in the list of electors of the precincts they are seconded to.

7. During the election of the National Assembly, the head of the medical institution providing inpatient care shall — no later than 5 days before the voting day, by 14:00 — submit to the authorised body the list of electors undergoing inpatient treatment and having no possibility to be present in the polling station on their own but willing to participate in the voting, indicating therein the surname, name, patronymic, the date of birth and the address of the place of registration of the elector.

Based on the submitted lists, the authorised body shall temporarily remove the electors undergoing inpatient treatment from the list of electors of their place of registration and shall — in accordance with the requirements for the lists of electors as prescribed by Article 11 of this Code — draw up a supplementary list of electors participating in the voting in a medical institution providing inpatient care.

8. During the election of the National Assembly, military servants undergoing compulsory fixed-term military service shall — in case of being granted a temporary leave from service as

prescribed by the legislation — be removed from the list of electors of the military unit and included in the list of electors of their places of permanent residence, in case an application to be included in the list of electors is submitted within the time limit prescribed by part 3 of this Article. The form of the application and the list of documents attached thereto shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

9. During the election of the National Assembly, military servants undergoing compulsory fixed-term military service, as well as contract military servants registered within the territory where the military units are located, members of their families, registered together with them within the same territory, who have the right to elect shall be included in the list of electors of the military unit.

10. During the election of the National Assembly, the Ministry of Defence, the National Security Service and the Police shall — no later than 50 days before the voting day — submit to the authorised body and the Central Electoral Commission the number of electors registered in military units, troops of the National Security and the Police respectively, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

11. Contract military servants registered outside the territory of a military unit shall be included in the list of electors under the general procedure.

12. The list of electors registered in the penitentiary institution shall — 3 days before the voting day — be drawn up by the head of the penitentiary institution.

Article 11. Requirements for lists of electors

1. Lists of electors shall be drawn up by the addresses of places of registration of electors. During elections of the National Assembly, lists of electors by place of residence, electors having no registration, police officers seconded to electoral precincts shall also be included in the list of electors of the precinct, under separate sections by continuing the numbering.

2. The list of electors, being posted in the polling station, shall include the marz name (city of Yerevan), the number of the electoral district, the record number of the electoral precinct, the name of the community (the administrative district), and in separate columns the following data of the elector:

- (1) the record number in the list of electors of the given polling station;
- (2) the surname, name, patronymic (the patronymic, if available in the relevant registration documents);
- (3) the date of birth;
- (4) the address of the place of registration, and in case of electors having no registration in the Republic of Armenia the address of the place of residence in the Republic of Armenia on the voting day.

3. The numbering referred to in point 1 of part 2 of this Article in the lists of electors, being used by precinct electoral commissions, shall be carried out by electoral precincts; the number of the electoral precinct shall also appear on each sheet of the lists.

In the lists of electors referred to in this part, 4 additional columns shall be provided for:

- (1) the data of the personal identification document of the elector;
- (2) the elector's signature;
- (3) the individual seal of the member of the commission responsible for the registration of electors;
- (4) additional notes. Additional notes in the list of electors shall be made in the manner and cases prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. The lists of electors shall be drawn up in the form of a register and paginated for up to 1 000 electors, so that each register of the lists of electors allocated to an electoral precinct

having more than 1 000 electors includes data of approximately equal number of electors. Each page of the list of electors may contain data on maximum 20 electors.

5. The list of electors and the supplementary list of electors being drawn up by the authorised body in cases prescribed by this Code shall be drawn up, paginated, and each page of the list shall be signed and sealed by the authorised body.

6. The lists of electors shall be drawn up in an electronic format as well, through special software. The electronic lists shall be downloaded beforehand in the technical equipment being provided to the relevant precinct electoral commission and shall contain:

- (1) the surnames, names, patronymics (patronymic, if available in the relevant registration documents) of all electors;
- (2) the number of the electoral precinct in the list of which the elector is included;
- (3) the record number of the elector in the list of electors of the relevant polling station;
- (4) the date of birth of the elector;
- (5) the address of the place of registration of the elector, and in case of electors having no registration in the Republic of Armenia, the address of the place of residence in the Republic of Armenia on the voting day;
- (6) the number of the identification card, biometric passport and non-biometric passport of the elector (where the elector has the relevant personal identification documents), whereas in the case provided for in part 8 of Article 10 of this Code — the number of the military service record book;
- (7) for electors of the given district, also the photograph available in the digital database (where the elector has obtained an identification card or a biometric passport, or where a non-biometric passport has been obtained after 1 January 2008).

7. The list of elector, being drawn up in a military unit, penitentiary institution and facility for holding arrestees shall be drawn up, paginated, and each page of the lists shall be signed and sealed by the commander of the military unit, the head of the penitentiary institution and the head of the facility for holding arrestees, respectively. The lists of electors referred to in this part shall not be drawn up electronically and shall not be downloaded in the technical equipment being provided to the precinct electoral commissions.

8. Supplementary lists of electors undergoing inpatient treatment shall not be drawn up in an electronic format and shall not be downloaded in the technical equipment being provided to precinct electoral commissions.

Article 12. Providing lists of electors to electoral commissions and to the person possessing the premises of a polling station

1. The authorised body shall, no later than 40 days before the voting day, provide the person possessing the premises of the polling station with the list of electors — containing on the last page a statement of information on the time limits and place of submitting applications on inaccuracies in the lists of electors, on the procedure and time limits for the consideration thereof — for the purpose of posting it at the polling station. The form of the statement of information shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

2. The authorised body shall — 10 days and 4 days before the voting day — provide the Central Electoral Commission with a statement of information on the number of electors by electoral districts and electoral precincts in case of elections of the National Assembly and the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor. During the elections of head of community and member of the council of elders, the authorised body shall — 10 days and 4 days before the voting day — provide the district electoral commission with a statement of information on the number of electors by electoral precincts and communities.

No later than 7 days after calling elections of the National Assembly, the authorised body shall provide the Central Electoral Commission with a statement of information on the number of electors by electoral districts.

3. The authorised body shall — 3 days before the voting day — provide the chairpersons of precinct electoral commissions with the lists of electors by electoral precincts (including the supplementary list of electors undergoing inpatient treatment), drawn up in the form of a register, posted at polling stations and used by the precinct electoral commission, and with the addresses of the residential buildings (houses) included in the electoral precinct, as well as with the forms necessary for drawing up supplementary lists of electors in the electoral precinct on the voting day, as prescribed by Article 15 of this Code.

The relevant technical equipment with downloaded electronic lists of electors, together with the lists of electors, shall be provided to the chairpersons of precinct electoral commissions as well.

4. The lists of electors registered in a military unit shall be provided by the commander of the military unit to the chairperson of the district electoral commission 3 days before the voting day, in a sealed envelope which shall be opened only on the voting day at the precinct electoral commission.

5. The head of the penitentiary institution shall — 2 days before the voting day — hand over the list of electors to the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission.

6. On the voting day, the head of the facility for holding arrestees shall draw up and hand over the list of electors to the member of the precinct electoral commission organising voting through a mobile ballot box at the facility for holding arrestees.

Article 13. Accessibility of lists of electors

1. The list of electors of the Republic of Armenia, except for the cases provided for by this Code, shall be open to the public.

The lists (including electronic lists) of electors containing information on participation in the voting shall not be subject to publication, it shall be prohibited to take photocopies of them, photograph or videotape them.

2. During elections of the National Assembly and the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the authorised body shall post the list of electors by electoral precincts 40 days and 2 days before the voting day, on www.police.am website. The lists of electors posted on the website by electoral precincts must be downloadable.

3. The person possessing the premises of the polling station shall — 40 days before the voting day — post the list of electors in the polling station, in a place visible to all.

4. The chairperson of a precinct electoral commission shall — 2 days before the voting day — post a carbon copy of the list of electors, including the supplementary list of persons undergoing inpatient treatment at the polling station, in a place visible to all. These lists shall remain posted in the polling station until the 7th day following the voting.

5. Lists of electors registered in a military unit shall — 10 days before the voting day — be posted at a military unit in a place visible to military servants.

6. In case of forming more than one electoral precinct in a community, the authorised body shall — no later than 4 days before the voting day — send notifications to the electors about the voting day, the number of the electoral precinct, the address of the polling station and the time.

Article 14. Procedure for submitting applications on elimination of inaccuracies in the lists of electors, considering the applications and for correcting the lists of electors

1. Everyone shall have the right to submit — no later than 7 days before the voting day — an application to the authorised body on elimination of inaccuracies (including those not relating to the persona of the applicant) in the lists of electors. Within 5 days following the receipt of an application but no later than 5 days before the voting day, the authorised body shall, in case there are grounds prescribed by this Code, make necessary alterations or corrections to the list of electors, informing the applicant thereon in writing. Where the application does not relate to the persona of the applicant, the authorised body shall, in case the application is satisfied, notify thereon through azdarar.am website.

2. During 5 days preceding the voting day, as well as on the voting day until the end of the voting, everyone shall have the right to submit an application to the authorised body to be included in the list of electors. Decisions concerning applications to be included in the lists of electors shall be delivered within such time limits which enable the elector to participate in the voting. The authorised body shall provide a statement of information on including in the supplementary list of electors, being drawn up on the voting day, to those persons who are registered at the address included in the description of the relevant electoral precinct, but who have been left out of the list of electors of that electoral precinct, as well as to those persons who have submitted to the authorised body, in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by this Code, an application on being temporarily included in the list of a certain polling station, where the application has not been rejected, however they have not been included in the relevant list.

The form of the statement of information of the authorised body on being included in the supplementary list of electors, being drawn up on the voting day and to be submitted to the precinct electoral commission, shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission. Additions to the list of electors — based on the statement of information of the authorised body on being included in the supplementary list of electors, being drawn up on the voting day — shall be made by a precinct electoral commission on the voting day, through drawing up a supplementary list as prescribed by Article 15 of this Code.

3. Disputes on eliminating inaccuracies in the lists of electors and making an addition to the list shall be settled by superior authorities or through judicial procedure, in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings” or the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia. The superior authorised body or the court shall deliver the act on eliminating inaccuracies in the lists of electors in the course of 3 days after the receipt of the complaint (application). In case the complaint (application) is satisfied on the voting day and within 3 days preceding it, the superior authorised body shall provide the applicant with a statement of information on being included in the supplementary list of electors, being drawn up on the voting day. The court or the superior authorised body shall deliver the act on making an addition to the list within the time limits enabling the elector to participate in the voting. The act on eliminating inaccuracies in the lists of electors shall be executed by the authorised body. On the voting day, based on the act on being included in the list of electors, the data of the elector shall, as prescribed by Article 15 of this Code, be entered by the precinct electoral commission in the supplementary list of electors, being drawn up on the voting day.

The courts shall send the carbon copy of the civil judgment on including electors in the list of electors to the authorised body for making relevant changes to the Register of Electors as well.

4. Electoral commissions shall not have the right to make, on their own initiative, any change — whether a correction or an addition — to the lists of electors (including to the supplementary lists).

Article 15. Supplementary list of electors, being drawn up on the voting day

1. On the voting day, the precinct electoral commission shall draw up a supplementary list of electors, as prescribed by this Code.
2. The supplementary list of electors shall be drawn up where electors who are not included in the lists of electors (including in the supplementary list of persons undergoing inpatient treatment) show up at the electoral precinct on the voting day and submit a statement of information or a civil judgment of a court on being included in a supplementary list of electors, being drawn up on the voting day as provided for by part 2 or 3 of Article 14 of this Code.
3. Documents serving as a basis for including an elector in a supplementary list of electors shall be attached to the supplementary list.
4. Supplementary lists of electors shall be drawn up in compliance with the requirements for the lists of electors, being provided for the voting to precinct electoral commissions, by adding one column for indicating the number and date of the civil judgment of the court or the statement of information of the authorised body.
5. Each page of the supplementary list of electors drawn up by a precinct electoral commission shall be signed and sealed by the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission. After the end of the voting, the chairperson of the commission shall indicate at the end of the list the total number of electors included in the supplementary list of electors, being drawn up on the voting day.

CHAPTER 3

ELECTORAL PRECINCTS AND POLLING STATIONS

Article 16. Electoral precincts

1. The authorised body shall — no later than 45 days before the voting day — with the participation of the head of community and member of district electoral commission, form electoral precincts, taking into account local and other conditions, with the purpose of creating more favourable conditions for the organisation of voting.
2. Electoral precincts shall be formed by sequential numbering. The procedure for numbering the electoral precincts shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.
3. Upon the formation, an electoral precinct shall include no more than 2 000 electors. The number prescribed by this part may be changed in case of correcting the lists of electors and in cases provided for by Article 10 of this Code.
4. An electoral precinct may not include different settlements.

Article 17. Polling station, voting room

1. The voting shall be held at a polling station, a hall, a parlour, a room and other premises equipped for such purpose (hereinafter referred to as “the voting room”).
2. A polling station must be as close as possible to the residential buildings and houses located in the electoral precinct. The voting room in a polling station shall be selected in such a way as to ensure smooth voting process. Where there are no appropriate buildings and structures in an electoral precinct belonging to the state or local self-government bodies, the

head of community shall be obliged to rent relevant premises. The head of the community shall be responsible for designating the location of a polling station and the voting room, as well as for furnishing the voting room in accordance with the requirements prescribed by Article 57 of this Code.

3. A polling station may not be located within the premises occupied by military educational institutions, military units and health care institutions.
4. During the election of the National Assembly, polling stations shall be formed in penitentiary institutions as well.
5. For ensuring access to the exercise of the right of suffrage by electors with limited physical capacity, local self-government bodies shall undertake necessary measures at polling stations.

Article 18. Designating a polling station

1. The head of the community (also the head of the penitentiary institution in cases provided for by this Code) shall designate a polling station no later than 43 days before the voting day. The head of the community shall inform the authorised body, the relevant district electoral commission and the person possessing the premises of the polling station thereon, and the head of the penitentiary institution shall inform the district electoral commission.
2. In case of impossibility to organise or to hold the voting properly it at a polling station, the head of the community shall be obliged to change upon request of the chairperson of the district electoral commission — no later than 5 days before the voting day — the location of the polling station, and, in exceptional cases (natural disaster, accident, fire or force majeure), also on the voting day, upon the consent of the chairperson of the district electoral commission.
3. In case the location of a polling station is changed, the head of the community shall immediately inform the electors thereon.

CHAPTER 4

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Article 19. Main principles of election campaign

1. Period of the election campaign shall be the period prescribed by this Code, during which the rules prescribed by this Code on making use of public resources, conducting election campaign and ensuring financial transparency are in place for the purpose of ensuring equal opportunities for the political parties running in elections and candidates. The fact that the period of election campaign is fixed, shall not restrict the conduct of election campaign during other periods not prohibited by this Code. The period of election campaign shall start on the 7th day following the last day of the time period prescribed by this Code for the registration of the electoral lists of political parties running in elections and of the candidates and shall expire one day before the voting day. The campaign during that period shall be hereinafter referred to as “the election campaign”. The campaign on the voting day and on the preceding day shall be prohibited.
2. The State shall ensure free conduct of election campaign. It shall be ensured by state and local self-government bodies by providing them with halls and other premises for the purpose of organising election assemblies, meetings of electors with candidates and other election related events. These shall be provided to political parties running in elections of the National Assembly and of the Council of Elders of Yerevan on equal grounds and free of charge, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Halls of general education institutions may be provided to candidates, political parties running in elections only after 18:00, or on non-working days, and only in cases where there are no other relevant halls for conducting election campaign in the given community (administrative district of the city of Yerevan).

3. No later than 20 days after calling elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the marz governor and, in case of Yerevan, the Mayor of Yerevan shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission the list of halls and other premises that are provided free of charge to political parties running in elections. This list shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission. Information shall be submitted in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. After calling elections, election campaign offices may be formed. Election campaign offices may not be located in the buildings occupied by state and local self-government bodies (except for cases where election campaign offices occupy an area not belonging to such bodies), in the buildings of general education institutions, as well as in the buildings where electoral commissions are functioning. Signboards placed on election campaign offices shall not be regarded as printed campaign materials within the meaning of this Code where they do not contain direct appeals to vote for or against a candidate, a political party running in elections, the number of such posters does not exceed the number of election precincts formed for elections, and where the surface area of each signboard does not exceed 6 square metres.

5. It shall be prohibited to conduct an election campaign and disseminate any type of campaign material by:

- (1) state and local self-government bodies, as well as state and community servants (except for the Deputies of the National Assembly), pedagogical staff of education institutions when performing their powers;
- (2) judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, officers of the Special Investigation Service, Police, National Security Service, penitentiary institutions, officers of the Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service and military servants;
- (3) members of electoral commissions.

6. During the election campaign, as well as on the day preceding the voting day and on the voting day, candidates, political parties running in elections shall be prohibited to provide (promise) — in person or through someone else on their behalf, or in any other manner, gratuitously or on preferential conditions — money, food, securities, goods to electors or to render (promise) services to them. Charitable organisations, the names of which may resemble (be associated with) the names of political parties running in elections and the names of candidates, may not carry out during the election campaign charity work in the communities where elections are held in which these candidates, political parties or candidates nominated thereby are running.

7. Electoral commissions shall control the observance of the established procedure for election campaigns. In case this procedure is violated by candidates, political parties running in elections, the electoral commission having registered the candidate and the electoral list of a political party running in elections shall apply to the competent authorities in order to prevent them, or shall impose a warning in respect of the candidate, political party running in elections, which has committed the violation, by giving a 3-day reasonable period for eliminating the violation. The candidate, the political party running in elections shall be obliged to eliminate the violation (consequences of the violation) within the time limit referred to in the decision and shall inform the electoral commission thereon.

8. Where there is a violation of the established procedure for the election campaign, which is of a continuous nature, and the committed violation may essentially affect the election results, or it is impossible to eliminate the consequences of the committed violation, and the committed violation may essentially affect the election results, the electoral commission — having

registered the candidate, the electoral list of the political party running in elections — shall apply to court for revoking the registration of the candidate and the electoral list of the political party running in elections.

9. Arrested candidates or candidates kept in detention and candidates included in the electoral list of a political party running in elections shall conduct election campaign through proxies designated to act in electoral processes. To that end, arrested candidates or candidates kept in detention shall have the right, during the election campaign, to have meetings with up to 3 proxies for up to 2 hours a day at the facilities for holding arrestees or detention facilities, respectively.

Article 20. Election campaign through the mass media

1. Political parties running in elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall have the right to use the airtime (including by live broadcasting) of public radio and public television on equal conditions, free of charge and for pay.

2. The procedure and schedule for providing free and paid airtime on public radio and public television shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission on the next day following the expiry of the time limit prescribed for registration of the electoral lists of political parties running in elections.

3. Public radio and public television shall be obliged to ensure non-discriminatory conditions for candidates, political parties running in elections.

News programmes on public radio and public television shall provide impartial and non-judgemental information on election campaigns of candidates, political parties running in elections.

Failure to organise events by a candidate, political parties running in elections or lack of information on those activities shall not serve as a ground for the mass media not to publish information on the campaign of the candidate, political parties running in elections.

Upon revoking or declaring invalid the registration, contracts concluded with candidates, political parties running in elections by radio companies and television companies for providing airtime for election campaign purposes shall be considered revoked, and the provision of airtime to them for election campaign purposes shall be terminated.

4. No later than 10 days after calling elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall publish the price per minute of the paid airtime of public radio and public television, which may not exceed the market value of the commercial advertisement for the last 6 months preceding the calling of elections and may not be changed until the end of the election campaign.

5. Provisions prescribed by part 3 of this Article shall also equally extend to other radio companies and television companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, which provide airtime to candidates, political parties running in elections for conducting election campaign, irrespective of the form of ownership.

No later than 10 days after calling elections, radio companies and television companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall publish the price per minute of their paid airtime, which may not exceed the average cost of the commercial advertisement for the last 6 months preceding the calling of elections and may not be changed until the end of the election campaign.

6. It shall be prohibited to interrupt radio programmes and television programmes on election campaign by commercial advertisement.

7. Television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall be obliged to observe the requirements of this Article when carrying out satellite broadcasting.

8. When carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, radio programmes and television programmes on election campaign shall be audio- and video-taped. They shall be kept until the day the body assumes its powers.

9. Supervision over the observance by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting of the established procedure for election campaigns shall be exercised by the National Commission on Television and Radio.

10. During the election campaign for the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall conduct monitoring for assessment of provision by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting of equal conditions for political parties running in elections. To this end, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall develop and, no later than 20 days after calling elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, publish and submit to the Central Electoral Commission a methodology for assessment of provision by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting of equal conditions for political parties running in elections during the period of the election campaign.

11. During the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall — no later than on the 10th day and the 20th day of the time period established for the election campaign, as well as 2 days before the time limit established for summarising the election results — publish and submit to the Central Electoral Commission the results of the monitoring on fulfilling the requirements of this Article by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting during the period of the election campaign, as well as the conclusion of the Commission on compliance by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting with the established procedure for election campaigns.

12. Newspapers and magazines founded by state or local self-government bodies shall be obliged to ensure non-discriminatory and impartial conditions for candidates, political parties running in elections during the period of the election campaign.

13. During the conduct of the election campaign, abuse of freedom of the mass media shall be prohibited.

Article 21. Procedure for using a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials during election campaign

1. Candidates, political parties running in elections shall have the right to disseminate campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials in an unimpeded manner.

2. Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials may be posted only at the places designated for this purpose, on paid billboards and on election campaign offices.

Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials may also be posted on or inside buildings (except for block of flats or subdivided buildings, public catering or trading facilities), structures, means of transport (except for public transport) belonging to or under the possession of natural or legal persons upon their consent.

Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials may be posted or used without restrictions during holding of campaign assemblies, meetings with electors and other election related events — at the places of holding such events. Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials posted during such events shall be removed by the relevant candidate, political party running in elections after the event is over.

Natural persons having the right to carry out electoral campaign may carry campaign materials with them without restrictions.

3. The head of community shall be obliged to — 10 days before starting the election campaign — designate free places for posting a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials in the territory of the community, establishing such conditions which shall ensure equal opportunities (equal surface area) for candidates, political parties running in elections. This power shall be considered as a mandatory power for the head of community.

4. In case of a community with 10 000 or more electors, the head of community shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission the decision on designating free places for posting campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials within a 3-day period following the adoption of such decision.

5. Organisations disposing outdoor billboards shall — in case of placing campaign posters, other printed campaign materials during the period of the election campaign — ensure non-discriminatory and impartial conditions for candidates, political parties running in elections.

6. For the purpose of providing the political parties running in elections with billboards with the surface area exceeding 5 square metres during the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, organisations disposing outdoor billboards shall — within a 21-day period after calling elections — submit information to the Central Electoral Commission on the quantity, surface areas, locations and rental charges for billboards being provided during the period of election campaign to political parties running in elections. Information shall be provided in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. Billboards not included in the list submitted to the Central Electoral Commission may not later be provided to political parties running in elections. The Central Electoral Commission shall post this information on the website of the Commission. Political parties running in elections shall — within the time limits prescribed by this Code for submitting documents for registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections — submit requests to the Central Electoral Commission for placing a campaign poster, other printed campaign materials on these billboards in the form prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. Based on this information, the right to post a campaign poster, other printed campaign materials on outdoor billboards shall be distributed among political parties running in elections upon the decision of the Central Electoral Commission. Based on the decision of the Central Electoral Commission, the political party running in elections shall conclude a contract with an organisation disposing outdoor billboards for posting a campaign poster, other printed campaign material. Where no contract is concluded by the political party running in elections within a 3-day period after entry into force of the decision of the Central Electoral Commission, the disposer of the billboard shall be free to conclude another contract for using this billboard for other purposes. During elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan the campaign poster with a surface area exceeding 5 square metres may only be posted on an outdoor billboard distributed beforehand by the Central Electoral Commission.

Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials posted on the voting day and the day preceding the voting day may remain in their places.

7. Tearing off, scratching, as well as making notes on or damaging in any other way campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials shall be prohibited.

8. The head of the community, heads of organisations disposing outdoor billboards shall ensure that a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials of candidates, political parties running in elections whose registration has been revoked or declared invalid are removed.

In case of failure to remove within a 3-day period the campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials by candidates, political parties running in elections whose registration has been revoked or declared invalid, they shall be removed by the head of community. The head of community may claim from the candidates, political parties running in elections whose registration has been revoked or declared invalid compensation for the expenses incurred by him or her.

9. A campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials posted in violation of the provisions of this Article shall be removed by the head of community, if necessary with the help of the Police. This function shall be considered as a delegated power of the head of community. During the period of conducting election campaign the posters, printed and other materials with a surface area exceeding 5 square metres recognised by the Central Electoral Commission or district electoral commission as being associated with election campaign must be removed in the communities where elections are conducted, and in which these candidates, political parties are running. Posters, printed and other materials with a surface area up to 5 square metres recognised as being associated with the election campaign, as well as posters, printed and other materials with a surface area exceeding 5 square metres deemed as being associated with the election campaign during the elections of the local self-government bodies must be removed, where the expenses of the given posters, printed and other materials are not included in a campaign fund as prescribed.

10. Printed campaign materials must include information on the client, printing organisation and the print run.

11. Dissemination of anonymous printed campaign materials shall be prohibited. In case of detecting printed campaign materials which is anonymous or not prepared by the relevant candidate, political party running in elections, the informed electoral commission shall apply to competent authorities to stop the unlawful actions.

Article 22. Prohibiting influence on the free expression of will of electors

1. Employees of radio companies and television companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, who are registered as candidates, as well as persons having an employment contract or a contract on provision of paid services shall be prohibited to cover elections, to anchor radio programmes or television programmes except for cases prescribed by Article 20 of this Code.

2. During the election campaign, state and community servants, persons having an employment contract or a contract on provision of paid services with the mass media shall be prohibited to exercise their powers for the purpose of establishing unequal conditions among candidates, political parties running in elections and for the purpose of influencing the free expression of will of electors through demonstrating partiality.

3. When publishing the results of an opinion poll on ratings of candidates, political parties running in elections, the organisation carrying out the opinion poll shall be obliged to indicate the time limits of the poll, the number of respondents and the type of sample, type and place of collection, precise wording of the question, statistical evaluation of a possible error, and the client.

It shall be prohibited to publish the results of an opinion poll in relation to candidates, political parties running in elections, as well as information thereon via television, radio carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, or the print media on the day preceding the voting, as well as on the voting day by 20:00.

4. Assembling in groups on the territory — with up to 50 metre radius — adjacent to a polling station, as well as cluster of vehicles on the territory adjacent to the entrance of a polling station on the voting day shall be prohibited. The enforcement of the provisions of this part shall be ensured by the police, irrespective of the request of the electoral commission.

Article 23. Restrictions for election campaigns of candidates occupying political, discretionary, civil positions, as well as candidates occupying a position of state or community servant

1. Candidates occupying political, discretionary, civil positions, as well as candidates occupying a position of state or community servant, candidates included in the electoral list of the political party running in elections shall carry out the election campaign taking into account the following restrictions:

(1) direct or indirect appeals to vote for or against a candidate, a political party running in elections while performing official powers or any abuse of the official position to gain advantage during elections shall be prohibited;

(2) use of premises, means of transport and communication, material and human resources provided for performing official responsibilities for election campaign purposes shall be prohibited, except for security measures applicable in respect of high-ranking officials subject to state protection under the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On ensuring the safety of persons subject to special state protection".

