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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
DRAFT ELECTION CODE
AS OF 25 JULY 2018
(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

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I. GENERAL PART

Chapter 1. General Provisions

Article 1. The Scope of the Code

The present Code regulates the relations related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Legislative Chamber), the members of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Senate), the deputies of the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies (hereinafter – referred to as the local Kengashes). The present Code establishes the guarantees ensuring the free expression of the will of the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 2. The Legal Framework of the Electoral System

The legal framework of the electoral system comprises of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the present Code and other legal acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 3. The Basic Principles for Holding the Elections in the Republic of Uzbekistan

The elections in the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

The elections shall be held open and public.

Article 4. Universal Suffrage

The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the deputies of the local Kengashes are universal.

The right to vote is granted to the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the citizens) who have attained the age of eighteen by the day of elections.

Article 5. Equal Suffrage

Every citizen participating in the elections has one vote.

The citizens shall enjoy equal suffrage, irrespective of sex, race or nationality, language, attitude to religion, social origin, beliefs, personal or social status, education and occupation.

The citizens recognized as incapacitated by court as well as the individuals being placed in a penitentiary institution under a court sentence are not eligible to elect and being elected.

Article 6. Direct Suffrage

The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the deputies of the local Kengashes shall be direct.

Article 7. Secret Ballot

The voting shall be free and held by secret ballot. Any control over the expression of the will of voters shall be prohibited.

The secrecy of ballot is ensured by establishing appropriate conditions that exclude the possibility of any control over the expression of the will of a citizen.

Article 8. Openness and the Publicity of the Elections

The election commissions shall administer the elections in an open and public manner.

The election commissions shall inform the citizens on their activities, the formation of the constituencies, polling stations, the composition of the election commissions, their location and the hours of service, present the voter lists and the list of the political parties participating in the elections, provide information on the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the deputies of the local Kengashes, as well as announce the results of the voting and the elections.

The mass media shall cover the process of the preparation and the conduct of the elections.

The sessions of the election commissions shall be held open. The decisions of the elections commissions shall be published in mass media or otherwise made available to public in the order established by the present Code.

The observers from the political parties that nominated their candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber, the deputies of the local Kengashes, the representatives of mass media, the observers from other countries, international organizations and movements shall enjoy the right to participate in every event related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections, as well as to be present at the polling premises on the day of election and during the counting.

Chapter 2. The Election Commissions

Article 9. The System of the Election Commissions

The system of the election commissions consists of:

- The Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Central Election Commission);
- Regional, sub-regional¹ and municipal election commissions;
- District election commissions;
- Precinct election commissions.

In carrying out their activities the election commissions and the members thereof shall be independent of any state authorities, public associations or public officers.

Any interference in the activities of the election commissions shall be prohibited and punishable by law.

The election commissions shall consider the issues and make decisions in a collegiate style. The election commissions shall carry out their activities publicly.

¹ Sub-region in this case and hereinafter means an administrative unit, which is smaller than a region but bigger than a city. The exact translation for the original Russian word is district. But the translator uses the term "sub-region" to avoid the confusion between the District Election Commissions (DEC) where the word "district" relates to a constituency and the commission of an administrative unit. (*Translator's notes.*)

The sessions of the election commissions may be attended by the representatives of the political parties, mass media and observers from other countries, international organizations and movements.

The election commissions shall take the necessary actions to provide the candidates and the political parties with equal conditions for the campaigning, ensure fair distribution of the budget funds allocated for the preparation and the conduct of the elections, and guarantee honest voting and tabulation.

§ 1. The Central Election Commission

Article 10. The Formation of the Central Election Commission

The Central Election Commission shall be formed by the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and shall consist of not less than fifteen members.

The members of the Central Election Commission shall be appointed by the Legislative Chamber and the Senate based on the proposals of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the regional and Tashkent city Kengashes of people's deputies.

The members of the Central Election Commission during its session shall elect a chairperson from among themselves, based on the nomination of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The members of the Central Election Commission during its sessions shall elect the deputy chairperson and the secretary from among themselves.

Article 11. The Membership in the Central Election Commission

A citizen, who has attained the age of twenty five years old, has, as a rule, higher education and experience in organizing and conducting the elections, enjoys authority among wide public and has permanently resided in the Republic of Uzbekistan for at least the last five years may be a member of the Central Election Commission.

The citizens convicted of a felony or a high felony whose conviction has not been served or expunged, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, employees of the National Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other paramilitary units, professional clergy of religious organizations and associations shall not be eligible for membership in the Central Election Commission.

A member of the Central Election Commission shall not be a member of another election commission or of a political party.