2. Where coverage of other activities of a candidate referred to in this Article, who is included in the electoral list of the political parties running in elections is carried out, the mass media carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall consider this when covering the activities of other candidates, political parties running in elections, in order to comply with the non-discriminatory principle of equality of coverage prescribed by Article 20 of this Code.

CHAPTER 5

FUNDING OF ELECTIONS

Article 24. Funding of organisation and holding of elections

1. The funding of expenditures for organising and holding elections (including drawing up lists of electors, organising professional courses for holding elections), as well as of expenditures necessary for the activities of electoral commissions shall be made at the expense of the funds of the State Budget. Such expenditures shall be provided for by the State Budget under a separate item and shall be incorporated under one line in the Public Procurement Plan for state needs.

When making procurement at the expense of financial means allocated for organising and holding elections, the procurement procedure shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

2. In case of holding early elections, the elections shall be funded from the reserve fund of the State Budget and, if it is impossible, from the reserve of the Central Bank.

3. Where budgetary funds are not provided in a timely manner, or no means are available in the reserve fund of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, or the provided means are insufficient to fund the elections, the Central Electoral Commission shall be entitled to obtain a loan from private banks on a competitive basis or to use the funds available on the special account of electoral deposits of the Central Electoral Commission. The Government shall compensate the loan or the funds used from the special account of electoral deposits within a 3-month period.

4. Financial means intended for organising and holding elections (including those designated for the maintenance of commissions) shall be allocated to the "Staff of the Central Electoral Commission" state administration institution. The "Staff of the Central Electoral Commission" state administration institution shall, as prescribed by this Code and the legislation of the

Republic of Armenia, dispose of the financial means and shall be responsible for using such means in accordance with the estimates prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 25. Electoral deposit

1. Candidates, political parties running in elections shall pay an electoral deposit to the account of the Central Electoral Commission.

2. The amount of the electoral deposit shall be returned within a 7-day period in the following cases:

- (1) being elected or participating in the distribution of mandates;
- (2) receiving ballot papers with affirmative vote, which makes 5 or more per cent of the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast for candidates, whereas in case of the political party — receiving ballot papers with affirmative vote, which makes 4 or more per cent of the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast for;
- (3) recusal prior to the registration of candidates, electoral lists of political parties running in elections;
- (4) declaring the election results invalid and calling a new election or
- (5) death of candidate — to his or her heirs.

3. In all other cases the amount of the electoral deposit shall not be returned.

Article 26. Formation of a campaign fund

1. In case of elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, the political parties (alliances of political parties) running in elections, candidates for head of community having 10 000 and more electors, as well as candidates for head of community and for member of council of elders in cases prescribed by part 1 of Article 115 of this Code shall be obliged to set up a campaign fund within 7 days after the adoption of the decision on registering the candidate, the electoral list of the political party (the alliance of political parties) running in elections. In case of not setting up a campaign fund — within 3 working days after being subjected to administrative liability for not setting up a campaign fund — the competent electoral commission shall apply to court for revoking the registration of the candidate, the electoral list of political party running in elections. Political parties included in an alliance of political parties and candidates nominated through the electoral list of a political party running in elections shall not be entitled to form a separate campaign fund. Means of the campaign fund of political parties (alliances of political parties) running in elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall be collected in the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, whereas means of the campaign fund of candidates, political parties running in other elections shall be collected in any commercial bank having a branch in Yerevan and all marzes of the Republic. The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia shall provide the Central Electoral Commission with the list of such banks. For the purpose of forming a campaign fund, banks shall open temporary special accounts based on the applications of candidates, political parties (alliances of political parties) running in elections. Revenues shall not be calculated and paid from those accounts.

2. The campaign fund of a candidate shall be formed from:

- (1) his or her personal funds;
- (2) funds provided by the political party that has nominated him or her;
- (3) voluntary contributions by persons having the right to elect.

3. The campaign fund of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall be formed from:

- (1) funds of that political party (member political parties of the alliance);
- (2) personal funds of a candidate included in the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections;

- (3) voluntary contributions by persons having the right to elect.
4. Amounts paid to accounts of campaign funds by natural and legal persons not referred to in parts 2 and 3 of this Article shall be transferred to the State Budget.
5. The procedure for record keeping of contributions made to campaign funds, and expenditures made from such funds shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.
6. The maximum amounts of contributions made to campaign funds shall be prescribed by this Code. Campaign fund contribution parts, which are in excess of the maximum amount of contributions prescribed by this Code, shall be transferred to the State Budget.
7. Banks where temporary special accounts are opened shall — once every 3 working days after the expiry of the time limit prescribed by this Code for the registration of candidates, electoral lists of political parties running in elections — submit to the Oversight and Audit Service of the Central Electoral Commission a statement of information on financial receipts and expenditure of campaign funds of candidates, political parties running in elections. The Oversight and Audit Service shall summarise such data, draw up a brief statement of information and post it on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.
8. Attachment may not be imposed on means of the campaign fund, such means may not be subject to levy in execution due to personal obligations not related to the election campaign of a candidate, political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections.

Article 27. Use of means of campaign fund

1. For the purpose of funding the conduct of an election campaign through the mass media, renting of halls, premises for organising election gatherings and meetings with electors, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing all types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors, the candidates, political parties running in elections shall only use means of the campaign fund. The maximum amount of expenditures made from a campaign fund for this purpose shall be prescribed by this Code.
2. Where the goods and services described in part 1 of this Article were provided at a price lower than the market value or acquired prior to formation of the campaign fund, they shall be included in the expenditures of the campaign fund at their market value.
3. Where it is substantiated that the good or service rendered for an election campaign has not been included in the expenditures of the campaign fund at its market value, the Central Electoral Commission shall impose a fine on the candidate, political party running in elections in the 3-fold amount of the expenditures not included in the campaign fund expenditures.
4. Where it is substantiated that the expenditures made for the election campaign of a candidate, political party running in elections have exceeded the maximum amount of campaign fund prescribed by this Code, the electoral commission shall impose a fine on the candidate, political party running in elections in the 3-fold amount of the sum exceeding the maximum amount of the fund prescribed by this Code.
5. Where the difference between the amount spent for an election campaign and the amount of the fine paid to the State Budget prescribed by parts 3 and 4 of this Article, and the maximum amount of the campaign fund prescribed by this Code exceeds 10 per cent of the maximum amount of the campaign fund prescribed by this Code, the court shall, on the basis of the application of the electoral commission, revoke the registration of the candidate, the electoral list of the political party running in elections.

6. In case of failure to transfer the amounts prescribed by this Article to the State Budget within a 5-day period after the decision of the electoral commission or failure to appeal against the decision of the electoral commission through judicial procedure within the same time limit, the electoral commission shall levy the mentioned amount through judicial procedure.

7. All operations with the accounts of campaign funds shall be terminated as of the voting day.

8. Based on the application of candidates, political parties running in elections, the Central Electoral Commission shall allow making payments from the fund after the voting day as well, but only for transactions carried out before the voting day.

9. After the election, the means remaining in the campaign fund shall — within a 3-month period following the official announcement of election results — be used for charitable purposes at the discretion of the candidate, political party running in elections. After the expiry of the 3-month period, the means remaining in the campaign fund shall be transferred to the State Budget.

10. In the cases of declaring elections not having taken place or declaring elections invalid or calling new elections, the means remaining in the campaign fund shall be frozen until candidates, electoral lists of political parties running in elections are registered for the new elections. In case of new elections, candidates, political parties running in elections may use the means remaining in their campaign funds.

11. The means remaining in campaign funds of the candidates, political parties running in elections which do not run in the new elections shall — within a 3-month period — be used for charitable purposes at the discretion of the candidate, the political party running in elections. After the expiry of the 3-month period, the means remaining in the campaign fund shall be transferred to the State Budget.

12. The provisions of parts 3, 4 and 5 of this Article shall only relate to funding of the conduct of an election campaign through the mass media, renting of halls, premises for organising election gatherings and meetings with electors, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing all types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors, prescribed by part 2 of this Article.

Article 28. Declaration on the contributions made to campaign funds and on the use thereof

1. Candidates, political parties running in elections shall submit to the Oversight and Audit Service of the Central Electoral Commission a declaration on the contributions made to their campaign funds and on the use thereof on the 10th day following the commencement of the election campaign, also on the 20th day in case of the regular elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, as well as no later than 3 days before the period for summarising election results prescribed by this Code. Contracts of a candidate, political party running in elections concluded for funding the conduct of election campaign through the mass media, renting of halls, premises for the purpose of organising election gatherings and meetings with electors, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing all types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors, as well as documents certifying the payments made shall be attached to the declaration.

2. The electronic form of the declaration shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission. The form of the declaration shall also include guidelines on the procedure and time limits for drawing up and submitting the declaration.

3. The following shall be specified in the declaration:
 - (1) the timeline of all contributions made to the campaign fund and the amount of contributions;
 - (2) the expenses made for the acquisition of each service, property, good prescribed by part 1 of Article 27 of this Code, the time limit for making such expenses, the details of documents certifying such expenses;
 - (3) the amount remaining in the campaign fund.
4. Within a 3-day period following the submission of declarations, they shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 29. Oversight and Audit Service

1. The Audit and Oversight Service shall carry out oversight of the contributions made to campaign funds, expenditures and their calculation, as well as of the daily financial activities of political parties.
2. The position of the Head of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be a civil position, the other 2 employees of the Service shall be civil servants. The Head of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be appointed by the decision of the Central Electoral Commission. The official pay rates for the Head of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration for persons holding state positions”. The Head of the Service may not be a member of any political party.
3. For the purpose of ensuring the transparency and publicity of contributions made to campaign funds, expenditures and their calculation, each faction of the National Assembly may — within a 10-day period after calling elections of the National Assembly — appoint one auditor to the Oversight and Audit Service, qualified as an auditor in the Republic of Armenia and having the right of suffrage. The auditors of factions of the National Assembly appointed to the Oversight and Audit Service shall be remunerated for 2 months in the amount of 3-fold of the nominal amount of the minimum monthly salary prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia for each month. Their activities shall terminate on the 5th day following the announcement of election results.
4. During the regular elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, and elections of local self-government bodies, up to 5 specialists may be involved in the Oversight and Audit Service on a contractual basis for a period of up to 1 month.
5. The Oversight and Audit Service shall — within 2 days after receiving the declarations on the use of means available in campaign funds of candidates, political parties running in elections — carry out inspection, draw up a statement of information on inspection results and submit it to the Central Electoral Commission for consideration. After being considered at the sitting of the Commission, the statement of information shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.
6. Powers of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be as follows:
 - (1) receive from banks — where temporary special accounts are opened for the formation of campaign funds — relevant information, statements, carbon copies of documents on financial inflows and outflows of campaign funds of candidates, political parties running in elections;
 - (2) receive from banks and political parties relevant information, statements, carbon copies of documents on membership fees paid to the political party, donations to the political party, budget financing, proceeds from civil transactions as well as other proceeds and expenditures not prohibited by the legislation;
 - (3) prepare draft decisions on issues related to its activities and submit them to the Central Electoral Commission for consideration.

7. The rules of procedure of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission in compliance with the requirements of this Code and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On political parties”.

CHAPTER 6

OBSERVERS, PROXIES, MASS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES

Article 30. Right of observation mission

1. The following shall have the right to act as observation mission during elections:

- (1) international organisations and those foreign non-governmental organisations whose charter objectives include issues of democracy and protection of human rights;
- (2) those non-governmental organisations of the Republic of Armenia whose charter objectives include — for minimum 3 years preceding the day of calling elections — issues related to democracy and protection of human rights and which do not support candidates or political parties running in elections;
- (3) representatives of electoral bodies of other states.

2. International organisations, foreign non-governmental organisations and representatives of electoral bodies of other states referred to in part 1 of this Article may carry out observation mission upon invitation. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia may not be included as an observer in the observation missions of international organisations, foreign non-governmental organisations.

The following shall be entitled to invite the organisations and bodies referred to in this part to carry out observation mission:

- (1) the President of the Republic;
- (2) the President of the National Assembly;
- (3) the Prime Minister;
- (4) the Central Electoral Commission.

2. Election related reports of observation missions of the organisations referred to in points 1 and 2 of part 1 of this Article shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.

3.

4. Upon invitation, representatives of diplomatic and consular representations accredited to the Republic of Armenia may, during elections, carry out monitoring of the election process with the status of a visitor. The invitation shall be sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 31. Accreditation of observers and mass media representatives, issuance of certificates for observers, mass media representatives and visitors

1. Observers of the organisations and bodies referred to in part 1 of Article 30 of this Code shall carry out their mission after being accredited to the Central Electoral Commission.

2. Applications for accreditation or for making amendments (supplements) to the list of accredited observers shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission after the date of calling elections, but no later than 15 days before the voting day.

3. The Central Electoral Commission shall deliver to those organisations the certificates to be issued for observers no later than 12 days after receiving the application.

4. The Central Electoral Commission shall reject the application on accreditation of observers, where the charter objectives of the organisation do not meet the requirements of points 1 and 2 of part 1 of Article 30 of this Code, or where the submitted documents do not comply with the requirements of the decision of the Central Electoral Commission prescribed by part 7 of this Article.

5. In case an observer organisation supports any candidate, political party running in elections, the Central Electoral Commission shall deprive the respective organisation of the right to carry out observation mission.

In case an observer supports a candidate, political party running in elections, violates the requirements of this Code, the chairperson of the electoral commission may remove the observer from the sitting of the commission, and from the polling station on the voting day, upon a decision adopted by 2/3 of the votes of attending members of the electoral commission.

6. Powers of observers shall terminate on the 8th day following the official announcement of election results, unless an appeal has been lodged with the court against the election results. In case of lodging an appeal with the court against the election results, the powers of observers shall cease on the day following the date of announcement of the judicial act, unless second round of elections or repeat voting is called. In case of the second round of elections or repeat voting, accreditation of observers shall not be required again.

7. Certificates for visitors shall be issued by the Central Electoral Commission on the basis of applications submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

8. Representatives of a legal person or a natural person being an individual entrepreneur carrying out media activities (hereinafter referred to as "the mass media representatives") may, on the voting day, conduct coverage of elections and voting after being accredited to the Central Electoral Commission. The entity carrying out media activities may accredit its representatives, if it has been disseminating on its behalf mass media for at least one year. A 1-year limitation shall not apply where the entity carrying out media activities disseminates mass media through terrestrial on-air broadcasting.

The application for being accredited and the list of mass media representatives shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission after the day of calling elections, but no later than 15 days before the voting day. Each entity carrying out media activities may accredit to the Central Electoral Commission no more than 50 representatives of only one mass media disseminated on its behalf.

The Central Electoral Commission shall hand over to the given mass media the certificates being issued for the mass media representatives no later than 12 days after receiving the application.

The Central Electoral Commission shall reject the application on accreditation of the mass media representatives, where it does not meet the requirements of this Article, or the submitted documents do not comply with the requirements of the decision of the Central Electoral Commission as prescribed by part 9 of this Article.

In case the mass media representative violates the requirements of this Code, such representative may be removed from the sitting of the commission, and from the polling station on the voting day, upon a decision adopted by 2/3 of the votes of attending members of the electoral commission.

9. The procedure for accreditation of observers, mass media representatives, the list of documents and information necessary for accreditation, electronic forms of documents submitted for accreditation and the procedure for the submission thereof, forms of certificates for observers, mass media representatives and visitors, and the procedure for completing them shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 32. Rights, responsibilities and guarantees for activities of an observer, mass media representative, visitor

1. An observer, mass media representative, visitor shall have the right to:

(1) be present at the sittings of electoral commission and, during the voting, in the voting room as well.

Observers of non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Armenia may be present at the sittings of electoral commissions and, during voting, also in the voting room where — as a result of the professional courses and test on holding elections prescribed by Article 41 of this Code — they have a qualification certificate for being included in an electoral commission or have received, through a test, a certificate for carrying out observation mission;

(2) observe, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, the processes of printing, transportation, keeping and counting of ballot papers, ballot envelopes;

(3) freely get acquainted with sample ballot papers in the precinct electoral commission, freely get acquainted — in the presence of the chairperson of the electoral commission, deputy chairperson, secretary or any member of the commission, as assigned by the chairperson of the commission — with election related documents under the disposal of the electoral commission concerned, the decisions of the commissions, the minutes of sittings, relevant court judgments, the relevant statement of information provided to an elector by the authorised body. Independently make extracts from election related documents (except for lists of persons having participated in the voting, voting passes), not intervening in and not disturbing the activities of an electoral commission;

(4) freely move in the voting room for observing the ballot papers, ballot envelopes, lists of electors and the ballot box;

(5) publicly, including through the mass media, express an opinion, make a statement on organising and holding of elections;

(6) enjoy other rights provided for by this Code.

2. An observer who on the voting day has been present in the electoral precinct may — from 14:00 to 18:00 of the day following the voting day — submit an application for getting acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting, except for the lists of electors drawn up in military units. Lists signed by persons having participated in the voting may be made available within the time limits prescribed by this Code for recounting activities in the presence of the chairperson or the secretary of the respective precinct electoral commission or the representative thereof. Two hours shall be provided for getting acquainted with the list of each electoral precinct. The lists signed by persons having participated in the voting may not be copied, photocopied and video-recorded.

The application for getting acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting shall be submitted to the district electoral commission by the applicant personally, which shall contain the name, surname of the applicant, address for notices and the number of the electoral precinct the lists whereof are requested to be made available. Upon request to get acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting of different electoral precincts, a separate application shall be submitted for each of them.

Where an application has been submitted simultaneously for recount and for getting acquainted with the lists of the same precinct, the process of getting acquainted with the lists shall be carried out during the recount.

The district electoral commission shall reject the application for getting acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting, where it has been submitted in violation of the provisions of this part.

3. When exercising their rights, an observer, visitor shall be obliged to be unbiased, neutral, not to express a prejudiced position publicly nor display a preferential attitude towards the authorities or opposition, candidates, political parties running in elections or any issue related to the electoral process.

An observer, visitor may not give instructions, make claims and intervene in the activities of electoral commissions and in the process of voting, they may ask questions to officers responsible for the elections and draw their attention to violations.

Observers may submit their personal observations to electoral commissions through the report of the observation mission. Observers shall base all their findings on their personal observations.

4. A mass media representative shall not have the right to intervene in the activities of an electoral commission and in the process of voting, to conduct a campaign, to give instructions, make claims to members of the electoral commission.

5. An observer, mass media representative, visitor shall be obliged to register in the registration book of the electoral commission for being present at the sittings of the electoral commission and/or in the voting room.

An observer, mass media representative, visitor shall be obliged to — for being present at the electoral commission and, during the voting, also in the voting room — mandatorily carry, in a visible manner, the certificate of the established sample issued by the Central Electoral Commission. Observers of non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Armenia, besides the certificate, must also mandatorily carry, in a visible manner, the qualification certificate issued by the Central Electoral Commission for being included in the composition of the commission or for carrying out observation mission.

6. No limitation of the rights of observer, mass media representative, visitor, prescribed by this Code, shall be allowed. No one (including electoral commissions) shall have the right to remove an observer, mass media representative, visitor from the polling station or otherwise exclude them from the activities of the commission, except for the cases where they violate the requirements of this Code.

In case an observer, mass media representative, visitor is asked to leave the polling station or the sittings of the electoral commission, a relevant entry shall be made in the registration book of the electoral commission together with an indication of the reasons.

7. An observer, mass media representative, visitor shall be obliged to comply with the requirements of this Code.

Article 33. Status of proxy

1. Political parties running in elections — after registering the electoral lists, and candidates, after having registered — may have proxies for the purpose of protecting their interests in electoral commissions, in their relations with state and local self-government bodies, organisations, mass media. Only persons having the right of suffrage may act as a proxy.

2. After registration of candidates, electoral lists of political parties running in elections, the electoral commission making the registration shall within a 5-day period provide the candidate, authorised representative of the political party running in elections with proxy certificates equal to the 3-fold of the number of the formed electoral precincts. The relevant commission shall indicate in the certificate the name of the political party running in elections, the name, patronymic, surname of the candidate. The candidate or his or her authorised representative or the authorised representative of the political party running in elections shall complete the certificates and provide them to proxies.

3. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, the Special Investigation Service, officers of the Police, National Security Service, Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, officers of Penitentiary Service, military servants, observers, candidates, members of electoral commissions may not act as a proxy.

Article 34. Rights, responsibilities and guarantees for activities of a proxy

1. A proxy shall have the right to:

- (1) participate, in an advisory capacity, in the sittings of a commission, be present in the voting room during the voting;
- (2) freely get acquainted with samples of ballot papers, ballot envelopes, freely get acquainted — in the presence of the chairperson of the electoral commission, deputy chairperson, secretary or any member of the commission, as assigned by the chairperson of the commission — with election related documents under the disposal of the electoral commission concerned, the decisions of electoral commissions, the minutes of sittings, relevant court judgments, the relevant statement of information provided to an elector by the authorised body, receive their carbon copies or make extracts therefrom (except for the lists of persons having participated in the voting, the voting passes), during the recount of voting results independently make extracts from the lists signed by electors;
- (3) in the manner and cases prescribed by this Code, appeal against the decisions, actions, omission of the electoral commissions;
- (4) observe, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, the processes of printing ballot papers, transportation, keeping and counting of ballot envelopes;
- (5) be physically present — without intervening in the activities of the member of commission and the person maintaining the technical equipment (hereinafter referred to as “the specialist”) — near the commission members, identifying the electors, providing a ballot paper and a ballot envelope, and the specialist, the member controlling the ballot box, as well as observe their activities;
- (6) submit observations and recommendations to the chairperson of the commission with regard to activities of the electoral commission;
- (7) when summarising the voting results, freely get acquainted — in the presence of the chairperson, secretary or one of the members of the commission as assigned by the chairperson of the commission — with the cast ballot papers and the marks put therein, be present during the counting of ballot papers and summarisation of voting results;
- (8) exercise other rights reserved thereto by this Code.

2. A proxy who on the voting day has been present in the electoral precinct may — from 14:00 to 18:00 of the day following the voting day — submit an application for getting acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting, except for the lists of electors drawn up in military units. Lists signed by persons having participated in the voting may be made available within the time limits prescribed by this Code for recounting activities, i.e. from 9:00 to 18:00, in the presence of the chairperson or the secretary of the respective precinct electoral commission or the representative thereof. Two hours shall be provided for getting acquainted with the list of each electoral precinct. The lists signed by persons having participated in the voting may not be copied, photocopied and video-recorded.

The application for getting acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting shall be submitted to the district electoral commission by the applicant personally, which shall contain the name, surname of the applicant, address for notices and the number of the electoral precinct the lists whereof are requested to be made available. Upon request to get acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting of different electoral precincts, a separate application shall be submitted for each of them.

Where an application has been submitted simultaneously for recount and for getting acquainted with the lists of the same precinct, the process of getting acquainted with the lists shall be carried out during the recount.

The district electoral commission shall reject the application for getting acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting, where it has been submitted in violation of the provisions of this part.

3. A proxy shall exercise his or her rights as prescribed by this Code.

Proxies shall not have the right to intervene in the activities of an electoral commission, to give instructions to members of the electoral commission, to intervene in the process of voting.

4. One proxy of each candidate and up to 2 proxies of each political party running in elections may be present at the sitting of the electoral commission and in a voting room during the voting. Candidates included in the electoral list of political parties, running in elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor may not have proxies. Proxies shall be obliged to register in the registration book of the electoral commission for being present at the sittings of the electoral commission and/or in the voting room.

5. No limitation of the rights of proxy prescribed by this Code shall be allowed. No one (including electoral commissions) shall have the right to remove proxies from the voting room or otherwise exclude them from the activities of the commission, except for cases where they violate the requirements of this Code. In case the proxy violates the requirements of this Code, the chairperson of the electoral commission may remove the proxy from the sitting of the commission and from the polling station on the voting day, upon a decision adopted by 2/3 of the votes of attending members of the electoral commission.

Where the chairperson of the commission asks a proxy to leave the polling station or the sittings of the commission, a relevant entry shall be made in the registration book of the electoral commission, indicating the reasons.

6. A proxy shall be obliged to comply with the requirements of this Code.

Article 35. Status of authorised representatives of a political party running in elections

1. Political parties running in elections shall have the right to appoint up to 3 authorised representatives to the Central Electoral Commission.

2. Only persons having the right of suffrage may act as an authorised representative.

3. An authorised representative shall be provided with a certificate of the form established by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. An authorised representative shall have the right to:

- (1) get acquainted with the election related documents under the disposal of the Central Electoral Commission;
- (2) participate, in an advisory capacity, in the sittings of the Central Electoral Commission;
- (3) enjoy the rights prescribed by this Code for a proxy.

5. Powers of an authorised representative may be terminated at any point by the person having appointed him or her.

6. Powers of an authorised representative shall terminate 7 days after the publication of the final decision based on the results of elections.

7. In case an appeal is lodged with a court against the election results, the powers of an authorised representative shall terminate on the day following the date of announcement of the judicial act.

SECTION 2

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

CHAPTER 7

SYSTEM, FUNCTIONS OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS. STATUS OF MEMBERS OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

Article 36. System, status and procedure for activities of electoral commissions

1. For the purpose of organising and holding elections, a 3-level system of electoral commissions — consisting of the Central Electoral Commission, district electoral commissions and precinct electoral commissions — shall be formed.
2. One or more district electoral commissions shall be formed for each electoral district. The total number of district electoral commissions may not exceed 41. The formation, numbering of more than one district electoral commissions in an electoral district, the boundaries of service areas and the seats of district electoral commissions shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.
3. Where a community is included in the service areas of more than one district electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission shall — no later than 65 days before the voting day — designate the district electoral commission which shall be vested with the power to organise and hold elections of local self-government bodies in the community concerned.
4. Electoral commissions shall be independent from state and local self-government bodies in exercising their powers.
5. Electoral commissions shall exercise their powers based on the principles of lawfulness, collegiality and publicity.
6. State and local self-government bodies shall gratuitously provide district electoral commissions with necessary office space and facilities, shall support the commissions for ensuring their smooth activities.

Article 37. Functions of electoral commissions

1. Electoral commissions shall ensure the exercise and protection of the right of suffrage of electors.

Article 38. Acts of electoral commissions

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall adopt secondary regulatory legal acts and individual legal acts, whereas district and precinct electoral commissions shall adopt individual legal acts.

Chairpersons of the Central Electoral Commission and district electoral commission may adopt individual legal acts.

2. Legal acts of electoral commissions adopted within the scope of their powers shall be binding.

Article 39. Status of members of electoral commissions

1. Member of electoral commission shall act in the electoral commission independently and shall not represent the person having appointed him or her.
2. Members of electoral commissions shall not be subject to be called up for drills or military trainings. During the period of election of the National Assembly, members of electoral commissions shall be subject to draft for compulsory military service after the end of the election, as prescribed by this Code. Members of the Central Electoral Commission shall also be exempt from mobilisation.
3. Criminal proceedings may be initiated against a member of the Central Electoral Commission only upon the consent of the Central Electoral Commission. Without the consent of the Central Electoral Commission, member of commission may not be deprived of liberty, except where he or she has been caught at the time of or immediately after committing a criminal offence. The Central Electoral Commission shall adopt a decision on the mentioned issue by majority of votes of the total number of members of the commission.
4. Member of the Central Electoral Commission shall work on a permanent basis. He or she may not act as member of any political party or otherwise engage in political activities, hold a position not related to his or her status in state or local self-government bodies or any position in commercial organisations, engage in entrepreneurial activities, perform other paid work except for scientific, educational and creative activities. In public speeches, they must show political restraint.
5. Member of district electoral commission shall work on a permanent basis. He or she may not act as a member of any political party, nor engage in political activities. In public speeches, they must show political restraint.
6. Members of electoral commission shall have the right to get acquainted in advance with issues and documents submitted to the commission for consideration, make speeches at the commission sittings, submit recommendations and require holding a voting on that issue, ask questions to participants of the sitting and receive answers.
7. Members of electoral commission shall be obliged to perform tasks assigned by the chairperson of the commission within the scope of his or her competence.
8. Members of higher level electoral commission — upon the assignment or the consent of the chairperson of that commission — shall be obliged to or may respectively participate in sittings of a lower electoral commission, in an advisory capacity, and be present in the voting room on the voting day.
9. Members of district and precinct electoral commissions may, on their own initiative, be exempt from performing their official responsibilities for the purpose of exercising their powers.
10. Member of electoral commission shall be obliged to participate in the activities of the commission and perform his or her powers, and this shall not be deemed an invalid absence from his or her work.
11. Each member of electoral commission shall, at the 1st sitting in which he or she participates, publicly read and sign a commitment “On performance of the powers of a member of electoral commission in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and legislation of the Republic of Armenia”, which is attached to the registration book of the electoral commission. The text of the commitment of a member of electoral commission “On performance of the powers of a member of electoral commissions in

compliance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and legislation of the Republic of Armenia” shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 40. Funding of electoral commissions, remuneration of members of electoral commissions

1. Electoral commissions shall be funded, and members of electoral commissions shall be remunerated at the expense of the funds of the State Budget as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration for persons holding state positions” and this Article. The Central Electoral Commission may also have an extra-budgetary account for implementing programmes aimed at improving the quality of electoral administration and technical re-equipment of electoral commissions.

2. The official pay rates for members of the Central Electoral Commission shall be prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration for persons holding state positions”.

3. The chairperson of precinct electoral commission, secretary or members of the commission shall not be remunerated where they failed to sign the protocol or their powers terminated early.

4. Up to 30 per cent of the funds available on the special account of electoral deposits of the Central Electoral Commission may — in accordance with the budget approved by the decision of the Central Electoral Commission for each year — be used for studying the practice of election administration, implementation of programmes aimed at improving the quality of election administration, for technical re-equipment of electoral commissions, and for preparation and publishing of materials with regard to electoral legislation.

The funds remaining on the special account of electoral deposits of the Central Electoral Commission may — upon the decision of the Central Electoral Commission — be used for technical re-equipment of electoral commissions and for preparation and publishing of materials with regard to electoral legislation.

CHAPTER 8

FORMATION OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

Article 41. Fundamentals for formation of electoral commissions

1. Citizens, having the right of suffrage and meeting the requirements of Articles 42 and 43 of this Code, may respectively be included in the composition of the Central Electoral Commission and district electoral commissions.

2. Persons convicted for crimes provided for by Articles 149-154.6 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia may not act as member of electoral commission. Deputies of the National Assembly, ministers and their deputies, heads of communities, marz governors and their deputies, judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigation Committee, of the Special Investigation Service, officers of the Police, National Security Service, Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, officers of the Penitentiary Service, military servants, proxies, authorised representatives, observers, candidates may not act as member of district and precinct electoral commissions. Members of councils of elders may not also act as members of district electoral commissions.

3. Persons having the right of suffrage and having a qualification certificate for being included in an electoral commission may be included in the composition of precinct electoral commission.

4. Following the formation of district electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission shall carry out training of members of those commissions.
5. The Central Electoral Commission shall — in the manner it has prescribed — organise and conduct professional courses on holding elections for candidates for members of electoral commissions and representatives of non-governmental organisations, registered in the Republic of Armenia, wishing to carry out an observation mission. The courses shall be organised in the city of Yerevan and in marzes, at least once a year, based on the applications of citizens and the lists submitted by political parties. Persons included in the submitted lists, as well as persons having submitted an application shall participate in the professional courses in compliance with the schedule (date, time, venue) published by the Central Electoral Commission in advance. The persons referred to may participate in a test, irrespective of the fact of participating in the course, in compliance with the published schedule. Qualification certificates shall be issued based on the test. The test shall be carried out through computer-based or standard testing method. Representatives of mass media, non-governmental organisations may follow the process of the courses and the test.
6. A citizen may simultaneously be included in the composition of only one electoral commission.
7. Information on the composition of electoral commissions shall be published as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 42. Procedure for formation of the Central Electoral Commission

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall comprise of 7 members.
2. The chairperson and other members of the Central Electoral Commission shall, upon recommendation of the competent standing committee of the National Assembly, be elected by the National Assembly upon at least 3/5 of votes of the total number of Deputies, for a term of 6 years. The same person may not be elected as a member of the Central Electoral Commission, including as chairperson of the commission for more than 2 consecutive terms. The number of representatives of each sex in the Central Electoral Commission shall not be less than 2.
3. Everyone, meeting the requirements for Deputies, shall be eligible for being elected as member of the Central Electoral Commission provided that he or she has:
 - (1) higher legal education and at least 3 years of professional work record within the last 5 years;
 - (2) scientific degree in law and at least 2 years of professional work record within the last 5 years;
 - (3) higher education and at least 5 years of work record of public service in state bodies within the last 10 years; or
 - (4) higher education and at least 3 years of professional experience in a standing electoral commission within the last 5 years or at least 3 years of work record in the staff of the commission.
4. The nomination and election of candidates for chairperson and members of the Central Electoral Commission shall be carried out as prescribed by the Law on “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”.
5. The chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission shall — no later than 60 days before termination of powers of a member of the Central Electoral Commission — notify the President of the National Assembly on the term of termination of powers of the member of the Central Electoral Commission.

6. The chairperson and members of the Central Electoral Commission shall be elected as prescribed by the Law on “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly” no later than 7 days before the termination of powers of a member of the Central Electoral Commission.

In case the chairperson or a member of the Central Electoral Commission is not elected by the National Assembly within the prescribed time limit, the President of the Republic shall — within a 5-day period — appoint acting chairperson or member of the Central Electoral Commission. The acting chairperson or member shall hold his or her office until the chairperson or member of the Central Electoral Commission is elected by the National Assembly.

7. In case the chairperson or a member of the Central Electoral Commission submits a letter of resignation, the vacant position shall be filled no later than within a 30-day period as prescribed by the Law on “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”. In case of early termination of powers of a member of the Central Electoral Commission, the new member of the Central Electoral Commission shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.

8. The powers of a member of the Central Electoral Commission shall be terminated by the National Assembly upon at least 3/5 of votes of the total number of Deputies, in case of violating the incompatibility requirements, joining a political party, otherwise engaging in political activities, failing to show political restraint in public speeches.

9. The right to nominate candidates for the deputy chairperson and secretary of the Central Electoral Commission shall be vested in the members of the Central Electoral Commission.

10. The deputy chairperson and secretary of the Central Electoral Commission shall be elected by open vote.

Where one candidate has been voted for the position of the deputy chairperson or secretary of the Central Electoral Commission, he or she shall be elected in case of receiving more than half of the votes of the voting participants. Where more than one candidate is voted for the position of the deputy chairperson and secretary of the Central Electoral Commission, the candidate having received the greatest number of affirmative votes shall be elected. In the event of a tie, the candidates having received the greatest number of affirmative votes shall be elected by drawing of lots.

Article 43. Procedure for formation of district electoral commission

1. District electoral commission shall comprise of 7 members. District electoral commission shall be formed for a 6-year period. The Central Electoral Commission shall appoint the members of district electoral commission until the termination of the powers of the district electoral commission.

2. The number of representatives of each sex in a district electoral commission shall not be less than 2.

3. A citizen of the Republic of Armenia having the right of suffrage may apply for being included in the composition of district electoral commissions, if he or she does not carry out public political activities and has:

(1) higher legal education and at least 2 years of professional work record within the last 5 years;

(2) scientific degree in law and at least 1 year of professional work record within the last 4 years;

(3) higher education and at least 3 years of work record within the last 6 years in state or local self-government bodies or state non-commercial organisations within public service or community service respectively, or in a managerial position; or

(4) higher education, and at least 2 years of professional experience within the last 5 years in a standing electoral commission or at least 2 years of work record in the staff of the commission.

4. For selecting candidates for members of district electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission shall disseminate, through the mass media, an announcement on the time limits for submission of applications by citizens and the requirements pertaining to the member of district electoral commission. The form of the application and the list of required documents shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

5. Citizens who submit, within the prescribed time limit, an application to the Central Electoral Commission for being included in the composition of district electoral commissions and who meet the requirements prescribed by part 3 of this Article, may be appointed as member of district electoral commissions.

6. Where the gender equality standard prescribed by part 2 of this Article is not violated *a priori*, the Central Electoral Commission, being unanimous, may:

- (1) appoint the entire composition of a district electoral commission;
- (2) appoint the composition of a district electoral commission partly; or
- (3) cut down the list of the candidates under consideration.

7. In the cases provided for by points 2 and 3 of part 6 of this Article, the Central Electoral Commission shall elect the non-formed part of the composition of district electoral commission in preferential voting as prescribed by Article 143 of this Code.

8. Where the number of citizens having submitted applications for being included in the composition of district electoral commission is not sufficient for the formation of the commission, and for complying with the gender equality standard, vacant positions for members of commission shall be filled by the Central Electoral Commission from among the persons having completed the professional courses on holding elections and having been awarded qualification certificates.

9. Where powers of a member of district electoral commission are early terminated or terminate, the vacant position shall be filled by the Central Electoral Commission within a 21-day period in accordance with the procedure prescribed by this Article for the formation of district electoral commission.

10. The decision of the Central Electoral Commission on appointing members of district electoral commissions shall be adopted no later than 14 days before the date of termination of powers of the district electoral commission.

11. The Central Electoral Commission shall convene the 1st sitting of district electoral commission no later than 7 days before the date of termination of powers of the operating district electoral commission. The 1st sitting of district electoral commission shall — until the chairperson of the commission is elected — be held by an elder member of the commission. The formed district electoral commission shall assume its powers at 12:00 on the day of termination of powers of the operating district electoral commission.

12. Chairpersons of district electoral commissions, deputy chairpersons of commissions and secretaries of commissions shall be elected by the relevant commissions from among their members in accordance with the procedure prescribed for election of the deputy chairperson and secretary of the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 44. Procedure for formation of precinct electoral commission

1. Precinct electoral commission shall be comprised of at least 7 members.

- 2. Members of precinct electoral commission shall be appointed by:
 - (1) political parties (alliances of political parties) having a faction in the National Assembly — 1 member each where the number of factions is more than 4, and 2 members each where the number of factions is less than 5;
 - (2) the relevant district electoral commission — 2 members.

To appoint a member to each precinct electoral commission, each member of the district electoral commission (except for the chairperson of the commission) may nominate 1 candidate. Where the number of nominated candidates is more than 2, the district electoral commission shall select the 2 members of the precinct electoral commission by drawing of lots in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

3. Where no member of the commission is appointed by any political party (alliance of political parties) — in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by this Code for formation of precinct electoral commission — or the number of candidates nominated by the members of the district electoral commission is less than 2, the vacant positions of the commission shall be filled instead of them by the chairperson of the relevant district electoral commission, within a 3-day period after the expiry of time limits prescribed for formation of the commission. In case of filling vacant positions of the precinct electoral commission in the manner prescribed by this part, the decision of the Central Electoral Commission on distribution by precincts of chairpersons and secretaries of precinct electoral commissions shall not be changed even where the filling of vacant position resulted in violation of proportionality prescribed by the decision.

4. Chairperson and secretary of the precinct electoral commission shall be appointed upon the decision of the relevant district electoral commission from among the members appointed to the commission by political parties (alliance of political parties) — in accordance with the distribution prescribed by part 5 of this Article — except for the case prescribed by part 3 of this Article. Where a political party (alliance of political parties) has appointed 2 members to the precinct electoral commission, it shall indicate, while appointing, which of them will occupy the position of the chairperson or the secretary of the commission.

5. The positions of chairpersons and secretaries in precinct electoral commissions shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) having a faction in the National Assembly. The number of positions of chairpersons and secretaries of precinct electoral commission available for each political party (alliance of political parties) shall be determined by the following formula:

$$NCS = \frac{NMP}{ND} \times NP \text{ — taken as integer numbers,}$$

where:

NCS is the number of chairpersons and secretaries of a commission respectively available for a political party (alliance of political parties);

NMP is the number of mandates obtained by a political party (alliance of political parties) of the National Assembly;

NP is the number of electoral precincts formed;

ND is the number of mandates of Deputies of the National Assembly. The remaining positions of chairperson and secretary of a commission in precinct electoral commissions shall be distributed as per the value of remainders.

In case the remainders are equal, the distribution of other positions shall be carried out by drawing of lots in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Where during early local self-government elections, the number of electoral precincts formed is less than 3, the distribution of positions of a chairperson and a secretary of the precinct electoral commission among the bodies having formed a commission shall be carried out by

drawing of lots — as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission — taking into account that those 2 positions within the same commission may not be filled simultaneously by the representatives of political parties (alliances of political parties) participating in the formation of the government.

The distribution of chairpersons and secretaries of precinct electoral commissions by electoral precincts shall be carried out prior to the beginning of the time limit for submission of requests for appointing members to precinct electoral commission as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

6. Requests for appointing members to precinct electoral commission shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission no earlier than 30 days and no later than 25 days before the voting day, by 18:00, whereas in case of early elections — no earlier than 20 days and no later than 18 days before the voting day, by 18:00. The request for appointing members to precinct electoral commissions shall be signed by the head of the political party or, upon his or her assignment, by the deputy head (secretary) of a political party, in case of an alliance of political parties — by the head of faction, in his or her absence — by the secretary of faction.

Procedure for appointing members to precinct electoral commission, the form of the request, the list of necessary documents and information shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

7. The 1st sitting of a precinct electoral commission shall be convened at the polling station at 12:00 on the 3rd day following the formation of the commission.

8. In case the powers of a member of precinct electoral commission are early terminated or terminate, the vacant position shall be filled within a 7-day period — in accordance with the procedure for formation of precinct electoral commission prescribed by this Code — but no later than 3 days before the voting day.

9. Where no member has been appointed to a precinct electoral commission within the time limit and in the manner prescribed by part 8 of this Article, the vacant positions of members of commission shall be filled by the chairperson of district electoral commission from among the persons having the right to be included in precinct electoral commissions. In this case, where the person appointed within the time limit and in the manner prescribed by part 8 was to occupy the position of the chairperson or secretary of commission, the person appointed by the chairperson of the electoral commission shall be appointed to that position.

10. Where on the voting day, at 8:00, the number of members of precinct electoral commission having appeared is less than 5 — in case of an electoral precinct with up to 1 000 electors — the powers of the members not having appeared shall terminate early, and the number of the members shall be supplemented with up to 5 members respectively by the chairperson of the district electoral commission from among the persons having the right to be included in precinct electoral commissions. Where on the voting day, at 8:00, the number of members of precinct electoral commission having appeared is less than 7 — in case of an electoral precinct with more than 1 000 electors — the powers of the members not having appeared shall terminate early, and the number of the members shall be supplemented with up to 7 members respectively by the chairperson of the district electoral commission from among the persons having the right to be included in precinct electoral commissions.

11. The powers of precinct electoral commission shall terminate upon the end of elections — after 7 days following the summarisation of election results — by the relevant electoral commission except for the case where the second round of elections of the National Assembly are held.

12. In case of appealing against the election results before a court, the powers of precinct electoral commission shall terminate on the next day following the publication of the judicial act.

13. In case of adopting a decision on declaring the voting results invalid in particular electoral precincts, or in case of calling a repeat voting in those electoral precincts, the powers of the members of the precinct electoral commission concerned shall be deemed early terminated, and they may not be included in the compositions of precinct electoral commissions holding a repeat voting.

In case of calling a repeat voting at electoral precincts or declaring the elections invalid and holding a repeat voting, the distribution of the positions of the chairperson or the secretary of precinct electoral commission previously made shall be maintained and the requests for new appointments to precinct electoral commissions shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission within a 3-day period from the day of adoption of the decision on calling a repeat voting, by 18:00. In that case the 1st sittings of precinct electoral commissions shall take place on the day following the expiry of the time limit for formation, at 12:00.

Article 45. Procedure for removal of the chairperson, deputy chairperson of the electoral commission, secretary of the commission from their positions, and for early termination of powers of member of the commission

1. The powers of the chairperson, deputy chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission or the secretary of the Commission shall be deemed terminated, where he or she has submitted an application for recusal from that position.

In case of recusal from the position of the chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission the membership to the Commission thereof shall be terminated, and in case of recusal from the positions of the deputy chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission or the secretary of the Commission, the membership of the deputy chairperson or the secretary to the Commission shall not be terminated.

Application for recusal of the chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission shall be submitted to the President of the National Assembly, and the application for recusal from the positions of the deputy chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission or the secretary of the Commission shall be submitted to the chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission.

2. The fact of early termination of powers of the chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission shall be stated by the President of the National Assembly no later than within 3 days after the receipt of the application, the announcement thereon shall be made at the upcoming sitting of the National Assembly. The powers of the chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission shall be deemed early terminated upon statement of the fact by the President of the National Assembly.

The fact of withdrawal from the positions of the deputy chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission or the secretary of the Commission shall be stated by the chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission no later than within 3 days after the receipt of the application.

3. Deputy chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission and secretary of the Commission may be removed from the positions thereof upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the total number of votes of the members of the Commission.

In cases referred to in this part, the membership of the deputy chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission or the secretary of the Commission to the Commission shall not be terminated.

4. The powers of the chairperson, deputy chairperson of the district electoral commission or the secretary of the commission shall be deemed terminated, if he or she has submitted an application for recusal from that position.

Chairperson, deputy chairperson of district electoral commission and secretary of the commission may be removed from the positions thereof upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the total number of votes of the members of commission.

In cases referred to in this part, the commission membership of the chairperson, deputy chairperson of the district electoral commission or the secretary of the commission shall not be terminated.

5. Chairperson and secretary of precinct electoral commission may be removed from their positions upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the total number of votes of the members of commission, only as a result of such an obvious omission on the day preceding the voting day or on the voting day, which may jeopardise the preparation of the voting, the smooth process of voting or the summarising of voting results. In that case the chairperson or the secretary of precinct electoral commission shall be appointed by the chairperson of district electoral commission from the composition of precinct electoral commission.

6. Powers of a member of electoral commission shall terminate early:

- (1) where he or she is not eligible for appointment to the electoral commission;
- (2) where he or she refuses to sign the text of the commitment "On performing the powers of the member of the electoral commission in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and legislation of the Republic of Armenia";
- (3) where he or she has been convicted under Articles 149-154.6 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, and the conviction has not been cancelled or has not expired in a due manner, or detention or imprisonment has been imposed thereon as punishment;
- (4) where a member of the Central Electoral Commission or the district electoral commission has submitted an application for recusal from the position of a member of commission;
- (5) where the chairperson, secretary of precinct electoral commission or member of the commission has submitted an application for recusal from that position. Such an application may be submitted to the chairperson of district electoral commission on the 5th day preceding the voting day, by 18:00;
- (6) where he or she has been drafted.

In cases provided for by points 1-6 of this part, the fact of early termination of powers in case of members of district and precinct electoral commissions shall be stated by the chairperson of a higher level commission.

The fact of early termination of powers of member of the Central Electoral Commission shall be stated by the President of the National Assembly no later than within 3 days after the receipt of the application, the announcement thereon shall be made at the forthcoming sitting of the National Assembly. The powers of a member of the Central Electoral Commission shall be deemed early terminated upon statement of the fact by the President of the National Assembly.

7. Powers of a member of district electoral commission may be early terminated upon a decision adopted by 2/3 of the votes of the members of the Central Electoral Commission.

District electoral commission may early terminate the powers of a member of precinct electoral commission upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the total number of votes of the members of commission, if the member has violated the provisions of this Code. Such a request may be submitted to a district electoral commission by the chairperson of district electoral commission, by the political party having appointed him or her to the precinct electoral commission or the member of district electoral commission having nominated him or her.

The procedure prescribed by this part may be enforced for invalid absence from regular sittings of the Central Electoral Commission or the district electoral commission where the member of commission has been absent from 3 or more regular sittings, within 3 calendar months, without a valid reason.

The procedure prescribed by this part shall not apply for absence from regular sittings of the precinct electoral commission.

8. In case of invalid absence from 3 or more regular sittings of the Central Electoral Commission or the district electoral commission within 3 calendar months, the commission shall have the right to early terminate the powers of the member of commission upon a decision adopted by the majority votes of the total number of its members.

Article 46. Organising the activities of electoral commission

1. Activities of electoral commission shall be managed by the chairperson of the commission or — upon the assignment of or in the absence thereof — by the deputy chairperson of the commission, and in case of a precinct electoral commission — by the secretary of the commission.
2. The chairpersons of the Central Electoral Commission and district electoral commissions shall prescribe the schedule for holding regular sittings. Precinct electoral commissions shall convene regular sittings within the time limits prescribed by this Code.
3. Extraordinary sittings of the Central Electoral Commission and the district electoral commission shall be convened by the chairperson of the commission — on his or her own initiative or upon written request of at least 1/3 of members of the commission — within the time limits indicated thereby, notifying the members of the commission through available means of communication. An extraordinary sitting of the precinct electoral commission shall be convened by the chairperson of the commission upon request of the chairperson of district electoral commission.
4. The sitting of the electoral commission shall have quorum if attended by more than half of members of commission. Members of commission shall be obliged to participate in the voting. A decision shall be adopted if more than half of the number of attending members of the commission vote for that decision, except for cases prescribed by this Code. Besides the members of the Commission, the head of Oversight and Audit Service may also put forward items on the agenda of a sitting of the Central Electoral Commission, within the scope of the competence reserved to the Service, as well as the head of staff of the Commission — as regards the financial and economic issues.
5. In the event of a tie during adoption of a decision on the election results, the chairperson of the commission shall have the casting vote.
6. Electoral commissions receive a registration book with numbered pages, sealed by a higher level commission. The requirements with regard to the registration book, as well as the procedure for filling it in shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.
7. The registration book shall be used to record information on participation of the members of the commission in the sittings, as well as on presence of persons having the right to attend the sittings. The records shall be signed by the members of commission attending the sitting.
8. Members of electoral commissions and persons having the right to attend the sitting of the commission (including on the voting day, in the voting room) (except for the voters and the police officers on duty at the polling station) shall be obliged to mandatorily carry visible identification badges on their outer clothing, certifying their right to be present. To be present at the electoral commission, and during the voting also in the voting room, the observers of non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Armenia must also carry the qualification certificate on being included in the composition of the electoral commission or for carrying out observation mission. The chairperson of commission shall prohibit the presence of persons not having the right to be present at electoral commissions and during the voting also in the voting rooms, as well as of persons without a relevant identification on their outer clothing at the electoral commission (in the voting room).
9. Members of electoral commission shall be obliged to participate in the sittings of the commission.

10. Carbon copies of the decisions, protocols and records of registration books, as well as extracts therefrom (except for extracts from the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting while getting acquainted with the lists or during the recount, as well as extracts made by photographing) shall be sealed and signed by the chairperson and the secretary of commission. Documents received from precinct electoral commission shall be sealed only on the voting day or on the day following the voting day prior to handing the seal over to the district electoral commission.

Article 47. Specifics of administrative proceedings in the Central Electoral Commission and district electoral commission

1. Administrative proceedings in the electoral commission shall be carried out in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings”, and according to the specifics and time limits prescribed by this Code.

2. The applicant or the complainant (hereinafter referred to as “the applicant”) shall be notified of the consideration of his or her application or complaint (hereinafter referred to as “the application”) at the Central Electoral Commission through placing information on the date and time of the consideration of the application on the website of the Commission. Where there are any means of electronic communication indicated in the application — i.e. phone number, electronic mail (hereinafter referred to as “electronic means of communications”) — the applicant shall be notified through such means as well, also where possible by sending a short text message.

An applicant shall be deemed notified of the consideration of the application at the district electoral commission, where information on the date and time of the consideration of application is posted at a place visible to all in the commission, and where a phone number is indicated in the application, the applicant shall be notified also through that means, also where possible by sending a short text message.

3. Participants of the proceedings may not challenge the composition or a member of the electoral commission carrying the administrative proceedings, neither the member of the electoral commission carrying out the administrative proceedings shall have the right to recuse himself or herself.

4. During the election period, taking into consideration the workload, the participants of administrative proceedings shall be introduced to the materials of the proceedings — before the sitting convened within the scope of the proceedings concerned — at the electoral commission carrying out the proceedings. Brief minutes of the sitting shall be taken, whether the participants of the proceedings are present or not.

5. The administrative act adopted by the Central Electoral Commission shall enter into force upon publication thereof at the sitting. The administrative act adopted by the Central Electoral Commission shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission within the time limits prescribed by part 2 of Article 8 of this Code.

6. The administrative act adopted by district electoral commission shall enter into force upon publication thereof at the sitting. The administrative act adopted by district electoral commission shall be posted at a place visible to all in the commission within 24 hours after adoption of the act.

7. Within a 3-day period after adoption of the administrative act of the electoral commission, it shall be forwarded to the participants of the administrative proceedings attaching the delivery receipt to the case, where the participants of the proceedings have not received that act in the commission. Where the application is submitted jointly by more than one applicant, the adopted administrative act shall be forwarded to the 1st applicant indicated in the application.

8. The administrative proceedings shall not be suspended during the period of elections.

Article 48. Appealing against decisions, actions and omissions of electoral commissions, filing an application for declaring the voting results in an electoral precinct invalid or for declaring the election results invalid

1. Decisions and actions (omissions) of electoral commission may be appealed against by:

- (1) any person, if he or she finds that the subjective right of suffrage thereof has been violated or may be violated;
- (2) a proxy, if he or she finds that the rights of proxy or the principal thereof prescribed by this Code have been violated;
- (3) an observer, if he or she finds that the rights of observer prescribed by this Code have been violated;
- (4) a member of commission, if he or she finds that the lower commission or the commission to which he or she is a member to has violated the right thereof or the rights of other persons prescribed by this Code;
- (5) an authorised representative of a political party running in elections, if he or she finds that the rights of proxy or the principal thereof prescribed by this Code have been violated.

2. Application for declaring the registration of a candidate, the electoral list of a political party running in elections as invalid or revoked, or an application for appealing against the election results may respectively be submitted only by the candidate, the political party running in elections, and an application for declaring the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list of a political party running in elections as invalid or revoked — only by the political party running in elections.

3. Application for declaring the voting results in an electoral precinct as invalid may be submitted by:

- (1) a candidate, political party running in elections;
- (2) a proxy, if he or she has been present at the electoral precinct concerned;
- (3) a candidate included in the electoral list of political party running in elections, where he or she has been present at the process of summarising the voting results in the electoral precinct concerned;
- (4) a member of the relevant precinct electoral commission, where he or she has made a record in the protocol on having a special opinion;
- (5) a member of the Central Electoral Commission.

Application for declaring the election results as invalid may be submitted by a candidate, political party running in elections.

4. Where the electoral commission finds that the application submitted does not comply with the requirements of this Article and Article 49, it shall reject the initiation of the administrative proceedings.

In that case the electoral commission shall have the right to carry out administrative proceedings on its own initiative.

5. Decisions, actions (omissions) of precinct electoral commission may be appealed against before the district electoral commission.

6. Decisions, actions (omissions) of district electoral commission (except for decisions on the results of elections of the head of community and members of the council of elders) may be appealed against before the Central Electoral Commission. Decisions of district electoral commission on the results of elections of the head of community and members of the council of elders may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

7. Decisions, actions (omissions) of the Central Electoral Commission (except for decisions on the results of the election of the National Assembly) may be appealed against before the Administrative Court. Decisions of the Central Electoral Commission on the results of the election of the National Assembly may be appealed against before the Constitutional Court.

8. In case of appealing against the decisions, actions (omissions) of electoral commissions before a higher level commission, the party filing the complaint shall bear the burden of proof of the factual circumstances submitted by him or her, whereas the electoral commission shall bear the burden of proof of the factual circumstances underlying the decision taken thereby. The electoral commission examining the complaint may *ex officio* seek evidence. Rules prescribed by this part shall also apply to the application for declaring the results in the electoral precinct as invalid or for declaring the election results as invalid.

9. Applications shall be considered at electoral commissions within the time limits prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, except for cases prescribed by this Code.

10. Complaints against the decisions taken by, actions or omissions of precinct electoral commission during the voting day may be submitted to the relevant district electoral commission on the voting day or on the day following the voting day, from 12:00 to 18:00.

Complaints against the decisions taken by, actions or omissions of precinct electoral commission during the days preceding the voting day may be submitted to the district electoral commission within 2 calendar days starting from the day when the applicant learned or should have reasonably known about the violation.

Complaints against the decisions taken by, actions or omissions of district electoral commission may be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission within 3 calendar days starting from the day when the applicant learned or should have reasonably known about the violation.

Application for declaring the voting results in the electoral precinct as invalid may be submitted to the relevant district electoral commission only on the day following the voting day, from 12:00 to 18:00.

Application for declaring the election results as invalid may be submitted to the relevant electoral commission no later than 2 days before the expiry of the relevant time limit prescribed by this Code for summarising the election results, by 18:00. Applications for declaring the election results as invalid shall be considered within the framework of summarising election results, and no separate decision shall be made thereon.

11. Where based on the result of consideration of application, the district electoral commission draws a conclusion that violations of the requirements of this Code have taken place during the voting, which could have significantly affected the voting results, and where it is impossible to reveal the real results of the voting, and the violation is not expressed in inaccuracies, the district electoral commission shall announce the voting results in electoral precinct concerned invalid. In that case the materials shall be forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office.

12. Application for revoking or declaring the registration of a candidate, the electoral list of a political party running in elections or of a candidate included in the electoral list as invalid may be submitted on the 2nd day preceding the voting day, by 18:00.

Decision of the district electoral commission on registration of a candidate may be appealed against before the Central Electoral Commission or the Administrative Court within a 3-day period starting from the day when the applicant learned or should have reasonably known about the violation, but no later than on the 2nd day preceding the voting day, by 18:00.

Handling of applications received in electoral commissions after the expiry of these time limits shall be decided after the voting.

13. After calling elections, the electoral commissions shall respond to the applications received 2 days before the voting day and, in cases prescribed by this Code, render decisions thereon within a 5-day period but no later than before the day preceding the voting.

Electoral commissions shall respond to the applications received on the day preceding the voting and on the voting day and, in cases prescribed by this Code, render decisions thereon no later than on the 4th day following the voting day.

Applications received on the 5th day following the voting, after 18:00, shall be processed after summarising the election results.

Article 49. Requirements for applications. Procedure for consideration thereof at electoral commissions

1. Application submitted to electoral commissions must be signed by the applicant, contain his or her name, surname, address of the applicant, date of submission. Application may contain also the telephone number, electronic mail of the applicant. Application must contain the statement of request of the applicant, substantiations provided thereby. The available evidence must be attached to the application.

Where an application is submitted through a representative, a power of attorney issued as prescribed by law must also be submitted. The power of attorney shall be submitted in the original.

Applications not containing any data or containing false data concerning the applicant, applications submitted in the abuse of a right, as well as applications submitted in violation of requirements prescribed by paragraph 2 of this part shall not be considered, administrative proceedings shall not be initiated based thereon and electoral commissions shall render decisions on rejecting the initiation of administrative proceedings.

2. Where an application contains formal mistakes that can be corrected, the electoral commission shall give an opportunity to the applicant to correct those mistakes or shall correct them itself and notify the applicant thereon before or after taking the action. Where the list of documents attached to the application is not complete, the electoral commission shall suggest the applicant to complete it within a time limit prescribed.

3. The applicant shall address the application to the electoral commission, which has jurisdiction to resolve the issue raised. Where a deadline for submitting the application is provided for by this Code, the application shall be deemed submitted by the due date, if it has been submitted to the relevant electoral commission prior to the deadline. The chairperson of commission shall address the application to the member of commission and shall distribute carbon copies of the application among other members of commission. Issues raised in the application shall be examined by the members of commission. Each member of commission shall have the right to submit a draft decision on the application to be considered at the sitting of the commission. If a member of commission fails to submit a draft decision on rejecting the initiation of administrative proceedings, the administrative proceedings shall be deemed initiated. In case of rejecting the initiation of administrative proceedings, the response to the application shall be sent to the applicant with the signature of the chairperson of the commission. In case of initiation of administrative proceedings, the applicant shall have the right to participate in the consideration of his or her application at the sitting of the commission, provide substantiations, ask questions to the speaker concerning the application, deliver a speech.

4. The response to the application for obtaining information shall be sent to the applicant with the signature of the chairperson of the commission. Where a downloadable version of the required information or of the document copy is posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission, the applicant shall be informed thereon and shall not be provided with photocopies or extracts therefrom.

5. Electoral commissions shall take appropriate measures with regard to issues requiring urgent solution. In such cases adopting decisions in the form of a separate act shall not be binding.

Article 50. Recount of voting results

1. The candidate included in the district list of elections of the National Assembly, as well as the candidate or the proxy, where they have been present at the process of summarising the voting results in the electoral precinct, as well as the member of precinct electoral commission — in case of making a record in the protocol on the voting results in the electoral precinct on having a special opinion concerning the procedure of summarising the voting results — shall have the right to appeal against the voting results in the electoral precinct concerned in the manner and within the time limits specified by this Code, filing an application for recount of the voting results at the electoral precinct (hereinafter referred to as “the recount”) to the district electoral commission.

Application for recount of the voting results in the electoral precinct may be submitted only to the relevant district electoral commission on the day following the voting, from 12:00 to 18:00.

2. Application for recount shall contain the name, surname, address of the applicant, and the number of the electoral precinct where the recount is requested, as well as the voting results (if several votings have been held simultaneously) for which the recount is requested. Evidence on erroneous summarisation of the voting results may be attached to the application. The application for recount must be signed by the applicant.

3. Where several votings have been held simultaneously, a member of precinct electoral commission may submit an application for recount only with regard to the voting results, in the protocol of which he or she has made a record on having a special opinion.

4. Where several votings are held simultaneously, a separate application for recount of results of each voting shall be submitted.

5. District electoral commission shall record the submitted applications for recount in the registration book, indicating the date of receipt.

6. Recount process shall start at 9:00 of the next day following the time limit prescribed for the receipt of recount applications and shall be completed at 14:00 of the 5th day following the voting day (hereinafter referred to as “the deadline for recount”). While carrying out the recount, the electoral commission shall work 7 days a week, from 9:00 to 18:00. The electoral commission shall continue the recount after 18:00 if it has failed to complete the already started recount for the electoral precinct, as well as in cases where it is not possible to complete the recount of the voting results at the electoral precinct by working till 18:00, prescribed by part 7 of this Article before the deadline for recount.

7. District electoral commission shall recount the voting results of all those electoral precincts, concerning which the district commission believes that sound evidence on erroneous summarisation of the voting results has been submitted, as well as it shall recount the voting results of all those electoral precincts, the examination of protocols whereof (including examination of inaccuracies) has made the district commission uncertain concerning the erroneous summarisation of the results.

8. Where the recount of voting results prescribed by part 7 of this Article has been completed before the deadline for recount, or no such results have been recorded, the commission shall — based on the available applications for recount — decide, by drawing of lots, upon the order of the recount of the voting results in the electoral precinct.

9. Withdrawal by the applicant of the application for recount of the voting results in the electoral precinct shall not serve as a basis for not carrying out the recount.

10. The recount shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements prescribed by this Code for summarising the voting results in an electoral precinct, except for the number of ballot envelopes provided to the precinct electoral commission, the number of voting participants registered by means of technical equipment, where there is a statement of information available on the number of voting participants, printed by means of technical equipment (where no statement of information is available, the number shall be calculated in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission), and a protocol on the recount of voting results in the electoral precinct shall be drawn up; the lines indicating the "number of ballot envelopes provided to the commission" and the "number of voting participants registered by means of technical equipment" shall be filled in with figures recorded by the precinct electoral commission unless there are obvious mechanical mistakes found therein.

When carrying out recount, a ballot envelope shall be considered as of a non-established sample if it obviously differs from the established sample, or is unpunched, or punched otherwise; a ballot paper shall be considered as of a non-established sample if it obviously differs from the established sample, and the validity of ballot paper shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of Article 69 of this Code.

Persons having the right to attend the sitting of the commission shall, upon their request, be provided with carbon copies of those protocols.

11. Depending on the workload, the district electoral commission may carry out recount of voting results of the electoral precinct with at least 3 members of the commission simultaneously. When carrying out recount of voting results with at least 3 members of the commission, the responsibilities of the chairperson of precinct electoral commission prescribed by this Code for summarising the voting results shall be carried out by the deputy chairperson of district electoral commission or the secretary of commission, and where they are not included in that composition — by the member appointed by the chairperson of district electoral commission.

12. Duration of the recount of voting results of one electoral precinct may not exceed 4 hours.

13. Members of respective precinct electoral commission, persons having the right to attend the sittings of the electoral commission, the person having submitted the application for recount, the candidate and the proxy thereof may be present during the recount process of voting results of the electoral precinct.

14. During the recount of voting results of the electoral precinct, the candidate, the proxy and the applicant having submitted the application for recount shall have the right to get acquainted with the lists signed by persons having participated in the voting, along with other documents, to independently make extracts without the right to photocopy, photograph or videotape them. Proxies, observers, mass media representatives may photograph and videotape the recount activities.

15. The absence of the applicant for recount shall not serve as a basis for not carrying out or terminating the recount.

16. The district electoral commission shall reject the application for recount of voting results of the electoral precinct, and the recount shall not be carried out where the recount has been requested in violation of the provisions of this Article.

CHAPTER 9***FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS*****Article 51. Functions and powers of the Central Electoral Commission**

1. The Central Electoral Commission is an independent state authority which shall organise the elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies, referenda, as well as exercise supervision over the lawfulness thereof.

2. The Central Electoral Commission shall:

- (1) exercise supervision over using state budget funds allocated for preparing and holding elections;
- (2) adopt the rules of procedure thereof and the rules of procedure of lower electoral commissions;
- (3) organise and conduct professional courses for holding elections, establish the procedure for organising courses and issuing qualification certificates;
- (4) exercise supervision over the uniform application of this Code;
- (5) prescribe the forms and samples of ballot papers, ballot envelopes, protocols and other election related documents, the procedure for filling in and keeping thereof, provide the electoral commissions with necessary election related documents;
- (6) prescribe the standard forms of documents necessary for registration of candidates, electoral lists of political parties running in elections;
- (7) adopt decisions — within the scope of powers thereof — that are binding throughout the Republic;
- (8) abolish, declare repealed, invalid, or revoke the decisions of electoral commissions, which are in conflict with this Code, except for the decisions of district electoral commissions on being elected as head of community or members of the council of elders;
- (9) hear the communications of electoral commissions and state authorities on preparing and holding elections;
- (10) accredit mass media representatives, the observers;
- (11) register the elected Deputies of the National Assembly, the members of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, issue a relevant certificate for them;
- (12) call new elections of the National Assembly, the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor;
- (13) adopt decisions provided for by this Code, provide clarifications concerning each issue related to the electoral processes in cases where the relevant function is not reserved to other responsible authorities, as well as adopt decisions which are not in conflict with this Code, with the view of regulation of electoral processes;
- (14) publish a training manual for the members of precinct electoral commissions, proxies and observers during the election of the National Assembly, and may publish a training manual for the members of the precinct electoral commissions during the elections of local self-government bodies;
- (15) prescribe the procedure for drawing of lots at the electoral commissions;
- (16) approve the sample ballot box and the technical specifications;
- (17) exercise supervision over financial activities of political parties;
- (18) register the electoral lists of political parties running in elections of the National Assembly and the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, issue a certificate in the form established by the Central Electoral Commission for the candidates included in the lists;
- (19) may establish institutions as prescribed by law;
- (20) give binding instructions ensuring the implementation of this Code;
- (21) revoke the qualification certificate for being included in an electoral commission, or for carrying out observation mission, where the person having received the relevant certificate has violated the requirements of this Code;

(22) perform other powers provided for by this Code.

3. The Chairperson of the Central Electoral Commission or any member of the Central Electoral Commission, upon his or her assignment, shall submit a communication in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly on activities thereof.

This communication shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.

4. The Central Electoral Commission may apply to the Government of the Republic of Armenia, to the National Assembly proposing legislative amendments aimed at the improvement of the election process.

Article 52. Powers of district electoral commission

1. District electoral commission is a standing state authority. District electoral commission shall:

- (1) exercise supervision over fulfilment of the requirements of this Code at an electoral district;
- (2) approve the samples of ballot papers for the elections of head of community and member of the council of elders;
- (3) prescribe the sequential numbers of electoral precincts in compliance with the procedure prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission and submit such data to the Central Electoral Commission within a 2-day period;
- (4) provide information on its own activities and the activities of precinct electoral commissions to the Central Electoral Commission;
- (5) consider the applications with regard to the decisions, actions and omissions of precinct electoral commissions, review or abolish the decisions of precinct electoral commissions which are in conflict with this Code;
- (6) publish preliminary voting results by electoral precinct, based on the data in protocols of precinct electoral commissions;
- (7) summarise the election results of local self-government bodies at communities included in the district concerned, except for cases prescribed by this Code;
- (8) announce the day of elections of local self-government bodies;
- (9) monitor the process of drawing up the lists of electors and posting them for public information purposes at electoral precincts;
- (10) supervise the process of relevant furnishing of the voting rooms in accordance with the requirements of this Code;
- (11) register the candidates for head of community and member of the council of elders, issue a certificate thereto in the form established by the Central Electoral Commission;
- (12) exercise supervision over fulfilment of the requirements of this Code by precinct electoral commissions;
- (13) declare the voting results at the electoral precinct as invalid;
- (14) perform other powers provided for by this Code.

Article 53. Powers of precinct electoral commission

1. Precinct electoral commission shall:

- (1) organise the voting, summarise the voting results at the electoral precinct;
- (2) prepare a protocol on voting results at the electoral precinct and post a copy of the protocol at the polling station;
- (3) submit the seal of the commission, the registration book, 2 copies of the protocol on voting results, the technical equipment, the sack for election related documents and the ballot box to the district electoral commission.

Article 54. Transfer and acceptance of election related documents and other supplies at electoral commissions

1. Election related documents and other supplies shall be transferred at the electoral commissions through signing by the persons who have transferred and accepted them, and by providing a receipt.
2. Chairpersons of electoral commissions shall be responsible for the storage of election related documents, technical equipment, stationery and other supplies allocated to electoral commissions.
3. After summarising the voting results, the election related documents of a precinct electoral commission shall be deposited in the State Archive of the Republic of Armenia for maintenance in the manner prescribed.

Article 55. Co-operation of electoral commissions and the Police

1. Central and regional bodies of the Police, their services and subdivisions shall be obliged to ensure the smooth process of elections, the unimpeded activities of electoral commissions and the members thereof. The police shall maintain due order during election related events, provide support to the commissions upon request of the chairperson of electoral commission, ensure safe transportation and maintenance of election related documents at electoral commissions.

SECTION 3

**VOTING
SUMMARISATION OF VOTING RESULTS**

CHAPTER 10

ORGANISATION OF VOTING

Article 56. Place and time of voting

1. Voting shall be held only at the polling stations formed within the territory of the Republic of Armenia, from 8:00 to 20:00, except for the cases prescribed by this Code. Electors who are present in the voting room at 20:00, but who have not yet voted, shall have the right to vote.
2. During the election of the National Assembly, the voting for electors undergoing inpatient treatment in medical institutions providing inpatient care, who are unable to visit the polling stations on the voting day on their own, shall be organised through a mobile ballot box in a medical institution providing inpatient care. During the election of the National Assembly, the voting for military servant electors undergoing inpatient treatment in military medical institutions shall be organised through a mobile ballot box in a military medical institution. The voting in a medical institution providing inpatient care and in a military medical institution shall be held subject to the principle of secrecy of voting, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. Proxies, observers, mass media representatives may also be present in the organisation of voting in medical institutions providing inpatient care. Proxies, observers, mass media representatives may also be present in the organisation of voting in a military medical institution. The voting in medical institutions providing inpatient care and in a military medical institution shall be organised so that it is completed by 18:00.

Article 57. Voting room

1. Voting shall be held in a room specially furnished for that purpose, with one room for each electoral precinct.
2. The voting room shall be — to the maximum extent possible — spacious and meet the following requirements:
 - (1) shall enable to ensure, during the entire voting process, the regular simultaneous work of members of precinct electoral commission and persons having the right to attend the voting;
 - (2) shall enable members of the precinct electoral commission, proxies, mass media representatives and observers to keep within eyeshot the ballot box, the voting booths (provided that the secrecy of voting is not violated), and the space between the voting booths and the ballot box.
3. Furnishing of the voting room must be completed by 24:00 of the day preceding the voting day.

Article 58. Voting booths

1. Booths shall be provided for voting, the number of booths being determined upon the following ratio — at least 1 booth for 750 electors.
2. The voting booth shall be assembled in such a way that the elector is able to vote privately from the persons present in the voting room, and that there is sufficient lighting, a pen, and a box of unused ballot papers.
3. Voting booths shall be placed within at least 1 metre distance from each other and they shall be placed in such a position that the elector has his or her face turned to the commission and his or her back turned to the wall during the voting.

Article 59. Ballot paper, ballot envelope, self-adhesive stamp

1. Individual ballot papers of same sizes shall be printed for each political party running in elections of the National Assembly. The ballot paper of each political party running in elections must, on its left and right sides, have a marking in black, symmetrical to the vertical axis aligned with the number of that political party so that it enables to identify from the side view of the bundle the availability of a ballot paper of another political party in that bundle.
2. During elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, names of political parties in the ballot paper shall be indicated on the left side in the alphabetical order, whereas empty tick boxes shall be placed on the right for the elector to make a note.
3. During elections of head of community and member of the council of elders, the surnames, names and patronymics of candidates shall be indicated on the left side in the alphabetical order, whereas empty tick boxes shall be placed on the right side for the elector to make a note. In case only 1 candidate is voted on, the words “for” and “against” shall be indicated below the line where the surname of the candidate is placed, and next to each of these words — on the right side, empty tick boxes shall be placed.
In case surnames of candidates coincide, their names in the ballot paper shall be indicated by the alphabetical order of the names and patronymics. In case surnames, names and patronymics of candidates coincide, the dates of birth thereof are indicated. In this case, the data of the eldest candidate shall be indicated first.
In case votings for head of community and member of the council of elders are held simultaneously, individual envelopes and self-adhesive stamps for each voting shall be made in

such a way that they clearly differ from each other by colours and match the colours of the ballot papers.

4. The sample and sizes of the ballot paper shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission in such a way as to ensure secrecy of voting. The ballot paper must contain the name of the printing house and a notice on the procedure for filling in the ballot paper.

5. The ballot envelope shall be made from opaque paper. The sample and sizes of the ballot envelope shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission in such a way as it enables the self-adhesive stamp to be posted on the ballot paper in the envelope.

6. A self-adhesive stamp shall be a typographically printed stamp with protective layers, which bears centrally symmetric abbreviation of the name of the election, the date of the voting and the number of the polling station. The self-adhesive stamp shall be subject to special registration.

7. The printing of ballot papers, ballot envelopes and self-adhesive stamps shall be ensured by the Central Electoral Commission.

8. The ballot papers shall be printed no earlier than 10 days and no later than 3 days before the voting day, on the basis of statement of information on the number of electors, provided by the authorised body 10 days before the voting day.

9. During elections, ballot papers, ballot envelopes shall be allocated to precinct electoral commissions on the day preceding the voting day, in a quantity exceeding the number of electors by up to 5 per cent, but no less than 10 more than the number of electors in the electoral precinct. Self-adhesive stamps shall be printed for each precinct by rounding the number of electors in the electoral precinct up to the nearest hundred. The whole run printed for the given precinct shall be allocated on the day preceding the voting day to the relevant precinct electoral commission.

10. During elections of the National Assembly, in case the registration of the electoral list of the political party running in elections is declared invalid or revoked after the ballot papers have been printed, the ballot papers of that political party shall be removed from the voting and cancelled as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

11. During elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, in case the registration of the electoral list of the political party running in elections is declared invalid or revoked after the ballot papers have been printed, whereas during elections of the head of community and member of the council of elders, in case the registration of a candidate is declared invalid or revoked, the name of that political party or the name of the candidate shall be removed from the ballot papers as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 60. Seal, individual seal of the member of precinct electoral commission, ballot box, technical equipment

1. Samples of the seals of electoral commissions and of the individual seals of members of precinct electoral commission shall be approved by the Central Electoral Commission. They shall be prepared upon the order by the Central Electoral Commission.

2. The seal of a precinct electoral commission must bear a 4-digit number.

3. The precinct electoral commission shall be provided with technical equipment for registration of electors.

The technical equipment must contain the electronic list of electors. The technical equipment must be furnished with software support for registering the voting participants, excluding their

double registration and other type of software support prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. The technical equipment software support must — at least 30 days before the voting for elections of the National Assembly — be accessible to representatives of political parties running in elections for conducting technical audit. Preparation of the electronic list of electors to be installed in the technical equipment shall be subject to oversight by representatives of political parties running in elections of the National Assembly. Technical audit and oversight over the preparation of the electronic list shall be organised as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

For the purpose of ensuring maintenance of the technical equipment in precinct electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission shall — for each precinct electoral commission — engage up to 2 specialists, on a contractual basis. Remuneration of the specialist shall be established in the amount of 3-fold of the minimum nominal monthly salary prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. Remuneration shall be made after the summarisation of election results. Public servants may be engaged as specialists as well.

A person who meets the requirements prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission for professional knowledge and job skills, has command of the Armenian language, has attained the age of 18 may be a specialist ensuring maintenance of the technical equipment.

4. The Central Electoral Commission shall place the seals of precinct electoral commissions in opaque packages, close them without making any notes thereon, put the Central Electoral Commission's seal thereon and transfer them to district electoral commissions no earlier than 5 days and no later than 3 days before the voting day in such a way that each electoral precinct is provided with one seal, carrying out solely quantitative counting of the transferred seals.

5. In district electoral commissions the packages shall be sealed and transferred to the chairpersons of precinct electoral commissions on the day preceding the voting, each chairperson shall get one packed seal.

6. The seals of precinct electoral commissions shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission within a 3-day period after the end of voting.

In case of holding a second round of election, repeat voting or a new election, new seals shall be provided to precinct electoral commissions.

7. Members of precinct electoral commissions shall — one day before the voting day and by drawing of lots — be provided with distinctive individual seals. After the end of voting, individual seals shall be packed and placed in the disposable sack for election related documents of the precinct electoral commission (hereinafter referred to as "the sack").

8. At least one ballot box shall be allocated to each precinct electoral commission. More than one ballot box may be used in a precinct electoral commission as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 61. Preparation for voting

1. Preparation for voting shall be carried out by precinct electoral commissions.

2. Ballot papers, ballot envelopes, self-adhesive stamps, the packed seal shall be stored in a special fire-resistant safe located in the voting room. The procedure for storing election related documents, technical equipment and other supplies shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

3. During the voting, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall be obliged to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Code and maintain necessary order in the polling station.

4. Desks shall be placed in voting rooms for verification of identity and registration of electors, allocation of ballot papers and ballot envelopes to electors, and keeping control over the ballot box.
5. The ballot box, the technical equipment, the desks of commission members shall be located in places visible to persons having the right to be present in the electoral precinct.
6. Samples of ballot papers, ballot envelopes, the electoral lists of the political parties running in elections shall be posted in the voting room or at its entrance. During the election of the National Assembly, the national lists of the political parties running in elections and district lists concerning the given district shall be posted.

Article 62. Organisation of voting in diplomatic and consular representations

1. Electors who are on diplomatic service in diplomatic or consular representations of the Republic of Armenia, as well as members of their families residing abroad with them and having the right to elect, in case of being outside of the territory of the Republic of Armenia, on the voting day, may participate in the election of the National Assembly by voting electronically in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. The Central Electoral Commission shall be obliged to establish such terms for electronic voting that would ensure free expression of will of voters and secrecy of voting. Electors voting electronically shall give their votes only to political parties running in elections.
2. Electronic voting may be held after the end of the time limit established for registration of the electoral lists for the political parties running in elections of the National Assembly, but no later than 5 days before the voting day.
3. The provisions of this Article shall also extend to military servants seconded for a long period of time to or those studying in foreign states, as well as to persons employed at representations of legal persons registered in the Republic of Armenia, which are located abroad (irrespective of the form of ownership), and their family members residing with them abroad and having the right to elect.

Article 63. Organisation of voting in facilities for holding arrestees and penitentiary institutions

1. Arrested electors shall participate in the voting as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, through a mobile ballot box. The voting of arrested electors shall be organised so that it ends by 18:00.
2. Voting in penitentiary institutions shall be prepared and organised by the head of the penitentiary institution, as prescribed by this Code and by the Central Electoral Commission. Voting in penitentiary institutions shall be organised after 9:00, depending on the number of persons having the right to elect. The Central Electoral Commission shall establish, for each penitentiary institution, the time for beginning of voting so that it ends at 20:00.
3. The precinct electoral commissions operating in penitentiary institutions shall not be provided with technical equipment. Voting in these institutions shall be held as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

CHAPTER 11

VOTING PROCEDURE

Article 64. Actions of precinct electoral commission before the voting

1. On the voting day, at 7:00, at the sitting held at the polling station, the precinct electoral commission shall, by drawing of lots, decide upon:

(1) members of the commission carrying out registration of electors — at least 1 member per up to 1 000 electors;

(2) members of the commission allocating ballot papers and ballot envelopes — at least 1 member per up to 1 000 electors;

(3) at least 1 member posting a self-adhesive stamp and responsible for the ballot box;

(4) at least 1 member who holds voting through a mobile ballot box, in case the given precinct electoral commission must organise voting through a mobile ballot box;

(5) the rotation of functions, every 2 hours, of members of the precinct electoral commission.

The chairperson and the secretary of the commission shall not participate in drawing of lots.

2. Upon the assignment of chairperson of the precinct electoral commission, the specialist, in the presence of members of the precinct electoral commission and persons having the right to attend the voting, check the operating condition of the technical equipment as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, enter the number of the electoral precinct and print a statement of information certifying the absence of electors registered by means of that technical equipment. The statement of information shall be glued to the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

The chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall — in the presence of members of commission and persons having the right to attend the voting — open the fire-resistant safe, take out the individual seals of members of commission and, based on drawing of lots, hand the individual seals to them, take out ballot papers, ballot envelopes, the seal and, by putting a seal in the registration book, announce the seal number, check that the ballot box is empty, close and seal the ballot box. [The chairperson] shall provide ballot papers and ballot envelopes, in piles of one hundred units, to the members allocating ballot papers and ballot envelopes. Hundred self-adhesive stamps shall be allocated to the member posting a self-adhesive stamps and responsible for the ballot box. Where votings for head of community and member of the council of elders are held simultaneously, hundred self-adhesive stamps each shall be allocated to each election. A relevant entry with regard to the above-mentioned actions shall be made in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

Article 65. Commencement of and procedure for voting

1. On the voting day, at 8:00, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall announce the commencement of voting and authorise the entry of electors into the voting room.

2. The chairperson of the commission shall arrange and supervise the organising and holding of the voting, support members exercising functions, when necessary, substitute them and the specialist in case of their temporary absence. Upon the assignment of the chairperson of the commission, the secretary of the commission shall make entries in the registration book, support the members exercising functions, substitute them and the specialist in case of their temporary absence. Upon the assignment of the chairperson of the commission, the commission member not exercising any function at that moment shall substitute the specialist in case of temporary absence thereof.

3. It shall be prohibited to enter a polling station with arms and ammunition.

4. Military servants, officers serving in national security and police troops shall not enter the polling station in a marching order and with arms and ammunition. In cases where the smooth voting process is under threat, only police officers, authorised by the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission, may enter the polling station with arms.
5. Proxies, observers, mass media representatives, visitors and members of higher level electoral commissions may be present in the voting room apart from members of the electoral commission and electors. The candidate may be present in the polling station only for the purpose of participating in the voting.
6. No more than 15 electors may be present in the voting room at the same time. For the purpose of ensuring the smooth voting process, the chairperson of the electoral commission shall have the right to admit electors to the voting room one by one. In case of impossibility to ensure fulfilment of this point by the electoral commission, it shall be ensured with support of the police, upon request of the chairperson of the electoral commission.
7. One journalist and one photographer or one videotape operator representing each mass media shall have the right to be present in the voting room at the same time. Up to 2 observers from each international organisation accompanied by an interpreter may be present at the sittings of the electoral commission and, during the voting, also in the polling station (in the voting room), whereas in case of local observers — 1 observer from each organisation.
8. Where the number of observers, mass media representatives present in the voting room is such that it obviously hinders the smooth voting process, the precinct electoral commission shall be entitled to limit the total number of observers and mass media representatives having the right to be in the voting room at the same time, upon a decision adopted by 2/3 of the votes of attending members. Moreover, this number may not be less than 15. This limitation shall not extend to international observers and representatives of television and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting. In case of impossibility to ensure the execution of this part by the electoral commission, it shall be ensured with the support of the police, upon request of the chairperson of the electoral commission.
9. The Central Electoral Commission shall be obliged to create additional opportunities for the purpose of providing electors, facing difficulties with participation in the voting process, with access to voting, ensuring the opportunity for the free expression of will of the voter and secrecy of voting.

Article 66. Verifying the identity of an elector, registering electors

1. Identification document for an elector shall be considered to be an identification card, a biometric passport, a non-biometric passport, a temporary document, replacing the passport or the identification card, issued by the authorised body, whereas for military servants — the military service certificate or the military service record book, where they register (vote) in the list of electors drawn up by the military unit. Military servants undergoing compulsory fixed-term military service, who have been granted a temporary leave from service as prescribed by the legislation, shall vote in their places of permanent residence with the military service record books, also submitting a carbon copy of the document on having been granted a temporary leave from service.
2. An elector shall participate in voting in person; proxy voting shall be prohibited. Each elector shall approach the relevant member of the commission carrying out registration of electors and submit an identification document. Where an elector has submitted a passport, an identification card or a military service record book of a person having been granted a temporary leave from compulsory fixed-term military service as prescribed by the legislation, and where the photograph of the identification document is the image of the elector, the relevant member of the commission carrying out

registration of electors shall transfer the identification document to the specialist. Where the photograph is the image of another person, the chairperson of the commission shall invite to the electoral precinct the employees of the police, who undertake measures prescribed by law. Where an elector has submitted a temporary document replacing the passport or the identification card, the relevant member of the commission carrying out registration of electors shall transfer that document to the specialist.

Where an elector has submitted a passport or an identification card, the specialist shall insert it in the technical equipment verifying the identity of electors.

Where an elector has submitted a temporary document replacing the passport or the identification card, or the equipment fails to read the submitted document, the specialist shall insert, through keyboard, in the technical equipment verifying the identity of electors the number of the passport or the identification card indicated in that document.

Where an elector is a person having been granted a temporary leave from compulsory fixed-term military service as prescribed by the legislation, the specialist shall insert, through keyboard, the number of the military service record book in the technical equipment verifying the identity of electors.

Expiry of the validity period of the identification document of an elector shall not be a ground for not admitting him or her to voting, except for the case where the elector has another valid identification document.

List of identification documents of electors who are in penitentiary institutions and, in case of elections of local self-government bodies, of electors who are not citizens of the Republic of Armenia shall be approved by the Central Electoral Commission.

3. Where an elector is registered in the list of electors of the given precinct and has submitted, as an identification document, an identification card, a biometric passport or a non-biometric passport issued after 1 January 2008 and has not participated in the voting up to that moment with any identification document, the image of that elector shall appear on the screen, and a green light shall flash on the screen.

4. Where an elector is registered in the list of electors of the given precinct and has submitted, as an identification document, a non-biometric passport issued after 1 January 2008 and has not participated in the voting up to that moment with any identification document, the image of that elector shall not appear on the screen, but a green light shall flash on the screen.

5. Where an elector is a person having been granted a temporary leave from compulsory fixed-term military service as prescribed by the legislation and has submitted, as an identification document, a military service record book and has not participated in the voting up to that moment with any identification document, the image of that elector shall not appear on the screen, but a green light shall flash on the screen.

6. Where an elector is not registered in the list of electors of the given electoral precinct, the blinking red light shall flash, and where relevant information is available in the technical equipment, also the number of the electoral precinct in the list whereof the given elector is included.

In the case referred to in this part the elector shall be asked to leave the voting room.

7. Where an elector has already participated in the voting with any of his or her identification document, a red signal shall flash on the screen. In this case, as well as in the case when the person has presented the identification document of another person, the chairperson of the commission shall invite to the electoral precinct police officers who undertake measures prescribed by law.

8. In case when a green signal flashes on the screen, the elector must, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, insert his or her fingerprint, after which the technical equipment prints the surname, name of the elector, his or her record number in the list of electors, the number of the identification document, the record number of the voting pass, whereas, if

available in the digital database, also the voting pass containing the photograph of the elector.

9. The specialist shall return the printed voting pass to the relevant member of the commission carrying out registration of electors. The relevant member of the commission carrying out registration of electors shall find in the list of electors the relevant line of the elector and shall put his or her individual seal in the relevant column, put his or her individual seal on the voting pass and pass it on to the elector.

10. Registration of electors shall be carried out without technical equipment in the following cases:

(1) voting with the lists of electors registered in the military unit, and by military servants undergoing compulsory fixed-term military service in their permanent places of residence, in case of having been granted a leave from the service as prescribed by the legislation;

(2) voting in a penitentiary institution;

(3) voting through a mobile ballot box;

(4) voting with a supplementary list being drawn up on the voting day;

(5) voting, during elections of local self-government bodies, by electors who are not citizens of the Republic of Armenia;

(6) voting in case of failure of the technical equipment.

11. In case of registering electors without the use of technical equipment, the relevant member of the commission shall verify the identity of the elector, find the data of the elector in the list of electors (in case of voting with the supplementary list of electors being drawn up on the voting day — shall fill in the name, patronymic, surname), fill in the number of the identification document of the elector, after which the elector shall sign next to his or her name, the member of the commission shall put his or her own individual seal next to the signature.

In the cases provided for by points 2, 3 and 6 of part 10 of this Article, the relevant member of the commission shall fill in a numbered pass by indicating thereon the list in which the elector is included, the record number of the elector in the list, seal the voting pass with the individual seal and pass it to the elector.

In the cases provided for by point 1 of part 10 of this Article, after making a mark next to the data of the elector by the relevant member of the commission, the specialist shall insert in the technical equipment the list in which the elector is included, the number of the elector in the relevant list, after which the elector shall insert his or her fingerprint in the technical equipment. After these actions, the technical equipment prints a voting pass which contains the list in which the elector is included, the number of the elector in the relevant list and the record number of the voting pass. The specialist shall transfer the pass to the commission member, who shall seal the voting pass with his or her individual seal and pass it to the elector.

In the cases provided for by points 4 and 5 of part 10 of this Article, after filling in the data of the elector in the list by the relevant member of the commission, the specialist shall insert in the technical equipment the list in which the elector is included, the number of the elector in the relevant list, after which the elector shall insert his or her fingerprint in the technical equipment. After these actions, the technical equipment prints a voting pass which contains the list in which the elector is included, the number of the elector in the relevant list and the record number of the voting pass. The specialist shall transfer the pass to the commission member, who shall seal the voting pass with his or her individual seal and pass it to the elector.

12. Form of a numbered pass shall be established by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 67. Voting

1. Immediately after having received the voting pass, the elector shall approach the commission member responsible for handing out ballot papers and ballot envelopes and present the voting pass.

2. During elections of the National Assembly, a commission member responsible for handing out ballot papers and ballot envelopes shall hand out to the elector one ballot paper and one

ballot envelope for each political party running in elections. The elector may not refuse to accept all the ballot papers.

During elections of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as head of community and member of council of elders, a commission member responsible for handing out ballot papers and ballot envelopes shall hand out to the elector one ballot paper and one ballot envelope (and in case several votes are held simultaneously — ballot papers and ballot envelopes).

The elector shall proceed to the voting booth to vote.

3. During elections of the National Assembly, the elector shall choose, among the ballot papers of political parties running in elections, 1 ballot paper of any political party. In case of electing any of the candidates in the district electoral list, the elector shall put — on the 2nd page of the ballot paper of the political party he or she has chosen — a uniform mark, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, in the tick box next to the name of the candidate he or she is voting for. The ballot paper shall be placed in the ballot envelope without folding. Unused ballot papers shall be dropped in a separate box installed in the voting booth.

4. During elections of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the elector shall, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, put a uniform mark in the tick box next to the name of the political party he or she is voting for.

5. During the election of head of community and member of council of elders, the elector shall, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, put a uniform mark in the tick box next to the name of the candidate he or she is voting for. In case 1 candidate is voted on, the elector shall mark next to the word “for” if he or she will vote for the candidate: next to the word “against” if he or she will vote against the candidate. In case several votings are held simultaneously, the elector shall place each ballot paper in the relevant envelope.

6. It shall be prohibited to enquire, in any manner, about the vote of the elector.

7. Immediately after voting, the elector shall approach the member posting a self-adhesive stamp at the ballot box and responsible for the ballot box and shall hand over the voting pass thereto. The commission member shall check the pass, may also, on his or her own initiative or upon request of another member of the commission or a proxy, verify the identification document of the elector. The commission member shall, without taking the ballot envelope from the elector, post a self-adhesive stamp on the ballot paper through the cut of the ballot envelope, after which shall open the slot of the ballot box and enable the elector to drop the ballot envelope in the ballot box.

Where the elector fails to submit a voting pass, the member posting a self-adhesive stamp and responsible for the ballot box shall inform the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission, who shall take the ballot envelope from the elector, immediately cancel it, without verifying the content of the envelope.

8. During the voting, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall hand over new self-adhesive stamps to the member posting a self-adhesive stamp and responsible for the ballot box in case of receiving the voting passes therefrom. Voting passes shall be counted, and the number shall be recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission. Where the member posting a self-adhesive stamp and responsible for the ballot box — at the end of his or her shift or at the end of the voting — has not exhausted the self-adhesive stamps allocated thereto, he or she shall hand over the unused self-adhesive stamps and the voting passes received from electors to the chairperson of the commission. Voting passes shall be counted, and the number shall be recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

Where the number of voting passes is less than the number of self-adhesive stamps handed over to the member posting a self-adhesive stamp and responsible for the ballot box and of those used, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall make an entry with

regard thereto in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission in the special place provided for that purpose.

9. The elector who is unable to fill in the ballot paper on his or her own, shall have the right to invite, after having notified the chairperson of the electoral commission, another person into the voting booth, who must not be a member of electoral commission, proxy, observer, mass media representatives, visitor. The person shall have the right to assist only one elector who is unable to fill in the ballot paper on his or her own. Except for the mentioned case, the presence of another person in the voting booth while filling in the ballot paper shall be prohibited. The data of the person assisting the elector unable to fill in the ballot paper on his or her own shall be entered in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

10. If the elector finds that he or she has filled in the ballot paper incorrectly or has damaged it, he or she may apply to the chairperson of the commission to receive a new ballot paper. Upon the assignment of the chairperson of commission, a new ballot paper shall be allocated to the elector (in case of elections of the National Assembly — one ballot paper of each political party running in elections). Incorrectly filled-in (damaged) ballot paper (ballot papers) shall be immediately cancelled.

11. The elector shall not have the right to announce in the polling station the way he or she has voted.

12. After the voting, the elector shall immediately leave the voting room.

13. During the voting, the candidate, the candidate included in the electoral list of a political party running in elections shall be prohibited from staying at the polling station or in the area up to 50 metres radius adjacent to a polling station, except for the case of participation in the voting.

14. Where the commission member or the proxy finds that cases of violations of the voting procedure have taken place in the voting process as provided for by this Code, he or she shall have the right to demand that his or her view be recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

CHAPTER 12

PROCEDURE FOR SUMMARISATION AND TABULATION OF VOTING RESULTS, DETERMINATION OF INACCURACIES AND SUMMARISATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Article 68. Procedure for summarisation of voting results in electoral precinct

1. On the voting day, at 20:00, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall announce about the end of the voting and prohibit the entry of electors into the voting room. The commission shall permit the electors present in the voting room to vote, after which the chairperson of the commission shall close the slot of the ballot box.

2. The precinct electoral commission shall start its sitting for summarisation of the voting results in the presence of persons having the right to attend the commission sitting (the candidate may also participate in this sitting). For this purpose, [it shall]:

- (1) pack and seal the individual seals of the commission members;
- (2) count the total number of voting participants, based on the marks with individual seals available in the list of electors (including in the supplementary lists).

If available, the following shall also be counted separately:

- a. number of signatures available in the supplementary lists drawn up in the electoral precinct on the voting day;
- b. number of signatures available in the supplementary lists of electors having participated in the voting through the mobile ballot box.

These figures shall be published and recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

The chairperson of the commission shall immediately inform, through available means of communication, the chairperson of the district electoral commission on the total number of voting participants in the electoral precinct.

Lists of electors shall be packed, the package shall be sealed and placed in the sack;

(3) print, by means of technical equipment, a statement of information on the number of passes printed by means of technical equipment. The number shall be recorded in the registration book, and the statement of information shall be glued to the registration book of the precinct electoral commission. Where due to failure of the technical equipment, it is not possible to obtain the number of passes printed by means of technical equipment, an entry with regard thereto shall be made in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission, and the number is calculated based on the list of electors (including the supplementary list being drawn up on the voting day) by calculating the lines which are marked with an individual seal, however signatures of electors are absent;

(4) count the unused self-adhesive stamps and the voting passes received from electors, these figures shall be recorded in the registration book, after which they shall be packed, the package shall be sealed and placed in the sack.

Where the sum of the numbers of unused self-adhesive stamps and voting passes received from electors is less than the number of self-adhesive stamps allocated to the precinct electoral commission, an entry with regard thereto shall be made in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission in the special place provided for that purpose, indicating the difference.

(5) count the unused numbered voting passes, pack, seal the package and place in the sack;

(6) without counting, pack the unused ballot papers, seal the package and place in the sack.

The results of these actions shall be published and recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

3. The chairperson of the commission shall open the ballot box, take one ballot envelope out of the ballot box, demonstrate it in such a way that it is visible to those present and shall take the ballot paper out of the ballot envelope.

During elections of the National Assembly, the chairperson of the commission shall announce the ballot paper being of the established or non-established sample, valid or invalid (at this stage validity assessment of the ballot paper as regards the candidate included in the district list shall not be carried out), in case of a valid ballot paper [he or she] shall announce the name of the political party running in elections in favour of which the ballot paper has been cast, after which the next envelope shall be taken out of the ballot box. The ballot papers cast in favour of the political parties running in elections and the invalid ballot papers shall be sorted separately.

After the ballot papers with affirmative vote have been sorted and counted according to ballot papers cast in favour of each political party running in elections, the results shall be announced out loud and recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

After having all the valid ballot papers of each political party running in elections sorted, the precinct electoral commission shall (according to the political parties having received the highest number of ballot papers with affirmative vote) count the number of ballot papers cast in favour of each candidate included in the district list of the political party running in elections. To that end, the chairperson of the precinct electoral commission shall, according to the mark put on the 2nd page of the ballot paper, announce the candidate in the district list of the political party running in elections in favour of whom it has been cast.

Where the ballot paper on its 2nd page contains marks in favour of more than one candidate, contains no marks, where the established form of putting a mark has been obviously violated, the ballot paper shall remain only in the pile of ballot papers cast in favour of the political party running in elections. It shall be demonstrated in such a way that it is visible to those present. Upon request, the ballot paper shall be transferred to other members of the commission. In case a commission member disagrees with the opinion of the chairperson of the commission, he or she shall raise an objection. Based on the results of voting, where an objection is raised (the proposal of the member of the commission is put to voting, and if the proposal of the member of the commission is not adopted by voting, the proposal of the chairperson of the commission is considered to be adopted), and where no objection is raised, the chairperson of the commission, pursuant to his or her statement, shall, according to the voting mark put in the ballot paper, put the ballot paper in the pile of ballot papers cast in favour of the respective candidate.

This action shall be repeated with all the envelopes in the ballot box.

After having ballot papers sorted as prescribed, the number of ballot papers cast in favour of each candidate in the district list of a political party running in elections shall be counted, announced out loud and recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission. Ballot papers cast in favour of each political party running in elections shall be packed together.

4. During elections of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as of head of community and member of the council of elders, the chairperson of the commission shall take one ballot envelope out of the ballot box, demonstrate it in such a way that it is visible to those present, take the ballot paper out of the ballot envelope and announce if the ballot paper is valid, invalid, or of non-established sample.

In case the ballot paper is valid, [he or she] shall also announce the candidate or the political party running in elections in favour of whom or which a vote has been cast.

Upon request, the ballot paper shall be transferred to other members of the commission. In case a commission member disagrees with the opinion of the chairperson of the commission, he or she shall raise an objection. Based on the voting results, where an objection is raised (the proposal of the member of the commission is put to voting, and if the proposal of the member of the commission is not adopted by voting, the proposal of the chairperson of the commission is considered to be adopted), and where no objection is raised, the chairperson of the commission, pursuant to his or her statement, shall put the

ballot paper in the pile of ballot papers cast in favour of the respective candidate, the political party running in elections, in case one candidate is voted on — in the pile of the ballot papers cast for or against the candidate, or in the pile of invalid ballot papers, after which the next envelope shall be taken out of the ballot box. This action shall be repeated in relation to all the ballot envelopes in the ballot box.

The ballot papers cast in favour of political parties running in elections, candidates, and the invalid ballot papers shall be sorted separately.

After the ballot papers voted on have been sorted and counted, the results shall be announced out loud and recorded in the registration book of the precinct electoral commission.

5. During the sorting of ballot papers, commission members shall be prohibited from making any notes, as well as having with them any pens, pencils or other items for making notes.

6. In case more than one ballot paper is found in a ballot envelope, only the established sample ballot paper shall be considered in the counting.

In case the ballot envelope contains an unnecessary entry, the ballot paper shall not be taken out of the envelope, the ballot envelope together with the ballot paper therein shall be immediately cancelled.

7. The non-established sample ballot papers shall not be considered and counted when summarising the results.

8. The counted and sorted ballot papers shall be packed as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, and the packages shall be sealed and placed in the sack.

The packages must bear the signature of the chairperson of the commission. The other commission members and proxies shall also have the right to sign the packages. The names and surnames of the signatories shall be entered, and samples of the signature shall be put in the register.

9. Proxies, observers, mass media representatives may photograph and videotape the process of summarisation of voting results.

10. In case elections for head of community and member of the council of elders are held simultaneously, the voting results of the community council of elders shall be summarised first.

Article 69. Validity of ballot papers

1. An established sample ballot paper in case of elections of the National Assembly, shall be invalid where it contains an unnecessary entry, apart from the mark established by the Central Electoral Commission for voting or the resembling one;

2. An established sample ballot paper in case of elections of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, head of community and member of the council of elders shall be invalid, where:

(1) it contains marks in favour of more than one candidate, political party;

(2) it contains marks both next to the words “for” and “against” where one candidate is voted on;

(3) it contains an unnecessary entry, apart from the mark established by the Central Electoral Commission for voting or the resembling one;

(4) it does not contain any mark;

(5) the form prescribed for putting a mark in the ballot paper is obviously violated.

3. An insignificant violation of the established form may not be considered as a basis for invalidity of the ballot paper if the elector’s intention is clear and unambiguous.

4. A ballot paper shall be valid if it is of an established sample and is not invalid.

Article 70. Established sample ballot papers

1. An established sample ballot paper shall be the ballot paper of the sample approved by the Central Electoral Commission which bears a self-adhesive stamp of that electoral precinct.

Article 71. Protocol of precinct electoral commission on voting results

1. Based on counting carried out as prescribed by Article 68 of this Code, the precinct electoral commission shall draw up a protocol on the voting results in the electoral precinct, which shall include the following:

- (1) the total number of electors in the electoral precinct, which shall be equal to the sum of the number of electors included in the list and the number of electors included in supplementary lists. The number of the list of electors, the number of the supplementary list of electors participating in the voting in a medical institution providing inpatient care shall be filled in by the district electoral commission;
- (2) the total number of voting participants;
- (3) the number of self-adhesive stamps allocated to the precinct electoral commission (shall be filled in by the district electoral commission);
- (4) the number of numbered passes allocated to the precinct electoral commission (shall be filled in by the district electoral commission);
- (5) the number of passes printed by means of technical equipment;
- (6) the number of voting passes provided to electors without the use of technical equipment;
- (7) the number of unused numbered passes;
- (8) the number of unused self-adhesive stamps;
- (9) the number of invalid ballot papers;
- (10) the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each candidate, political party running in elections, the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each candidate included in the district electoral list during the election of the National Assembly;
- (11) the number of ballot papers cast against a candidate (the line shall be indicated when one candidate is voted on).

2. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, the secretary and the members of the commission, it shall be sealed by the chairperson of the commission.

3. The commission member shall be obliged to sign the protocol. In case of having an objection (special opinion) with regard to the data in the protocol, he or she shall make a relevant entry in the protocol in the special place provided for that purpose.

4. The sitting of the precinct electoral commission may not be interrupted from the moment the voting is over until drawing up of the protocol on the voting results in the electoral precinct.

5. The commission shall complete the protocol at the end of the sitting but no later than 10 hours after the end of voting, and the commission chairperson shall publish the protocol on the voting results in the electoral precinct.

6. The protocol shall be drawn up in 4 copies, 1 copy shall be posted at the polling station next to the list of electors, and 1 copy shall be placed in the sack of election related documents.

7. The sack must bear the signature of the chairperson of the commission. The other commission members and proxies shall also have the right to sign the sack. The names and surnames of the signatories shall be entered, and samples of the signature shall be recorded in the registration book.

The sack of election related documents at the precinct electoral commission must be closed. The chairperson of the commission shall be responsible for closing the sack, in the prescribed manner, at the precinct electoral commission.

8. An extract from the protocol on the results of voting in the electoral precinct shall be provided to persons, at their request, having the right to be present at the commission, which shall be certified by the signatures of the commission chairperson and the secretary, and bear the seal of the commission.

9. No later than within 12 hours after the end of voting, the chairperson and the secretary of the precinct electoral commission shall submit the sack, the pile of the unused ballot envelopes, 2 copies of the protocol on the voting results, the registration book and the commission seal, the technical equipment to the district electoral commission as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 72. Procedure for determining inaccuracies

1. The amount of the 1st inaccuracy shall be equal to the number of unused self-adhesive stamps plus the number of voting passes received from electors minus the number of self-adhesive stamps allocated to the precinct electoral commission minus the number of unused self-adhesive stamps.

2. The amount of the 2nd inaccuracy shall be equal to the number of handed out numbered passes plus the number of passes printed by means of technical equipment minus the number of unused numbered voting passes minus the total number of voting participants.

3. The amount of the 3rd inaccuracy shall be equal to the number of invalid ballot papers plus the number of valid ballot papers minus the total number of voting participants.

4. The amount of inaccuracies in the electoral precinct shall be equal to the sum of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd inaccuracies.

5. The amount of inaccuracies in the electoral precinct shall be calculated and recorded by the electoral commission responsible for summarisation of the election results, by using the "Elections" automated system.

6. In case of declaring the voting results in the electoral precinct as invalid, the number of voting participants in that precinct shall be recorded as the total amount of inaccuracies in the precinct.

7. While drawing up the protocol on the voting results, the total number of voting participants of the precinct where the voting results are declared as invalid shall be correspondingly added to the voting results of the remaining precincts. The other results (numbers) of the protocol of the electoral precinct where the voting results are declared as invalid, except for the amount of inaccuracies, shall be recorded as "0".

Article 73. Actions of district electoral commission after receiving the protocols of precinct electoral commissions

1. The district electoral commission shall check the validity of drawing up the protocols on the voting results in electoral precincts, in case of arithmetic errors, the chairperson and the secretary of the precinct electoral commission shall correct them and certify the corrections with their signatures. The baseline data shall not be modified. Data produced by the precinct electoral commission by way of counting one by one and through technical equipment shall be deemed baseline data.

2. The district electoral commission shall enter, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission, the data of protocols on the voting results in the electoral precinct into a computer by means of special software. The software shall ensure reasonable guarantees against errors generated by the incorrect data input. The Commission shall regularly but no less than every 3 hours, tabulate the voting results through a computer as per electoral precincts. The district electoral commission shall complete the entry into a computer of data of protocols on the voting results in electoral precincts no later than within 20 hours after the end of voting. The district electoral commission shall tabulate the voting results as per electoral precincts.

3. The district electoral commission shall immediately post at the commission the copy of the tabulated voting results, certified by signatures of the chairperson (deputy chairperson) and the secretary of the commission, and by the commission seal, in a place visible to all. Upon their request, persons having the right to attend the sitting of the electoral commission, shall receive a copy of the tabulated voting results within the service area of the district commission, certified by signatures of the chairperson (deputy chairperson) and the secretary of the commission, and by the commission seal.

During elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the district electoral commission shall submit — 24 hours after the end of voting — 1 copy of the protocol on the voting results in the electoral precinct, to the Central Electoral Commission.

4. During elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the district electoral commission shall not draw up a protocol on summarisation of the voting results, for recounting of the voting results, it shall investigate, within the time limits established by this Code, the violations recorded in the registration books of precinct electoral commissions on the voting day, summarise the investigation results at the sitting of the commission, and submit the decision adopted thereon to the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 74. Procedure for summarising at district electoral commission the results of elections of head of community and member of the council of elders

1. No later than within 18 hours after the end of voting, based on the protocols on the voting results in electoral precincts, the district electoral commission shall, in accordance with the requirements of this Article, summarise the preliminary voting results on elections of head of community and member of the council of elders and endorse them by a protocol.

2. On the 5th day after the voting day, based on the protocols on the voting results in electoral precincts, the recounting results, the decisions adopted on the voting results, the district electoral commission shall draw up a protocol on the voting results in the community.

3. The following shall be indicated in the protocol on the voting results of the elections of head of community and member of the council of elders:

- (1) the total number of electors in the community, which shall be equal to the sum of the number of electors included in the list and the number of electors in the supplementary list being drawn up on the voting day;
- (2) the total number of voting participants (according to the signatures in the list of electors);
- (3) the total number of self-adhesive stamps allocated to the precinct electoral commission;
- (4) the total number of numbered passes allocated to the precinct electoral commission;
- (5) the total number of passes printed by means of technical equipment;
- (6) the total number of voting passes provided to electors without the use of technical equipment;
- (7) the total number of unused numbered passes;
- (8) the total number of unused self-adhesive stamps;
- (9) the total number of invalid ballot papers;
- (10) the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each candidate;

(11) the total number of ballot papers cast against a candidate (the line shall be indicated when one candidate is voted on);

(12) the total amount of inaccuracies.

The total amount of inaccuracies in a community shall be equal to the sum of the total inaccuracy amounts in electoral precincts included in the community.

4. The protocol shall be signed by the commission members, it shall be sealed by the commission chairperson.

5. The chairperson of the district electoral commission shall publish the drawn up protocol.

6. One copy of the protocol shall be posted at the commission in a visible place immediately after the actions provided for by this Article are completed.

7. A carbon copy of the protocol on the voting results, certified by the signatures of the commission chairperson and the secretary, and by the commission seal, shall be provided to persons having the right to attend the sitting of the electoral commission, upon their request.

8. On the 5th day after the voting day, based on the protocol on the voting results in the community, court judgments, decisions adopted due to consideration of applications (complaints) received by the commission, and the adopted decision on the violations recorded on the voting day in the registration books of precinct electoral commissions, the district electoral commission shall summarise the voting results in the community and adopt a decision on the election results.

Where the number of voting passes in the precinct is less than the number of self-adhesive stamps handed over to the member posting a self-adhesive stamp and responsible for the ballot box and of those used, information on the member of the commission (the chairperson of the commission) having the shortage, and the carbon copy of the relevant page of the registration book shall be reported to law-enforcement bodies by the chairperson of the district electoral commission as a potential infringement.

9. The district electoral commission shall submit copies of the protocol and the decision to the Central Electoral Commission within a 2-day period.

Article 75. Procedure for summarisation of results of elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor in the Central Electoral Commission

1. No later than 24 hours after the end of voting, based on the election results in the electoral precincts, received from district electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission shall, in accordance with the requirements of this Article, summarise the preliminary results of voting on election of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, and endorse them by a protocol. The preliminary results of voting for election of the National Assembly shall be officially published during live broadcasting of public radio and public television. While publishing the preliminary results during live broadcasting, the number of ballot papers cast for political parties running in elections by territories and the votes received by candidates included in the district lists, shall not be published.

After having been signed, the protocol on preliminary voting results on election of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, shall be published on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.

2. On the 7th day after the voting day, based on the protocols on the voting results in electoral precincts, the recounting results, the decisions adopted on the voting results, the Central Electoral Commission shall draw up a protocol on the voting results.

3. The following shall be indicated in the protocol on the voting results:

- (1) the total number of electors, which shall be equal to the sum of the number of electors included in the list and the number of electors included in supplementary lists;
- (2) the total number of voting participants (according to signatures available in the list of electors);
- (3) the total number of self-adhesive stamps allocated to the precinct electoral commission;
- (4) the total number of numbered passes allocated to the precinct electoral commission;
- (5) the total number of passes printed by means of technical equipment;
- (6) the total number of voting passes provided to the electors without the use of technical equipment;
- (7) the total number of unused numbered passes;
- (8) the total number of unused self-adhesive stamps;
- (9) the number of invalid ballot papers;
- (10) the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each political party running in elections, in case of election of the National Assembly also by electoral districts;
- (11) the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each candidate included in the district list of political parties running in elections, by electoral districts in case of election of the National Assembly;
- (12) the total amount of inaccuracies.

The total amount of inaccuracies shall be equal to the sum of the total amount of inaccuracies in all the formed electoral precincts.

4. The protocol shall be signed by the commission members, it shall be sealed by the chairperson of the commission.

5. A carbon copy of the protocol on the voting results, certified by the signatures of the commission chairperson and the secretary, and by the commission seal, shall be provided to persons having the right to attend the sitting of the electoral commission, upon their request.

6. On the 7th day after the voting day, based on the protocol on the voting results, court judgments, decisions adopted due to consideration of applications (complaints) received from commissions, decisions of district electoral commissions adopted on the violations recorded on the voting day in the registration books of precinct electoral commissions, and decisions adopted on the voting results, the Central Electoral Commission shall summarise the election results and adopt a decision on the election results.

PART TWO

SECTION 4

ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**CHAPTER 13
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 76. Composition of the National Assembly

1. The minimum number of Deputies of the National Assembly shall be 101. The preliminary distribution of the mandates of the National Assembly shall be carried out by taking number 101 as a basis.

Article 77. Electoral system

1. Elections of the National Assembly shall be held under the proportional electoral system, from one multi-mandate constituency covering the whole territory of the Republic from among candidates for Deputies nominated in the national and district electoral lists of political parties.

Article 78. Electoral districts

1. During elections of the National Assembly, 13 electoral districts shall be constituted in the Republic of Armenia — 4 in Yerevan, 9 in marzes.

2. In the territory of Yerevan 4 electoral districts shall be constituted — Avan, Nor Nork, Nork-Marash, Kanaker-Zeytun administrative districts shall be included in the 1st electoral district, Arabkir, Ajapnyak, Davitashen administrative districts — in the 2nd electoral district, Malatia-Sebastia, Shengavit administrative districts — in the 3rd electoral district, Kentron, Erebuni, Nubarashen administrative districts — in the 4th electoral district.

3. In marzes 9 electoral districts shall be constituted — Ararat Marz, Armavir Marz, Aragatsotn Marz, Gegharkunik Marz, Lori Marz, Kotayk Marz, Shirak Marz, Syunik and Vayots Dzor Marzes, Tavush Marz.

Article 79. Right to elect

1. During elections of the National Assembly each elector shall have 1 vote.

Article 80. Right to be elected

1. Everyone who has attained the age of 25, has been a citizen of the Republic of Armenia only, for the preceding 4 years, has been permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the preceding 4 years, has the right of suffrage and has command of the Armenian language may be elected as Deputy of the National Assembly.

2. A citizen shall not be considered as permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the preceding 4 years where he or she has been absent from the Republic of Armenia for at least 731 days out of 1 461 days preceding the day of submitting an application to the authorised body for the purpose of obtaining a statement of information, in the manner prescribed, on having permanent residence for the registration of a candidate, except for cases when the absence has been conditioned by circumstances related to the secondment for

service purposes of a person who is a public servant of the Republic Armenia, or to his or her study at higher educational institutions abroad.

3. Having a command of the Armenian language shall mean having secondary and higher education in the Armenian language or studying the Armenian language in the course of secondary or higher education. The command of the Armenian language of persons not having secondary or higher education in the Armenian language and not having studied the Armenian language in the course of their secondary or higher education shall be tested as prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 14

NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY

Article 81. Right to nominate a candidate for Deputy

1. The right to nominate candidates for Deputy of the National Assembly shall be vested in political parties and alliances of political parties.

A candidate for Deputy may be nominated by the electoral list of only one political party.

2. Alliances of political parties may be formed by at least 2 political parties. A political party may be included in the composition of only 1 alliance.

3. The political party included in an alliance of political parties may not run in elections on its own.

4. The decision on joining an alliance of political parties shall be adopted by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party.

Article 82. Restrictions for nomination

1. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, Special Investigation Service, Police, National Security, Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, rescue, tax, customs authorities, penitentiary service, military servants, members of electoral commissions may not be nominated as a candidate for Deputy of the National Assembly.

Article 83. National and district electoral lists of a political party (alliances of political parties)

1. Each political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall nominate 1 national electoral list of candidates, which may consist of 2 parts, and 1 district electoral list for each electoral district.

2. The national electoral list of an alliance of political parties shall be made up from a national list presented by each political party included in the alliance.

3. A political party (alliance of political parties) shall make up district electoral lists from the candidates included in the first part of the national electoral list thereof. A citizen may be included only in 1 district electoral list.

4. In the first part of the national electoral list of a political party, alliance of political parties and each of the political parties included in the alliance, the number of representatives of each sex, starting from the 1st place on the list, must not exceed 75 per cent in each integer group of 4 (1-4, 1-8, 1-12 and subsequently up to the end of the list). The first part of the national electoral list

of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall include no less than 80 and no more than 300 candidates. The first part of the national electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) may include persons that are not members of that political party (any of member political parties to the alliance) the number of which may not exceed 30 per cent of the total number of the candidates included in the first part of the national list.

5. The national electoral list may have a second part, wherein representatives of the first 4 national minorities with the largest number of resident population — according to the data of the latest census preceding the elections — may be included, in accordance with part 6 of this Article. A candidate for Deputy, who is a representative of national minority, included in the second part of the national electoral list may also be included in the first part of the national electoral list.

6. The second part of the national electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall have 4 sections. Each section may include up to 4 representatives from the respective national minority. In case of not including a representative of a certain national minority, the respective section shall not be filled in.

In the second part of the national electoral list the data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 1 under consecutive numbers starting from “1”; data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the second largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 2 under consecutive numbers starting from “1”; data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the third largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 3 under consecutive numbers starting from “1”; data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the fourth largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 4 under consecutive numbers starting from “1”.

7. The first and second parts of the national electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall include — under consecutive numbers — the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, sex, political affiliation, personal identification document number, place of registration, place of employment and position (occupation) of candidates. The respective national minority shall also be indicated in the second part of the national electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) when indicating each section.

8. The national and district electoral lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be approved and nominated by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (by the decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance). All the pages of national and district electoral lists shall be sealed and signed by the competent person of a political party (member political parties to the alliance).

9. The district electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) may include maximum 1 candidate per 15 000 electors of that district but no less than 5 candidates. The maximum number of candidates included in the district electoral list of each political party (alliance of political parties) shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission based on the rule prescribed by this part, within 10 days after calling elections.

10. The number of representatives of each sex must not exceed 75 per cent in the district electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections.

11. The district electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall include the surnames, names and patronymics of candidates for Deputy according to their surnames, and where they coincide — according to the names and surnames in alphabetical order. Where surnames, names and patronymics coincide, the date of birth shall be stated.

12. In case any political party leaves the alliance of political parties, the candidates for Deputy nominated in the national list of that political party shall be removed — as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission — from the national and district electoral lists of the alliance of political parties.

Article 84. Nominating a candidate for Deputy

1. Political parties shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission the application on running in elections of the National Assembly, upon the decision of their permanently functioning governing body, and the application shall be signed by the head of the political party. Alliances of political parties shall submit to the Central Electoral Commission the application on running in elections of the National Assembly upon decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance, and the application shall be signed by the heads of member political parties to the alliance.

2. The following shall be attached to the application of a political party (alliance of political parties) on running in elections of the National Assembly:

- (1) the charter of the political party (the charters of the political parties included in the alliance);
- (2) the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance) on approving and nominating national and district electoral lists;
- (3) the national and district electoral lists;
- (4) the written statements of candidates for Deputy included in electoral lists on their consent for being registered as candidate for Deputy;
- (5) the national list presented by each of the political parties included in the alliance of political parties;
- (6) the receipt on payment of the electoral deposit in the amount of 10 000-fold of the minimum salary;
- (7) a statement of information proving that candidates for Deputy included in the electoral lists have been citizens of the Republic of Armenia only, for the last 4 years, and have been permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the last 4 years;
- (8) carbon copy of the document certifying the secondary or higher education in the Armenian language or the study of the Armenian language in the course of secondary or higher education, or a statement of information issued by the Ministry of Education and Science certifying the command of the Armenian language;
- (9) carbon copies of personal identification documents of candidates for Deputy included in the electoral lists.

3. The form of the statement of information prescribed by point 7 of part 2 of this Article shall be approved by the Central Electoral Commission. The mentioned statement of information shall be issued by the authorised body within a 3-day period following the request but no earlier than the calling of elections.

The authorised body shall upon its decision refuse to issue a statement of information of the specified form to the applicant, if the data thereon do not meet the requirements of Article 80 of this Code.

4. The statement of information prescribed by point 8 of part 2 of this Article on having a command of the Armenian language for persons not having received secondary or higher education in the Armenian language and not having studied the Armenian language in the course of secondary or higher education shall be issued by the Ministry of Education and Science within a 1-week period following the request.

5. The application on running in elections of the National Assembly shall also contain data on up to 3 authorised representatives (surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, personal identification document number, place of employment and position (occupation)).

6. Documents necessary for registering the electoral lists of a political party running in elections shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission only personally by the authorised representative of the political party (alliance of political parties) within the time limits prescribed by this Code.

7. Where errors, deletions, erasures, misprints are found in the documents submitted for registration of the electoral lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections, the Central Electoral Commission shall be obliged to bring them to the attention of persons having submitted the documents so as to correct them, as well as correct itself, in their presence, the evident errors and misprints existing in the submitted documents.

The Commission shall have no right not to accept the submitted documents only for the reason that they contain such errors, deletions, erasures, or misprints. The provisions of this part shall not apply to correction of such errors, deletions, erasures, misprints or elimination of other deficiencies found in the documents, the right whereof is reserved by law to the bodies having adopted or issued such documents.

In case the submitted documents contain inaccuracies referred to in the second paragraph of this part or in case of incompleteness of documents attached to the application, the Central Electoral Commission shall give 48 hours for the elimination of the mentioned inaccuracies, completion of the attached documents. In case of failure to eliminate, within that period of time, the inaccuracies regarding the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections, regarding a candidate included in the electoral list, or in case of failure to complete the documents, the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections, a candidate included in the electoral list shall be rejected, and his or her name shall be removed from the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 85. Registering the electoral list of a political party

1. In case no objection is raised by the members of the Central Electoral Commission with respect to the registration of the electoral list of a political party, the electoral list shall be registered without voting.

In case of registration of the electoral list of a political party, both the national electoral list and the district electoral list shall be deemed registered.

2. After the registration, at the same sitting, the Central Electoral Commission shall, by drawing of lots, provide record numbers to the political parties running in elections. The mentioned numbers shall not be subject to change. In case of holding a second round of elections, the newly formed alliance shall be provided with numbers under the same procedure by continuing the numbering of the first round.

3. Within a 3-day period following the expiry of the time limit for registration, the Central Electoral Commission shall publish the national and district electoral lists of political parties.

4. An authorised representative of the political party shall have the right to be present at the sitting of the Central Electoral Commission held for the discussion of the issue of registering the electoral lists of the political party.

Article 86. Rejecting the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) or the candidate included in the electoral lists

1. In case there are grounds for rejecting the registration in the national electoral list or any district electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), the registration of the electoral list of the given political party (alliance of political parties) shall be rejected.

2. The Central Electoral Commission shall reject the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), where:

- (1) not all the documents have been submitted or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified;
- (2) district electoral lists have not been submitted for all electoral districts in the manner prescribed;
- (3) the national electoral list or any district electoral list does not comply with the requirements prescribed by Article 83 of this Code (except for cases when non-compliance is conditioned by a circumstance which emerged after the nomination);
- (4) the political party has been dissolved;
- (5) the number of political parties included in the alliance of political parties has fallen below 2;
- (6) the activities of the political party have been suspended or prohibited.

2. In case objection is raised by a member of the Central Electoral Commission regarding registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), the objection shall be put to vote. The registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be rejected upon the decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Commission.

3. The Central Electoral Commission shall reject the registration of a candidate included in the electoral lists, where:

- (1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;
- (2) not all the documents thereon have been submitted, or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified.

In case the registration of a candidate is rejected, the candidate shall be removed from the national and district electoral lists as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. In case an objection is raised by a member of the Central Electoral Commission regarding registration of a candidate included in the electoral lists of a political party (alliance of political parties), the objection shall be put to vote. The registration of a candidate shall be rejected upon the decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 87. Declaring invalid the registration of the electoral list of a political party or the candidate included in the electoral list

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall declare invalid the registration of an electoral list of a political party, where after the registration some facts emerge evidencing that the submitted documents concerning the political party are falsified.

2. The registration of the electoral list of a political party shall not be declared invalid as a consequence of revoking or declaring invalid the registration of the candidate included in the electoral lists of a political party, even if the requirements prescribed by parts 4 and 10 of Article 83 of this Code are violated.

3. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral lists of a political party shall be declared invalid, where by virtue of facts having emerged after the registration:

- (1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;
- (2) the submitted documents thereon are falsified.

In case the registration of a candidate included in the electoral lists is declared invalid, the candidate shall be removed from the national and district electoral lists as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. The registration of electoral lists of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral lists shall be declared invalid upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 88. Revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) or the candidate included in the electoral lists

1. The registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked by the decision of the Central Electoral Commission, where:

- (1) an application for recusal has been submitted;
- (2) the political party has been dissolved;
- (3) the activities of the political party have been suspended or prohibited.
- (4) the number of political parties included in the alliance of political parties has fallen below 2;
- (5) the number of candidates of even one district electoral list presented by a political party (alliance of political parties) falls below 3.

2. The registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked by a judicial act, where the provisions of part 8 of Article 19 or Article 27 of this Code have been violated.

3. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked upon the decision of the Central Electoral Commission, where he or she has submitted an application for recusal.

4. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral lists of a political party, alliance of political parties shall be revoked by the judicial act where he or she has violated the provisions of part 8 of Article 19 or Article 27 of this Code.

In case the registration of a candidate included in the electoral lists is revoked, the candidate shall be removed from the national and district electoral lists as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 89. Procedure for appealing against the decisions on rejecting, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party or the candidate included in the electoral lists

1. The decision of the Central Electoral Commission on rejecting, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party or the candidate included in the electoral lists may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

2. The electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral lists shall be deemed registered or re-registered by a judicial act on declaring invalid the decision of the Central Electoral Commission on rejecting the registration, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party, alliance of political parties or the candidate included in the electoral lists.

CHAPTER 15**STATUS OF A CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY****Article 90. Rights, responsibilities and guarantees of activities of candidates for Deputy**

1. Candidates for Deputy shall have equal rights and shall bear equal responsibilities, except for the cases prescribed by this Code.
2. A person registered as a candidate for Deputy, for the period of having the status of a candidate for Deputy, shall not be subject to be called up for drills or military trainings or to be drafted for compulsory military service.
3. Candidates for Deputy shall have the right to withdraw their candidacy in case of submitting an application no later than 10 days before the voting day, by 18:00, as well as after the voting day. An application for recusal shall be certified by a notary, or the candidate shall confirm his or her application for recusal at the sitting of the Central Electoral Commission. In case a candidate for Deputy submits an application for recusal, the candidate shall be removed from the national and district lists of a political party (alliance of political parties). The name, surname of a candidate included in the electoral lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be removed from the electoral lists as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.
4. No later than 10 days before the voting day, by 18:00, political parties (alliances of political parties) or member political parties to the alliance shall have the right to submit an application for recusal by attaching the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of a political party (all member political parties to the alliance), respectively.
5. Criminal prosecution of a candidate for Deputy, an elected Deputy, before assuming his or her powers as a Deputy, may be conducted only upon the consent of the Central Electoral Commission. Without the consent of the Central Electoral Commission, he or she may not be deprived of liberty, except when he or she has been caught at the time of or immediately after committing a criminal offence. The Central Electoral Commission shall adopt a decision on the mentioned issue by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Commission. The provision prescribed by this part does not apply to the citizens arrested or detained before being registered as candidates, as well as cases of imposing detention as a measure of restraint upon the arrested person and extending the term of detention of the mentioned persons.

Article 91. Status of candidates for Deputy

1. A candidate for Deputy shall acquire his or her status upon registration of the electoral list of the political party running in elections. Rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code shall extend to the candidate for Deputy until the expiry of time limit prescribed for challenging the decision of the Central Electoral Commission on being elected as Deputy, and in case of challenging that decision, until the Constitutional Court adopts a decision. The candidate for Deputy shall lose his or her rights pertaining to the status of a candidate and shall be exempt from the responsibilities also in cases prescribed by Articles 87 or 88 of this Code, upon revoking or declaring invalid the registration of the electoral list of a political party or the candidate included in the electoral lists, respectively. In case of appealing through judicial procedure against the decision of the Central Electoral Commission on declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party or the candidate included in the

electoral lists, the candidate shall lose his or her rights pertaining to the status of a candidate for Deputy and shall be exempt from responsibilities upon the entry into force of the judicial act.

2. Candidates for Deputy, irrespective of the circumstance of being a public servant, shall have no right to use the advantages of their official or work related capacity.

Candidates for Deputy who are public servants (except for the President of the Republic, Deputies of the National Assembly and members of the Government) shall be exempt from fulfilling their official responsibilities from the day of the official start of the election campaign by virtue of law until the voting day. The absence from work of the mentioned candidates within that period of time shall be considered valid without preservation of the remuneration.

3. Instituting criminal prosecution against a candidate for Deputy may not serve as a basis for prohibiting the exercise of his or her right to be elected.

CHAPTER 16

ELECTION CAMPAIGN DURING ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 92. Campaign fund of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections

1. For the purpose of conducting an election campaign, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall set up a campaign fund, which shall be formed by voluntary contributions specified in Article 26 of this Code.

2. The political party (political parties included in the alliance of political parties jointly) running in elections shall have the right to make contributions to the fund of the political party (alliance of political parties) in the amount of up to 100 000-fold of the minimum salary, and the candidate included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections — in the amount of up to 5 000-fold of the minimum salary.

3. Each natural person may make a contribution to the campaign fund of a political party (alliance of political parties) in the amount of up to 500-fold of the minimum salary.

4. During the election campaign, for the purpose of funding the conduct of the election campaign through the mass media, renting halls, premises for the purpose of organising election gatherings and meetings with electors, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing any kind of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall have the right to spend an amount not exceeding the 500 000-fold of the minimum salary.

Article 93. Election campaign

1. During elections of the National Assembly, election campaign shall be conducted in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by this Code.

2. Election campaign of a political party running in elections through free and paid use of airtime on public radio and public television shall be carried out as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

3. A political party running in elections shall have the right to use free of charge no more than 60 minutes of airtime on public television, and no more than 120 minutes of airtime on public radio.

4. A political party running in elections shall have the right to use for pay no more than 120 minutes of airtime on public television, and no more than 180 minutes of airtime on public radio at the account of its campaign fund.

5. In case of a second round of elections, early elections or declaring elections of the National Assembly invalid and holding repeat voting, a political party running in elections shall have the right to use free of charge no more than 15 minutes of airtime on public television, and no more than 25 minutes of airtime on public radio, and no more than 25 minutes of paid airtime on public television and no more than 35 minutes of paid airtime on public radio, at the account of the campaign fund.

The Central Electoral Commission shall distribute the airtime no later than within 5 days after adopting the decision on holding a second round of elections of the National Assembly, as well as declaring the elections invalid and holding repeat voting.

CHAPTER 17

BALLOT PAPERS SUMMARISATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Article 94. Ballot papers

1. The name of the political party running in elections, the number issued to the political party, as well as the surnames, names and patronymics of the first 3 candidates in the national electoral list shall be specified on the 1st page of the ballot paper of elections of the National Assembly. The surnames, names and patronymics of candidates included in the district list of the political party running in elections shall be specified on the 2nd page of the ballot paper in alphabetical order. Empty tick boxes shall be placed to the right of the names of candidates for the voter to make a note.

2. The name and number of the political party, new alliance of political parties running in elections shall be specified in the ballot paper for the second round of elections of the National Assembly.

Article 95. Summarisation of results of elections of the National Assembly

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall, in the manner and within the time limit prescribed by Article 75 of this Code, summarise the election results and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on the National Assembly being elected and distribution of mandates;
- (2) on preliminary distribution of mandates of Deputies of the National Assembly;
- (3) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (4) on declaring the elections of the National Assembly invalid and calling repeat voting for elections;
- (5) on declaring the repeat voting for elections of the National Assembly invalid and on calling new election.

2. The Central Electoral Commission shall adopt the decisions provided for in points 3, 4 and 5 of part 1 of this Article in cases provided for in Article 101.

3. Where the Central Electoral Commission has not adopted any of the decisions provided for in points 3, 4 and 5 of part 1 of this Article:

- (1) a decision on the National Assembly being elected and distribution of mandates shall be adopted where as a result of the election one of the political parties (alliance of political parties)

running in elections has received at least 53 mandates as a result of distribution of mandates as prescribed by this Article.

(2) a decision on preliminary distribution of mandates of Deputies of the National Assembly shall be adopted where any of the political parties (alliance of political parties) running in elections fails to receive at least 53 mandates as a result of distribution of mandates as prescribed by this Article. In case of distribution of additional mandates to some political parties (alliances of political parties) in accordance with Articles 96-98 of this Code, other political parties (alliances of political parties) shall preserve the mandates available for them as a result of the preliminary distribution.

4. Mandates of the National Assembly shall be distributed among the electoral lists of those political parties (alliances of political parties) which have received 5 (7) per cent of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracies. Where only one political party (alliance of political parties) has received at least 5 (7) per cent of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracies, the next 2 political parties and alliances of political parties having received respectively the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote shall participate in the distribution of mandates. Where no more than 3 political parties (alliances of political parties) run in the elections of the National Assembly, all the political parties (alliances of political parties) shall take part in the distribution of mandates.

5. Mandates of the National Assembly shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) in proportion with the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each of them. The calculation of the number of mandates available for each political party (alliance of political parties) shall be carried out as follows: the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each political party (alliance of political parties) shall be multiplied by 101, the product shall be divided by the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of political parties (alliance of political parties) having passed the threshold, and integer numbers shall be parted, which shall be the numbers of mandates available for each political party (alliance of political parties).

6. The remaining mandates shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) by the sequence of value of remainders, by the principle of one mandate to each. In case the values of remainders are equal, the contested mandate shall be given to the political party (alliance of political parties) with the highest number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour, and in the event of a tie, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots.

7. Where the number of mandates received by a political party (alliance of political parties) is even, mandates equal to 50 per cent of the number of mandates shall be given to candidates in the national list of a political party (alliance of political parties). Where the number of mandates received by a political party (alliance of political parties) is odd, mandates equal to the integer part of 50 per cent of the number of mandates shall be given to candidates in the national list of a political party (alliance of political parties). The remaining part of mandates received by the political party (alliance of political parties) shall be distributed among the districts.

8. The number of mandates available for each district shall be determined by the coefficient received for each district, which is calculated by the following formula:

$$Cd = \frac{Fd}{Md + 1}$$

where:

Cd — coefficient of the district;

Fd — the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of the political party (alliance of political parties) in the given district;

Md — the total number of mandates already received by that district, in calculating the coefficient of the district for the next mandate.

The district having the highest coefficient at the beginning of calculation of coefficients shall receive one mandate. The next vacant mandate shall be received by the district having a relatively higher coefficient as compared to other districts. Calculation of coefficients shall be repeated until all mandates are distributed. In case of equal highest coefficients, the mandate shall be distributed by drawing of lots.

9. Four mandates of Deputies shall be distributed among national minority representatives by the principle of 1 mandate to each of the first 4 national minorities with the largest number of resident population according to the data of the latest census preceding the elections. To this end, mandates shall be distributed among the political parties (alliances of political parties) having passed the threshold, by the coefficient received for each mandate, which shall be calculated by the following formula:

$$Cp = \frac{Fm}{Mm + 1}$$

where:

Cp — coefficient of a political party (alliance of political parties);

Fm — the number of mandates received from the first part of the list of the political party (alliance of political parties);

Mm — the total number of mandates already received by the political party (alliance of political parties) out of the 4 mandates for national minority representatives, in calculating the coefficient of the political party (alliance of political parties) for the next mandate.

Mandates of national minority representatives shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) by the sequence of reduction of coefficients. In case of equal coefficients, the mandate shall be distributed by drawing of lots.

When distributing mandates of national minority representatives a political party (alliance of political parties) shall provide the mandate to the national minority under the smallest record number in its list not yet having a mandate. Where there is not any in the second part of the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties), the turn for the distribution shall be passed on to the political party (alliance of political parties) having the next coefficient by value.

Article 96. Minority and majority additional mandates

1. Where as a result of the election any political party receives, as prescribed by Article 95, the majority but less than 54 per cent of the total number of mandates, that political party shall receive as many additional mandates as necessary for the integer part of the per cent of mandates of that political party to result in 54 per cent.

2. Where as a result of the election any political party receives more than 2/3 of the total number of mandates, other political parties shall receive as many minimum additional mandates (AM), so that in the result the total number of their mandates (TNM) equals to 1/3 of the total number of mandates of the National Assembly or more. The number of additional mandates available for each political party shall be determined as follows: the number of mandates received by that political party shall be multiplied by the number of AM, the product shall be divided by the TNM, and the integer numbers shall be parted which shall be the numbers of additional mandates available for the given political party. The remaining mandates shall be distributed among political parties by the sequence of value of remainders, by the principle of one mandate to each. In case the values of remainders are equal, the contested mandate shall be given to the political party with the highest number of mandates, and in the event of a tie, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots.

3. Distribution of additional mandates, prescribed by this Article, among the national and district electoral lists, as well as among electoral districts, shall be carried out in such a manner so as to observe the rules of part 7 of Article 95 of this Code for the distribution of mandates available for a political party.

4. Within the meaning of part 2 of this Article, as well as Article 98 of this Code, the total number of mandates shall include also the mandates allocated to national minorities and shall comprise 105 mandates.

Article 97. Formation of political coalitions

1. Within 3 days after adoption of the decision provided for in point 2 of part 1 of Article 95 of this Code, any political party (alliance of political parties) having passed the electoral thresholds may form a political coalition with maximum 2 other political parties (alliances of political parties) having passed the electoral thresholds, where the sum of the votes cast in favour of them is sufficient for receiving the majority of the total number of mandates, and they have come to an agreement as to the candidate for Prime Minister.

2. Coalition member political parties (alliances of political parties) must — by 18:00 of the day of deadline for forming a coalition — submit to the Central Electoral Commission the decisions on forming a coalition of permanently functioning governing bodies of coalition member political parties (all member political parties to alliances of political parties). The decision on forming a coalition must contain the surname, name, patronymic of the candidate for Prime Minister. In case of failure to submit or incomplete submission of the mentioned decisions within the prescribed time limit the coalition shall be considered as not having formed.

3. Where the formed coalition has received the majority but less than 54 per cent of the total number of mandates, the coalition shall receive as many additional mandates as necessary for the integer part of the per cent of mandates of the coalition to result in 54 per cent.

Additional mandates shall be distributed among coalition member political parties (alliances of political parties) in proportion with the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each of them. The calculation of the number of mandates available for each political party (alliance of political parties) shall be carried out as follows: the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each political party (alliance of political parties) shall be multiplied by the number of additional mandates, the product shall be divided by the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of the coalition member political parties (alliances of political parties), and integer numbers shall be parted which shall be the numbers of additional mandates available for each political party (alliance of political parties). The remaining mandates shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) by the sequence of value of remainders, by the principle of one mandate to each. In case the values of remainders are equal, the contested mandate shall be given to the political party (alliance of political parties) with the highest number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour, and in the event of a tie, the matter shall be settled by drawing of lots as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. Distribution of additional mandates — available for coalition member political parties (alliances of political parties) — among national and district lists, as well as among districts shall be carried out in such a manner so as to observe the rules of part 7 of Article 95 of this Code for the distribution of mandates available for a political party (alliance of political parties). In the case provided for in this part, the Central Electoral Commission shall also adopt a decision on allocation of additional mandates.

4. The Central Electoral Commission shall — on the day following the expiry of the deadline provided for in part 2 of this Article — adopt a decision on holding a second round of elections or on the National Assembly being elected.

Article 98. Second round of election

1. The second round of election shall be held on the 21st day after the voting day. Two political parties (alliances of political parties) having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote during the first round shall have the right to run in the second round of election, with the exception of the case prescribed by part 3 of this Article.

2. New alliances — comprised of political parties (alliances of political parties) having passed the thresholds — may be formed with political parties (alliances of political parties) having the right to run in the second round of election, where they have come to an agreement on the candidate for Prime Minister.

The letter on forming a new alliance — signed by heads of all member political parties to the new alliance (all member political parties to the alliance of political parties) — shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission — on the 2nd day following the adoption of the decision on holding a second round, by 18:00 — as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. The mentioned letter must contain the surname, name, patronymic of the candidate for Prime Minister. In case of failure to submit the mentioned letter within the prescribed time limit or in case of submitting it incompletely, the new alliance shall be considered as not formed.

3. Where 2 political parties (alliances of political parties), having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote, form a new alliance together, the next political party (alliance of political parties), having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and not included in the new alliance, shall obtain the right to run in the second round of election with which a new alliance may be formed as well. The letter on forming that new alliance, signed by heads of member political parties to the alliance (all member political parties to the alliances of political parties) shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission by 18:00 of the 4th day following the decision of the Central Electoral Commission on holding a second round of election, as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. Where the new alliance — the member political parties (alliances of political parties) to which have together received 54 per cent or more of the total number of mandates by the results of the first round — wins in the second round of election, they shall preserve the received mandates.

5. Where the new alliance — the member political parties (alliances of political parties) to which have together received more than 2/3 of mandates by the results of the first round — wins in the second round of election, the other political parties (alliances of political parties) shall receive additional mandates as prescribed by part 2 of Article 96 of this Code.

6. The political party (alliance of political parties) or the new alliance having won in the second round of election which (whose member political parties together) has received less than 54 per cent of mandates by the results of the first round, shall receive additional mandates as prescribed by part 1 of Article 96 of this Code.

Article 99. Summarisation of results of the second round of elections of the National Assembly

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall, as prescribed by Article 75 of this Code and on the 7th day following the voting day of the second round, summarise the results of elections of the National Assembly and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on the National Assembly being elected;
- (2) on calling repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (3) on declaring elections of the National Assembly invalid and calling new election.

2. In cases prescribed by parts 1 and 2 of Article 96 of this Code, the Central Electoral Commission shall also adopt a decision on distribution of additional mandates.

Article 100. Provision of mandates to Deputies

1. Provision of mandates to candidates included in the electoral list of a political party shall be carried out upon the protocol of the Central Electoral Commission, by registering the Deputies of the National Assembly elected from each national electoral list and each district electoral list.

The candidate having received a mandate shall be removed from the first and second parts of the national electoral list, as well as from the district electoral list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

2. Firstly, mandates shall be provided to Deputies having been elected under the district electoral list. Mandates available for a political party at an electoral district shall — in the quantity equal to the number of mandates available for the given electoral district — be received by the candidates having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote. In case of a tie of ballot papers with affirmative vote, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots. Where there are no sufficient candidates in the given electoral district list of the political party, the vacant mandates shall be passed on to the first part of the national list.

Secondly, mandates shall be provided to the representatives of national minorities. The mandate of the representative of a certain national minority available for the political party shall be provided by the sequential order of numbers in the list. Where there are no more candidates in the national minority list of a political party, the mandate shall remain vacant.

Thirdly, mandates shall be provided to the candidates in the first part of the national list of the political party in the sequential order. Where as a result of it, the mandates of the political party are distributed among representatives of the same sex, the last candidate shall give up his or her mandate to the candidate under the smallest number from the unrepresented sex within the first part of the national list, if any. If the number of candidates included in the first part of the national electoral list of a political party is smaller than the number of mandates available, these mandates shall remain vacant.

3. The mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the district list or who has been elected therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate having received maximum votes from the given district electoral list of that political party upon a protocol of the Central Electoral Commission, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission. In case of a tie, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots. Where there is no other candidate in the given district list, the mandate shall be passed on to the first part of the national list. Where there is no other candidate in the first part of the national list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

The mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the first part of the national list or who has been elected as Deputy therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence in the first part of the national electoral list of that political party upon a protocol of the Central Electoral Commission, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission, and where as a result of it, the number of representatives of any sex in the given faction falls below and results in less than 20 per cent, it shall be given to the next candidate of less represented sex in the first part of the national electoral list of that political party, if any. Where there is no other candidate in the first part of the national list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

The mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the second part of the national list or who has been elected as Deputy therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the candidate under the smallest number in the list of the same national minority of the second part of the national electoral list of that political party upon a protocol of the Central Electoral Commission, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission, in case there are no any, the mandate shall remain vacant.

4. Applications for recusal or waiver of the mandate submitted by persons included in the electoral list of a political party shall be certified by a notary, or the person shall confirm such application at the sitting of the Central Electoral Commission.
In case of submitting an application for recusal, the name, surname of the citizen shall be removed from the first and second parts of the national electoral list as well as from the district electoral list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 101. Calling a repeat voting, declaring the results of the elections as invalid

1. Where in the course of voting, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the Central Electoral Commission shall adopt a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, where it is possible to remedy the consequences of those violations by such measure. Where it is not possible to remedy these violations by such measure, elections of the National Assembly shall be declared invalid, and a repeat voting for the elections of the National Assembly shall be called.

2. Where in the course of preparation of elections or in the course of holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the Central Electoral Commission shall adopt a decision on declaring the elections of the National Assembly invalid and shall call a repeat voting for elections of the National Assembly.

3. Where the Central Electoral Commission adopts a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, the repeat voting shall be held on the 7th day following the adoption of this decision. In this case, the time limits prescribed by this Code for summarisation of results of elections of the National Assembly shall be calculated from the day of repeat voting.

4. No earlier than 15 and no later than 30 days after the entry into force of the decision on declaring the elections of the National Assembly invalid, a repeat voting shall be held as prescribed by this Code and with the same composition of political parties.

5. In case the results of repeat voting for elections of the National Assembly are declared invalid, new election shall be held no later than 70 days after the entry into force of that decision. In the event of a new election, the Central Electoral Commission shall — on the 7th day after the adoption of the decision on declaring the elections of the National Assembly invalid — adopt a decision on setting the voting day.

6. New elections shall be held by new nomination and in the manner and within the time limits prescribed for early elections.

Article 102. Appealing against the election results

1. Applications for challenging the decisions, adopted under part 1 of Article 95, Article 96, parts 4 and 5 of Article 97, Article 99 of this Code based on the result of elections of the National Assembly, may be submitted to the Constitutional Court on the 5th day following the publication of the relevant decision, by 18:00.

CHAPTER 18

CALLING AND HOLDING ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Article 103. Time limits for calling, holding regular elections of the National Assembly, and for nominating and registering candidates for Deputy

1. A regular election of the National Assembly shall be held no earlier than 60 and no later than 50 days before the expiry of powers of the National Assembly.
2. No later than 90 days before the voting day, the President of the Republic shall promulgate a decree on calling regular elections of the National Assembly.
3. The political parties running in elections of the National Assembly shall submit the documents for registration to the Central Electoral Commission no earlier than 55 and no later than 45 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
4. Registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be carried out no earlier than 45 and no later than 35 days before the voting day, by 18:00.

Article 104. Calling and holding early elections of the National Assembly

1. Early elections of the National Assembly shall be held no earlier than 30 and no later than 45 days after dissolving the National Assembly.
2. Together with the decree on dissolving the National Assembly, the President of the Republic shall promulgate a decree on calling early elections of the National Assembly.
3. Documents required for registration of the political parties running in elections of the National Assembly shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission no later than 25 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
4. Registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be carried out no earlier than 25 and no later than 20 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
5. Electoral precincts shall be formed and polling stations shall be designated no later than 25 days before the voting day. No later than 20 days before the voting day, the authorised body shall hand over the lists of electors to the person possessing the premises of the polling station, who shall post them at the polling station, in a place visible to all.

SECTION 5**ELECTIONS OF HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND
MEMBER OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ELDERS****CHAPTER 19*****GENERAL PROVISIONS*****Article 105. Electoral system**

1. During elections of head of community, a single-mandate majoritarian constituency shall be formed in the territory of the community.
2. During elections of community council of elders, one multi-mandate majoritarian constituency shall be formed in the territory of the community.
3. A community council of elders shall consist of:
 - (1) 5 members in a community having up to 1 000 electors;
 - (2) 7 members in a community having from 1 000 to 2 000 electors;
 - (3) 9 members in a community having from 2 000 to 4 000 electors;
 - (4) 11 members in a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors;
 - (5) 15 members in a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors;
 - (6) 33 members in a community having more than 70 000 electors.

Article 106 Right to elect

1. Every elector shall have one vote:
 - (1) during the election of head of community;
 - (2) during the election of member of council of elders.

Article 107. Requirements set for candidates for head of community and member of council of elders

1. Persons, having been registered for at least the last 6 months before the voting day in the population register of the community where elections are being held, and having the right to elect during elections of local self-government bodies pursuant to Article 2 of this Code, may be elected as head of community and member of council of elders.
2. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, the Special Investigation Service, the Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, officers of the Police, the National Security, rescue, tax, customs authorities, penitentiary service, military servants, members of electoral commissions may not be nominated as a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders.

CHAPTER 20

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Article 108. Nomination of candidates for head of community and member of council of elders

1. Candidates for head of community and member of council of elders may be nominated by political parties based on the decision of their respective district (primary, local) units, as well as by persons having the right to be elected, by way of self-nomination through submitting an application thereon, the form whereof shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. A political party may also nominate a person, who is not its member, as a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders.

2. The decision of the respective district (primary, local) unit of a political party on nominating a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders and the application, in case of self-nomination, shall contain the name of the community and the following information about the candidate:

- (1) surname, name, patronymic;
- (2) date of birth;
- (3) place of registration;
- (4) place of employment and position (occupation);
- (5) party affiliation, as well as it may contain data on up to 2 authorised representatives of the candidate (their surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, number of the personal identification document, place of employment and position (occupation)).

3. The candidates for head of community and for member of council of elders shall — attached to the decision of the respective district (primary, local) unit of the political party or the application for self-nomination — submit to the district electoral commission:

- (1) the receipt for payment of the electoral deposit.

The electoral deposit shall — in a community having up to 1 000 electors — be paid in the amount of 50-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 10-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders, in a community having from 1 000 to 2 000 electors — in the amount of 100-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 15-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders; in a community having from 2 000 to 4 000 electors — in the amount of 150-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 20-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council elders; in a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors — in the amount of 300-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 30-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders; in a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors — in the amount of 500-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 70-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders, and in a community having more than 70 000 electors — in the amount of 1 000-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 100-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders;

- (2) a statement of information on being registered in the population register of the community concerned for the last 6 months;
- (3) carbon copy of the personal identification document.

4. The form of the statement of information prescribed by point 2 of part 3 of this Article shall be defined by the Central Electoral Commission. The mentioned statement of information shall be issued by the authorised body within a 3-day period following the request but no earlier than before calling elections.

The authorised body shall, upon its decision, refuse to provide the statement of information of the specified form to an applicant, where the data concerning him or her do not meet the requirements provided for by part 1 of Article 107 of this Code.

5. Registration documents shall be submitted only personally by a candidate or an authorised representative within the time limits prescribed by this Code.

6. Where errors, deletions, erasures, misprints are found in documents submitted for the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders, the district electoral commission shall be obliged to bring them to the attention of persons submitting such documents so as to correct them, as well as correct itself, in their presence, the evident errors, misprints existing in the submitted documents.

The Commission shall not have the right not to accept the submitted documents only for the reason that they contain such errors, deletions, erasures, or misprints. The provisions of this part shall not apply to correction of errors, deletions, erasures, misprints or elimination of other deficiencies found in the documents, the right whereof is reserved by law to the bodies having adopted or issued such documents.

In case the submitted documents contain inaccuracies referred to in the second paragraph of this part or in case of incompleteness of documents attached to the application, the district electoral commission shall give 48 hours for eliminating the mentioned inaccuracies, completing the attached documents. In case of failure to eliminate inaccuracies or to complete the documents within that time limit, the registration of the candidate shall be rejected.

Article 109. Registration of candidates for head of community and member of council of elders

1. Candidates for head of community and member of council of elders shall be registered by the decision of the district electoral commission.

In case no objection is raised by the members of the district electoral commission with regard to the registration, the candidate shall be registered.

2. The candidate and the authorised representative shall have the right to attend the sitting of the district electoral commission when the issue of registration of the candidate is considered.

Article 110. Rejecting the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders

1. The district electoral commission shall reject the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders, where:

- (1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;
- (2) not all documents thereon have been submitted or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified.

2. In case objection is raised by a member of the commission with regard to the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders, the objection shall be put to vote. The registration shall be rejected upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the total number of votes of members of district electoral commission.

Article 111. Declaring invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders

1. The district electoral commission shall declare invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders, where by virtue of facts having emerged after the registration:

- (1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;
- (2) the documents submitted thereon are falsified.

The registration of a candidate shall be declared invalid upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the total number of votes of members of district electoral commission.

Article 112. Procedure for appealing against decisions on rejecting, declaring invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders

1. The decision of the district electoral commission on rejecting or declaring invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community or member of council of elders may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

2. A candidate shall be deemed registered or re-registered upon a judicial act on declaring invalid the decision of the district electoral commission on rejecting or declaring invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community or member of council of elders.

Article 113. Revoking the registration of a candidate for head of community or member of council of elders

1. The registration of a candidate for head of community or member of council of elders shall be revoked:

(1) by the decision of the district electoral commission, where he or she has submitted an application for recusal;

(2) upon a court judgment, where he or she has violated the provisions of part 8 of Article 19 or Article 27 of this Code.

CHAPTER 21

STATUS OF CANDIDATES FOR HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Article 114. Status, legal equality of candidates for head of community and member of council of elders

1. Candidates for head of community and member of council of elders shall acquire their status upon registration. Rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code shall extend to candidates for head of community and member of council of elders until the expiry of the time limit prescribed for appealing against the decision of the district electoral commission on head of community and members of council of elders being elected, and in case this decision is appealed against — until the Administrative Court adopts a decision.

Candidates shall have equal rights and responsibilities arising from the status of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders.

2. A candidate for head of community or member of council of elders may submit an application for recusal no later than 10 days before the voting day, by 18:00. An application for recusal shall be certified by a notary, or the candidate shall confirm his or her application for recusal at the sitting of the district electoral commission.

CHAPTER 22***ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF CANDIDATES FOR HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS*****Article 115. Campaign fund of candidates for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. Candidate for member of council of elders and for head of community having up to 10 000 electors shall set up a campaign fund provided that he or she will use or has already used an amount exceeding the 500-fold of the minimum salary for funding the conduct of the election campaign through the mass media, renting halls, premises, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing all types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors.

2. The campaign fund shall be formed by the voluntary contributions referred to in Article 26 of this Code.

In case of a community having up to 10 000 electors, a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders shall have the right to make contribution to his or her fund in the amount of up to 150-fold, and the political party having nominated him or her — in the amount of up to 200-fold of the minimum salary.

In case of a community having 10 000 and more electors, a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders shall have the right to make contribution to his or her fund in the amount of up to 500-fold, and the political party having nominated him or her — in the amount of up to 1 000-fold of the minimum salary.

3. Any natural person may make a voluntary contribution to the campaign fund of a candidate in the amount of up to, respectively:

- (1) 50-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having up to 10 000 electors;
- (2) 100-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having more than 10 000 electors.

4. During the election campaign, for the purpose of funding the conduct of the election campaign through the mass media, renting halls, premises, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing any types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors, the candidate for head of community shall have the right to spend:

- (1) a sum in the amount of 3 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having up to 4 000 electors;
- (2) a sum in the amount of 7 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors;
- (3) a sum in the amount of 15 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors;
- (4) a sum in the amount of 25 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having more than 70 000 electors;

while a candidate for member of council of elders:

- (5) a sum in the amount of 500-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having up to 4 000 electors;
- (6) a sum in the amount of 1 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors;
- (7) a sum in the amount of 3 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors;
- (8) a sum in the amount of 5 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having more than 70 000 electors.

Article 116. Election campaign

1. During elections of head of community and member of council of elders the election campaign shall be conducted in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by this Code.

CHAPTER 23

SUMMARISATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS OF HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Article 117. Ballot papers

1. The surnames, names and patronymics of candidates, in alphabetical order of surnames, the name of the nominating political party, and in case of self-nomination — the word "self-nomination" shall be respectively specified on the ballot papers for head of community and members of council of elders. Where surnames, names and patronymics of candidates coincide, the date of birth shall also be specified. In this case the data on the eldest candidate shall be specified first.

Article 118. Summarisation of results of election of head of community

1. The district electoral commission shall, in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by Article 74 of this Code, summarise the election results and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on head of community being elected;
- (2) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (3) on declaring the election of head of community invalid;
- (4) on declaring the election of head of community as not having taken place.

2. The candidate having received the highest number of affirmative votes of electors shall be elected as head of community. Where one candidate is voted on, he or she shall be elected where more than half of those participating in the voting have cast affirmative votes in favour of him or her.

Where 2 and more candidates have received an equal number of ballot papers with maximum affirmative votes, the elected candidate shall be determined by drawing of lots among them.

3. Where in the course of voting such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the district electoral commission shall adopt a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, where it is possible to remedy these violations by such measure. Where it is impossible to remedy these violations by such measure, elections shall be declared invalid, and a repeat voting shall be called.

4. Where in the course of preparation of elections or in the course of holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the district electoral commission shall adopt a decision on declaring the elections invalid and shall call a repeat voting.

5. Where the district electoral commission adopts a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, the repeat voting shall be held on the 9th day following the adoption of this decision. In this case, the time limits prescribed by this Code for summarisation of results of elections of head of community shall be calculated from the day of repeat voting.

6. The election of head of community shall be declared as not having taken place:
 - (1) where the only candidate voted on has failed to receive necessary number of affirmative votes of electors;
 - (2) where no candidate has been registered within the time limit and in the manner prescribed by this Code for registration of candidates, or the number of candidates registered within the same time limit is less than 2;
 - (3) in case of death of one of the candidates before the end of the voting;
 - (4) in case of death of a candidate having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote before the summarization of election results;
 - (5) in cases of death of the elected head of community or refusal to assume powers after the election, before assuming powers;
 - (6) where based on the results of repeat voting, elections have been declared invalid.
7. The chairperson of the district electoral commission shall — within a 2-day period after adopting a decision on election of head of community — submit it to the Central Electoral Commission and to the marz governor.
8. In case elections of head of community are declared invalid, a repeat voting shall be held with the same composition of candidates, after 21 days following the voting day. Repeat voting with the same composition of candidates may be held only once.
9. The decision adopted by the district electoral commission based on the results of elections of head of community may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

Article 119. Summarisation of results of election of members of council of elders

1. The district electoral commission shall, in the manner and within the time limit prescribed by Article 74 of this Code, summarise the election results and adopt any of the following decisions:
 - (1) on members of community council of elders being elected;
 - (2) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
 - (3) on declaring the election of a community council of elders as invalid;
 - (4) on declaring the election of a community council of elders as not having taken place.
2. A respective number of candidates for member of council of elders, referred to in part 3 of Article 105 of this Code, who have received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote, shall be elected in the community. In the event of a tie of ballot papers with affirmative vote, the elected candidate shall be determined by drawing of lots between them.
3. Where in the course of voting such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the district electoral commission shall adopt a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, if it is possible to remedy these violations by such measure. Where it is impossible to remedy these violations by such measure, elections shall be declared invalid, and a repeat voting shall be called.
4. Where in the course of preparation of elections or in the course of holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the elections results, the district electoral commission shall adopt a decision on declaring the elections as invalid and shall call a repeat voting.
5. Where the district electoral commission adopts a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, the repeat voting shall be held on the 9th day following the adoption of this decision. In this case, the time limits prescribed by this Code for summarisation of the results of elections of a community council of elders shall be calculated from the day of repeat voting.

6. In case of declaring elections of members of a community council of elders as invalid, a repeat voting shall be held with the same composition of candidates after 21 days following the voting day.

Repeat voting with the same composition of candidates may be held only once.

7. Election of members of a community council of elders shall be considered as not having taken place where the number of candidates, registered within the time limit and in the manner prescribed by this Code for registration of candidates, is less than or equal to the number of members of a community council of elders referred to in part 3 of Article 105 of this Code, or where after registration the number of candidates falls below the half of the number of members of a community council of elders referred to in part 3 of Article 105 of this Code, or, based on the results of the repeat voting, elections of the community council of elders have been declared as invalid.

8. The chairperson of the district electoral commission shall — within a 2-day period after adopting a decision on election of members of a community council of elders — submit it to the Central Electoral Commission and the marz governor.

9. The decision adopted by the district electoral commission based on the results of election of members of a community council of elders may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

CHAPTER 24

TIME LIMITS AND PROCEDURE FOR CALLING AND HOLDING ELECTIONS OF HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Article 120. Time limits for calling, holding a regular election, and for nominating and registering candidates

1. Regular elections of head of community and member of council of elders may be held up to 4 times a year. The voting days of regular elections of head of community and member of council of elders shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission for each year.

2. The voting day must be the day nearest to the day of expiry of powers from among the days prescribed, prior to the expiry of powers, by the Central Electoral Commission. Elections of head of community and member of council of elders shall be called by the marz governor no later than 70 days before the voting day.

3. Documents necessary for the registration of candidates shall be submitted to the district electoral commission no earlier than 35 and no later than 30 days before the voting day, by 18:00.

4. Registration of candidates shall be carried out no earlier than 30 and no later than 25 days before the voting day, by 18:00.

5. Where the voting day for election of head of community and member of council of elders coincides with the voting day for elections of the National Assembly, the day for election of head of community and member of council of elders shall be postponed for 1 week.

Article 121. Calling and holding a new election

1. A new election of head of community shall be called in the case of declaring the election of head of community as not having taken place as prescribed by part 6 of Article 118 of this Code.
2. A new election of a community council of elders shall be called in the case of declaring the election of a community council of elders as not having taken place as prescribed by part 7 of Article 119 of this Code.
3. A new election shall be held on the last Sunday of the 40-day period following the day of adoption by the district electoral commission of a decision on declaring the elections of head of community or members of council of elders as not having taken place, or following the day of entry into legal force of the judicial act.
The new election shall be held by new nomination of candidates under the procedure prescribed by this Code for early election of head of community, members of council of elders. The new election shall be called by marz governor.

Article 122. Calling and holding early election

1. An early election of head of community shall be held within the time limit prescribed by part 1 of Article 120 of this Code so that this time limit be the nearest day from among the days prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission after the position of the head of community remains vacant, provided that it is at least 45 days after the position becomes vacant.
2. A marz governor shall adopt a decision on calling early election within a 1-week period after the position of the head of community becomes vacant.
3. In case the total number of members of council of elders reduces by half, an early election shall be called in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by part 1 of this Article.
4. Documents necessary for registration of candidates shall be submitted to the district electoral commission no earlier than 25 and no later than 21 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
5. Registration of candidates shall be carried out no earlier than 21 and no later than 19 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
6. Electoral precincts shall be formed and polling stations shall be designated no later than 20 days before the voting day, the lists of electors — no later than 17 days before the voting day — shall be posted at a polling station, in a place visible to all.

SECTION 6

ELECTION OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR

CHAPTER 25

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR

Article 123. Composition of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor

1. The Council of Elders of the city of Yerevan (hereinafter referred to as "Yerevan") shall consist of 65 members.
2. The Councils of Elders of the city of Gyumri (hereinafter referred to as "Gyumri") and the city of Vanadzor (hereinafter referred to as "Vanadzor") shall consist of 33 members.

Article 124. Electoral system

1. Elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor shall be held under the proportional electoral system.
2. During elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor the entire territory of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor respectively shall be one multi-mandate constituency.

Article 125. Right to elect

1. Every elector shall have one vote during election of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor.

Article 126. Right to be elected

1. Persons, having been registered for at least the last 6 months before the voting day in the population register of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, having the right to elect during elections of local self-government bodies pursuant to Article 2 of this Code, shall have the right to be elected as member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, respectively.
2. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, the Special Investigation Service, the Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, officers of the Police, the National Security, rescue, tax, customs authorities, penitentiary service, military servants, members of an electoral commission may not be nominated as candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.

CHAPTER 26**CALLING AND HOLDING ELECTIONS OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR****Article 127. Time limits for calling, holding regular elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, for nominating and registering the electoral list of a political party running in elections**

1. Regular election of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor shall be held no earlier than 30 and no later than 20 days before the expiry of powers of the council of elders.
2. Regular elections shall be called by a decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia so that the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on calling an election enters into force no later than 60 days before the voting day.
3. Documents necessary for the registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission no earlier than 45 and no later than 35 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
4. Registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be carried out no earlier than 35 and no later than 30 days before the voting day, by 18:00.

Article 128. Calling and holding early elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor

1. Early elections shall be held on the farthest Sunday after no earlier than 30 and no later than 40 days following the announcement of the day of election of the council of elders.
2. The day of holding early elections shall be announced by the Central Electoral Commission within a 1-week period after dissolving the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.
3. In case of early elections of political parties running in elections, documents necessary for registration of electoral lists shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission no later than 25 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
4. In case of early elections, registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be carried out no earlier than 25 and no later than 20 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
5. In case of early elections, electoral precincts shall be formed, and polling stations shall be designated, no later than 25 days before the voting day. The authorised body shall — no later than 20 days before the voting day — hand over the lists of electors to the person possessing the premises of the polling station who shall post them at the polling station, in a place visible to all.

CHAPTER 27

NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI AND VANADZOR

Article 129. Right to nominate candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor

1. The right to nominate candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor shall be reserved to political parties (alliances of political parties). A candidate may be nominated by the electoral list of only one political party (alliance of political parties).
2. Alliances of political parties may be formed by at least 2 political parties. A political party may be included in the composition of only one alliance of political parties.
3. Political parties included in an alliance of political parties may not be included in another alliance of political parties in the course of elections.
4. The decision on joining an alliance of political parties shall be adopted by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party.
5. The electoral list of an alliance of political parties shall be formed based on separate lists submitted by each political party included in the alliance. The electoral lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be approved and nominated by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (by the decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance). All the pages of electoral lists shall be sealed and signed by the competent person of the political party (member political parties to the alliance).
6. Where any political party leaves the alliance of political parties, names of candidates of that political party shall be removed from the electoral list of the alliance of political parties as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.
7. The electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) may also include persons that are not members of that political party (any of the member political parties to the alliance), the number of which may not exceed 30 per cent of the total number of candidates included in that electoral list.

Article 130. Nomination of candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor

1. Political parties shall submit the application for running in elections to the Central Electoral Commission based on the decision of their permanently functioning governing body. The application shall be signed by the head of the political party. Alliances of political parties shall submit the application for running in elections to the Central Electoral Commission based on the decisions of the permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance, and the application shall be signed by heads of all member political parties to the alliance.
2. Each political party (alliance of political parties) shall have the right to nominate only 1 electoral list. A political party included in an alliance of political parties shall have no right to nominate a separate list of candidates on its own behalf. In case of election of the Council of Elders of Yerevan the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in

elections shall include at least 25 candidates, whereas in case of elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor — at least 15 candidates. The number of candidates included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections may not exceed the 3-fold of the number prescribed by this Code for mandates of members of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, respectively.

In the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) and each of the political parties included in the alliance, the number of representatives of each sex, starting with the 1st place on the list, must not exceed 75 per cent of each integer group of 4 (1-4, 1-8, 1-12 and subsequently up to the end of the list).

3. The following shall be attached to the application of a political party (alliance of political parties) for running in elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor:

(1) the statute of the political party (statutes of political parties included in the alliance of political parties);

(2) the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of the member political parties to the alliance) on approving and nominating the electoral lists for the elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor;

(3) the electoral list, which under consecutive numbers shall include the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, sex, party affiliation of candidates, personal identification document number, place of registration, place of employment and position (occupation);

(4) a statement of information proving that the candidate has been registered for the last 6 months in the population register of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, respectively. The statement of information referred to in this point shall be issued by the authorised body within a 3-day period following the request but no earlier than before calling elections. The form of the statement of information shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. The authorised body shall, upon its decision, reject the issuing of the statement of information of the specified form to the applicant, if the data thereon do not meet the requirements provided for by part 1 of Article 126 of this Code;

(5) written statement of the candidate regarding the consent to be registered as a candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor;

(6) separate electoral list submitted by each of the political parties included in the alliance of political parties;

(7) the receipt for payment of an electoral deposit in the amount of 3 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the receipt for payment of an electoral deposit in the amount of 2 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor;

(8) carbon copies of personal identification documents of the candidates.

4. Data on up to 3 authorised representatives (surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, personal identification document number, place of employment, position) shall be specified in the application for running in elections submitted by the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections.

Documents necessary for registering the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall be submitted only personally by the authorised representative of the political party (alliance of political parties) within the time limits prescribed by this Code.

5. Where errors, deletions, erasures, misprints are found in documents submitted for registration of the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections, the Central Electoral Commission shall be obliged to bring them to the attention of persons submitting such documents so as to correct them, as well as correct itself, in their presence, evident errors, misprints existing in the submitted documents.

The Commission shall not have the right not to accept the submitted documents only for the reason that they contain such errors, deletions, erasures, or misprints. The provisions of this part shall not apply to correction of errors, deletions, erasures, misprints or elimination of other

deficiencies found in the documents, the right whereof is reserved by law to the bodies having adopted or issued such documents.

In case the submitted documents contain inaccuracies referred to in the second paragraph of this part or in case of incompleteness of documents attached to the application, the Central Electoral Commission shall give 48 hours for eliminating the mentioned inaccuracies, completing the attached documents.

In case of failure to eliminate inaccuracies in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), regarding a candidate included in the electoral list, or in case of failure to complete the documents, the registration of the electoral list shall be rejected, and, if a candidate is included in the electoral list, his or her name shall be removed from the electoral list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 131. Registering electoral lists of a political party

1. In case no objections are raised by the members of the Central Electoral Commission with regard to registration of the electoral list of the political party, the electoral list shall be registered.

Within a 3-day period after the expiry of the time limit prescribed for registration of electoral lists, the electoral lists shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.

2. The authorised representative of a political party shall have the right to be present at the sitting of the Commission when the issue of registering the electoral list is considered.

Article 132. Rejecting the registration of an electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) or a candidate included in the electoral list

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall reject the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), where:

- (1) the necessary documents have not been submitted or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified;
- (2) the electoral list does not comply with the requirements prescribed by part 2 of Article 130 of this Code (except for cases where non-compliance is conditioned by a circumstance which has emerged after the nomination);
- (3) the political party has been dissolved;
- (4) the number of political parties included in the alliance of political parties has fallen below 2;
- (5) the activities of the political party have been suspended or prohibited.

2. In case an objection is raised by a member of the Central Electoral Commission regarding registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), the objection shall be put to vote. The registration of the electoral list shall be rejected upon the decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Commission.

3. The Central Electoral Commission shall reject the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) where:

- (1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;
- (2) the necessary documents thereon have not been submitted or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified.

4. In case an objection is raised by a member of the Central Electoral Commission regarding registration of a candidate included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) the objection shall be put to vote. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be rejected upon the decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Commission.

5. In case the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list is rejected, the candidate shall be removed from the list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 133. Declaring invalid the registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the list

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall declare the registration of an electoral list of a political party as invalid, where by virtue of facts having emerged after the registration:

- (1) the number of candidates included in the electoral list has fallen below the number prescribed by Article 130 of this Code as a result of revoking or declaring the registration of candidates included in the electoral list as invalid;
- (2) the submitted documents are falsified.

2. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral list shall be declared invalid, where by virtue of facts having emerged after the registration:

- (1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;
- (2) the documents submitted thereon are falsified.

In case the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list is declared as invalid, the name of the candidate shall be removed from the list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

3. The registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included therein shall be declared invalid upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 134. Procedure for appealing against the decisions on rejecting, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list

1. The decision of the Central Electoral Commission on rejecting the registration, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

2. The electoral list or the candidate included in the electoral list shall be deemed registered or re-registered upon a judicial act on declaring invalid the decision of the Central Electoral Commission on rejecting the registration, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list.

Article 135. Revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) or a candidate included in the electoral list

1. The registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked upon the decision of the Central Electoral Commission, where:

- (1) an application for recusal has been submitted;
- (2) the political party has been dissolved;
- (3) the activities of the political party have been suspended or prohibited;
- (4) the number of political parties included in the alliance of political parties is less than 2.

2. The registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked upon a judicial act, where provisions of part 8 of Article 19 or Article 27 of this Code have been violated.

3. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral list shall be revoked upon the decision of the Central Electoral Commission, where he or she has submitted an application for recusal.

In case the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list is revoked, the name of the candidate shall be removed from the list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral list shall be revoked upon a court judgment where he or she has violated the provisions of part 8 of Article 19 or Article 27 of this Code.

CHAPTER 28

STATUS OF A CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR

Article 136. Status, competencies of candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor

1. Candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor shall acquire his or her status upon registration of the electoral list of a political party running in elections. The rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code shall extend to a candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor until the expiry of the time limit prescribed for challenging the decision of the Central Electoral Commission on members of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor being elected, and in case this decision is challenged — until the Administrative Court adopts a decision.

The registered candidate for member of the council of elders shall lose his or her rights pertaining to the status of a candidate and shall be exempt from the responsibilities also in cases prescribed by Article 133 or Article 135 of this Code upon revoking or declaring invalid the registration of the electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list, respectively. In case of appealing, through judicial procedure, the decision of the Central Electoral Commission on declaring invalid the registration of the electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list, the candidate shall lose his or her rights pertaining to the status of a candidate and shall be exempt from responsibilities upon the entry into force of the judicial act.

Where a mandate of member of the council of elders becomes vacant, the applications for recusal of persons included in the electoral list of a political party shall be certified by a notary, or the person shall approve the application for recusal at the sitting of the Central Electoral Commission.

2. Candidates shall have equal rights and responsibilities arising from the status of a candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.

Article 137. Rights, responsibilities, guarantees for activities of candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor

1. Employees of state and local self-government bodies and state officials, who are candidates, except for the officials holding political and discretionary positions, shall be exempt by virtue of law from fulfilling their official responsibilities from the day the election campaign officially starts until the voting day, as prescribed by this Code. The absence from work of such candidates within this period of time shall be considered valid without preservation of remuneration.

2. A political party shall have the right to submit an application for recusal no later than 10 days before the voting day, by 18:00.

A candidate shall have the right to withdraw his or her candidacy no later than 10 days before the voting day, by 18:00, as well as after the voting day. The name, surname of a citizen included in the electoral list of a political party shall be removed from the list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. The application for recusal of a candidate shall be certified by a notary, or the candidate shall approve his or her application for recusal at the sitting of the Central Electoral Commission.

CHAPTER 29

ELECTION CAMPAIGN DURING ELECTIONS OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI AND VANADZOR

Article 138. Election campaign during elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor

1. The election campaign shall be conducted in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by Articles 19-23 of this Code.

2. During elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, a political party shall have the right to use free of charge the airtime on public television for no more than 30 minutes, the airtime on public radio for no more than 50 minutes, and in case of early elections — for 15 and 25 minutes, respectively.

3. During elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, a political party running in elections shall have the right to use for pay the airtime on public television for no more than 50 minutes, the airtime on public radio for no more than 80 minutes, whereas in case of early elections — for 25 and 40 minutes, respectively.

4. The procedure and the schedule for using, free of charge and for pay, the airtime on public radio and public television, prescribed by parts 2 and 3 of this Article, shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 139. Campaign fund of a political party (alliance of political parties) during elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor

1. For the purpose of conducting an election campaign, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall set up an election fund which shall be formed by the voluntary contributions referred to in Article 26 of this Code.

2. A political party (political parties included in an alliance of political parties jointly) running in elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan may make a contribution in the amount of up to 10 000-fold of the minimum salary to the fund of the political party (alliance of political parties), and during the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor — in the amount of up to 3 000-fold of the minimum salary.

3. Each natural person may make a voluntary contribution in the amount of up to 100-fold of the minimum salary in campaign funds of a political party (alliance of political parties).

A candidate included in the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan may make a voluntary contribution in the amount of up to 1 000-fold of the minimum salary to the campaign funds of the political party (alliance of political parties), and during the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor — in the amount of up to 500-fold of the minimum salary.

4. During the election campaign for the Council of Elders of Yerevan, for the purpose of funding the conduct of the election campaign through the mass media, renting of halls, premises for the purpose of organising election gatherings and meetings with electors, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing any types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall have the right to spend an amount not exceeding the 100 000-fold of the minimum salary, and during the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor — an amount not exceeding the 30 000-fold of the minimum salary.

CHAPTER 30

SUMMARISATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Article 140. Ballot papers

1. The ballot paper for the elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor shall include the names of the political parties in alphabetical order, and the surnames, names and patronymics of the first 3 candidates in the electoral list.

Article 141. Summarisation of voting and election results

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall, in the manner and within the time limit prescribed by Article 75 of this Code, summarise the election results and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on members of the council of elders being elected;
- (2) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (3) on declaring invalid the elections of the members of the council of elders and on calling a repeat voting for the elections of the members of the council of elders;
- (4) on declaring invalid the elections of the members of the council of elders and on calling new election.

2. Mandates of the members of council of elders shall be distributed among the electoral lists of candidates of those political parties (alliances of political parties) that have received 6 (8) per cent of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracies.

Where up to 3 political parties (alliances of political parties) run in elections of the council of elders, all the political parties (alliances of political parties) shall take part in the distribution of mandates.

3. Mandates of the members of the council of elders shall be distributed among the electoral lists of political parties (alliances of political parties) in proportion with the number of ballot papers cast in favour of each of them. The number of mandates available for each electoral list shall be calculated as follows: the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each electoral list shall be multiplied by the number of mandates available for electoral lists, the product shall be divided by the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of the electoral lists participating in the distribution of mandates, and the whole numbers shall be parted which shall be the numbers of mandates available for the electoral list of each political party (alliance of political parties).

The remaining mandates shall be distributed among electoral lists by the sequence of value of remainders, by the principle of one mandate to each. In case the values of remainders are equal, the contested mandate shall be given to the electoral list with the highest number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour, whereas in the event of a tie the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots.

4. Where, as a result of the distribution of mandates as prescribed by part 3 of this Article, any of the political parties (alliances of political parties) receives more than 40 per cent of the seats but not the absolute majority, the absolute majority of the seats shall be provided to that political party (alliance of political parties). Where 2 political parties (alliance of political parties) receive more than 40 per cent of the seats but not the absolute majority, the absolute majority of the seats shall be provided to the political party (alliance of political parties) having received the highest number of mandates. The remaining mandates shall be distributed among the electoral lists of other political parties (alliances of political parties) having obtained the right to participate in the distribution of mandates.

5. A candidate, whose record number in the electoral list is smaller than or equal to the number of mandates available for that electoral list, shall be elected from the electoral list. Where as a result of it, the mandates of the political party (alliance of political parties) are distributed among representatives of the same sex, the mandate of the last one elected by the sequential order in the list shall be given to the candidate under the smallest number from the unrepresented sex in the electoral list, if any. The Central Electoral Commission shall draw up a protocol on candidates elected as members of the council of elders.

6. Where the number of candidates included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) is smaller than the number of mandates available as a result of distribution of mandates, these mandates shall remain vacant.

7. The mandate of a member of council of elders — who has waived the mandate or who has been elected and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence of the electoral list of that political party (alliance of political parties) upon a protocol of the Central Electoral Commission, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission, and where as a result of it, the number of representatives of any sex in the given faction falls below and results in less than 20 per cent, it shall be given to the next candidate of less represented sex in the electoral list of that political party (alliance of political parties), if any. Where there is no other candidate in the electoral list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

8. Applications for recusal or waiver of the mandate submitted by persons included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be certified by a notary, or the person shall confirm such application at the sitting of the Central Electoral Commission. In case of submitting an application for recusal, the name, surname of the citizen shall be removed from the electoral list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

Article 142. Calling a repeat voting, declaring the election results as invalid

1. Where in the course of voting, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the Central Electoral Commission shall adopt a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, if it is possible to remedy these violations by such measure. Where it is impossible to remedy these violations by such measure, the elections of the council of elders shall be declared invalid, and a repeat voting for the elections of the council of elders shall be called.

2. Where in the course of preparation of elections or in the course of holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the Central Electoral Commission shall adopt a decision on declaring invalid the elections of the council of elders and shall call a repeat voting for the elections of the council of elders.

3. Where the Central Electoral Commission adopts a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, the repeat voting shall be held on the 7th day following the adoption of this decision. In this case, the time limits prescribed by this Code for summarisation

of the results of elections of the council of elders shall be calculated from the day of repeat voting.

4. The decision adopted based on the results of elections of the council of elders may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

5. In case of declaring invalid the elections of the council of elders, no earlier than 14 days and no later than 21 days following the entry into force of the decision thereon, a repeat voting shall be held as prescribed by this Code and with the same composition of political parties.

6. Repeat voting shall be held once. In case the elections are declared invalid after the repeat voting, the Central Electoral Commission shall call a new election within a 21-day period. New election shall be held by new nomination of candidates in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by this Code for early elections.

PART THREE**CHAPTER 31*****ADDITIONAL, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS*****Article 143. Procedure for preferential voting**

1. In preferential voting, surnames, names, patronymics of all candidates shall be specified on the left side of the ballot paper, and empty tick boxes shall be placed to the right of each candidate for the voter to make a note. The order of names of candidates shall be determined by drawing of lots. The ballot paper may be substituted by an electronic data file expressing the preferences.

2. In the ballot paper the elector shall enter the figure “1” in the tick box next to the name of the candidate to whom the elector gives his or her first preference. Subsequent integer numbers, starting from “2”, shall then be respectively entered in the tick boxes next to the names of other candidates in the order of preference given thereto. No number shall be entered in the tick boxes against those candidates to whom the elector gives no preference, but in any case, preference for candidates must be expressed at least for the number of vacant seats. At a particular stage of summarisation of voting results, a ballot paper shall be considered as given in favour of the continuing candidate who has the highest level of preference votes in that ballot paper.

3. The following main concepts are used in this Article:

- (1) **continuing candidate** — candidate who is neither excluded from the counting nor declared as elected at a certain stage of summarisation of voting results;
- (2) **value of ballot paper** — numerical value given to the ballot paper as prescribed by this Article at a certain stage of summarisation of voting results;
- (3) **total value of ballot papers** — the total sum of values of all ballot papers not excluded from the counting at a certain stage of summarisation of voting results;
- (4) **value of votes for the candidate** — the total sum of values of ballot papers cast in favour of the candidate, which are not excluded from the counting;
- (5) **passing quota** — the minimum number of votes necessary for being deemed to be elected at a certain stage of summarisation of voting results;
- (6) **value of surplus votes for the candidate** — the difference between the passing quota and the value of votes for the candidate, who is deemed to be elected by the result of a certain stage;
- (7) **gender equality standard** — a quantitative standard ensuring gender equality between the elected candidates (for example, the number of representatives of each sex among the elected candidates must not be more than 6).

4. The voting results shall be summarised electronically. For the summarisation of voting results, the following steps shall be taken in turn until the summarisation of voting results is completed. All the arithmetical actions shall be done with 2-digit accuracy after the decimal point.

Step 1. Invalid ballot papers shall be excluded from the counting. A ballot paper shall be deemed invalid if it contains no preference given to candidates, at least equal to the number of vacant positions, or more than one candidate has received the same level of preference votes. All valid ballot papers shall be deemed not excluded from the counting, and the value of those ballot papers shall be considered as “1”.

Step 2. Ballot papers cast in favour of candidates not excluded from the counting shall be sorted as per the candidates. All candidates shall be deemed to be continuing candidates.

Step 3. Where the election of a representative of one of the sexes *a priori* violates the gender equality standard:

- a. all the representatives of that gender shall be excluded from the counting;
- b. their ballot papers shall be distributed in the following manner: the ballot paper with the same value shall be added to the ballot papers of the continuing candidates in favour of whom it is cast.

Step 4. Where the number of all the elected candidates equals to the number of vacant seats, the summarisation of the voting results shall be completed.

Where the number of all the elected candidates is smaller than the number of vacant seats, but the compliance with gender equality standard unequivocally predetermines the candidates who are to fill the vacant seats, these respective candidates shall also be announced as elected, and the summarisation of the voting results shall be completed.

Step 5. The value of votes for the candidate shall be calculated for each continuing candidate. Based on these calculations, the total value of ballot papers shall be calculated, which shall be the total sum of votes of all continuing candidates.

The passing quota shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Passing quota} = \text{Total value of ballot papers} / (\text{Number of vacant seats} + 1) + 0.01$$

Step 6. Where there is no continuing candidate whose total value of votes is higher than or equal to the passing quota, the process of summarisation of voting results shall continue from Step 10.

Step 7. The continuing candidate, whose total value of votes is the highest, shall be deemed as elected.

Step 8. For the elected candidate the value of surplus votes for the candidate, equalling to the difference of the value of the votes for the candidate and the passing quota, shall be counted. A new value of vote shall be given to each ballot paper cast in favour of that candidate. For the purpose of counting it, the value of vote of the ballot paper shall be multiplied by the value of surplus votes for the candidate and divided by the value of votes for the candidate.

Step 9. All ballot papers of an elected candidate shall be re-distributed in the following manner: the ballot paper shall be added to ballot papers of the candidate in favour of whom it is cast. Where there is no such continuing candidate, the ballot paper shall be excluded from the counting and shall never be used during the following summarisation steps. The summarisation of the voting results shall continue from Step 3.

Step 10. A continuing candidate with the lowest value of votes shall be excluded from the counting unless it *a priori* violates the gender equality standard. In case it violates the gender equality standard, the candidate having received the minimum votes, whose exclusion will not *a priori* violate the gender equality standard, shall be excluded from the counting. Where due to the tie of votes it is impossible to determine the candidate having received the minimum votes, the candidate to be excluded shall be determined by drawing of lots.

Ballot papers of the candidate excluded from the counting shall be distributed in the following manner: the ballot paper with the same value shall be added to ballot papers of the continuing candidate in favour of whom it is cast. The summarisation of the voting results shall continue from Step 3.

Article 144. Transitional and final provisions

1. This Code shall enter into force from 1 June 2016.
2. The Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia adopted on 26 May 2011 shall be repealed upon the entry into force of this Code, except for cases prescribed by part 3 of this Article.
3. The elections of head of community and members of council of elders called before 1 September 2017 shall be organised and held in accordance with the regulations of the Electoral Code of 26 May 2011.
After the entry into force of this Code elections of councils of elders shall be held in Gyumri and Vanadzor communities. The voting for the elections of councils of elders called in Gyumri and Vanadzor communities before 1 September 2017 shall be organised and held, as well as the

election results shall be summarised in accordance with the regulations of the Electoral Code of 26 May 2011 prescribed for the election of the Council of Elders of Yerevan.

The Central Electoral Commission may, before 1 September 2017, adopt a decision on organising and holding, as a pilot project, voting for the elections of local self-government bodies in separate communities in accordance with the regulations of this Code.

4. The Central and constituency electoral commissions functioning before the entry into force of this Code shall exercise their powers until the formation of the Central and district electoral commissions, respectively, as provided for by this Code.

Where the term of powers of any member of the Central Electoral Commission expires before the entry into force of this Code before formation of the new Central Electoral Commission, those members shall continue to hold office until the formation of the new Central Electoral Commission.

5. The Central Electoral Commission must be formed before 1 November 2016.

The first sitting of the Central Electoral Commission shall be convened on the 3rd working day following the formation of the Central Electoral Commission, at 12:00. The Central Electoral Commission shall be considered as formed upon the election of the 2/3 of the composition of the Commission.

6. The Central Electoral Commission shall — before 1 December 2016 — designate the service areas of district electoral commissions, the seats and numbers of district electoral commissions. District electoral commissions shall be formed within a 21-day period after designating the service areas of district electoral commissions and the seats of district electoral commissions. The 1st sittings of district electoral commissions shall be called by the Central Electoral Commission.

7. The second paragraph of part 6 of Article 42 of this Code shall enter into force from the moment of assuming of powers by the newly-elected President of the Republic.

8. After the entry into force of this Code, before the elections of the new National Assembly, in part 5 of Article 44 of this Code number 90 shall be taken as the number of mandates of Deputies of the National Assembly, whereas the number of mandates received by a political party under the proportional electoral system of the National Assembly shall be taken as the number of mandates received by a political party of the National Assembly.

9. The requirement prescribed by Article 97 and Article 98 of this Code on recommending a candidate for Prime Minister shall enter into force from the moment of assuming of powers by the newly-elected President of the Republic.

10. After the entry into force of this Code before the election of the new National Assembly, the mandate of the Deputy — who has been elected under the proportional electoral system of the National Assembly and whose powers have early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence in the electoral list of that political party upon a protocol of the Central Electoral Commission within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission. Where there is no other candidate in the electoral list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

11. After the entry into force of this Code, before the election of the new National Assembly, the mandate of the Deputy — who has been elected under the majoritarian electoral system of the National Assembly and whose powers have early terminated — shall remain vacant.

Article 145. Additional provisions

All the norms in this Code concerning a political party, with the exception of norms in Articles 8, 26, 44, 81, 83, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 95, 97, 98, 129, 130, 132, 135, 139 and 141, shall be applicable also to an alliance of political parties.