A member of the Central Election Commission registered in the established order as a candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a candidate for a deputy of the Legislative Chamber, a candidate for a member of the Senate or a proxy thereof shall discontinue the membership in the Commission.

The powers of a member of the Central Election Commission can be terminated by the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan directly or based on the recommendation of the authority that had initially proposed the member in the following cases:

- upon a written resignation letter;
- upon recognition as legally incapacitated;

- upon entry into force of a court sentence against the member;
- in case of a systematic failure to fulfill his/her duties.

A new member of the Central Election Commission shall be elected according to the procedure set forth by the present Code.

Based on the decision of the Central Election Commission, a member may work for the Commission on a permanent basis. The number of permanent members of the Central Election Commission shall not be less than seven persons.

The permanent members of the Central Election Commission may not engage in other types of paid activities except for scientific and pedagogical.

The members of the Central Election Commission shall enjoy the immunity rules applicable to the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the members of the Senate.

Article 12. The Powers of the Central Election Commission

The Central Election Commission shall:

- head the system of the election commissions being formed in order to conduct the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, execute control over the implementation of the present Code throughout the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and ensure its uniform application;
- announce the start of the election campaign for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to the Legislative Chamber and the local Kengashes;
- provide methodological guidance for the activities of the election commissions, adopt, within its powers, relevant resolutions, instructions and regulations, and offer explanations in regards to the organization of the elections;
- form constituencies to conduct the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber;
- decide on the attribution of the polling stations established at the representation missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries to the relevant constituencies;
- form the district election commissions in order to conduct the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and make available to public the information on their location;
- establish the procedure for introducing changes in the composition of the election commissions;
- independently or based on the proposal of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan abolish the decisions of the district election commissions contradictory to the present Code;
- issue the mandates to the foreign countries and international organizations observers during the elections;
- elaborate and approve the cost estimates to prepare and conduct the elections, distribute the funds between the election commissions, including the funds to finance the participation of the political parties in the elections, oversee the provision of the election commissions with the premises, transportation and communications facilities, and resolve other issues related to the logistical support of the elections;
- set the sample of the mandate for the observers from the political parties, press, television and radio representatives, as well as foreign countries and international organizations observers;
- based on the submitted documents decide on the admission of the political parties to participate in the elections;

- receive the relevant documents from the political parties nominating their candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Legislative Chamber;
- register the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Legislative Chamber, ensure the publication of the list of the registered candidates and the candidate information in the press, and issue the certificates of the candidates;
- register the proxies of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Legislative Chamber and issue the relevant certificates;
- ensure equal conditions for the participation of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Legislative Chamber in the elections;
- set the samples and the templates of the ballots for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the members of the Senate, the voter lists, the supporting signature sheets, the minutes of the election commissions and other documents, the ballot boxes and the seals of the election commissions, establish the procedure for their safe keeping;
- hear the communications of the representatives of the election commissions, political parties, ministries, state committees and agencies, the local public authorities, other government bodies and non-government non-profit organizations on the issues related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections;
- summarize the results of the elections, determine the results of the voting in the Republic of Uzbekistan as a whole, publish in press the communication on the total number of the votes cast and the number of votes cast for each candidate;
- in the cases set forth in the present Code, announce and organize the repeat voting and re-run elections, hold elections to replace the retired deputies of the Legislative Chamber or the members of the Senate, as well as the repeat voting and re-run elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- register the elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the members of the Senate and publish their lists in the press and other media;
- according to the procedure set forth in the present Code and other legal acts, call the first-after-the-elections meeting of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- deliver the certificate of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the elected individual;
- issue the corresponding certificates and badges to the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the members of the Senate;
- review and decide on the applications and complaints against the decisions and actions of the election commissions;
- pass over to the prosecutor's office the materials related to the violations of the legislation that entail criminal responsibility;
- cooperate with the election authorities of other countries, international organizations and the representatives of foreign countries, organize meetings, conclude agreements and memorandums;
- participate in the elections observation in foreign countries, including within the missions of international organizations;
- invite international organizations, election authorities and representatives of foreign countries to observe the elections;
- ensure the handover of the documents related to the organization and the conduct of the elections to the departmental archives;
- approve the Regulations of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- strengthen and develop the relations with public and mass media.

The Central Election Commission may exercise other powers in accordance with law.

Article 13. The Chairperson of the Central Election Commission

The Chairperson of the Central Election Commission shall:

- head the activities of the Central Election Commission;
- call the sessions of the Central Election Commission, preside over them, distribute responsibilities among its members;
- invite the representatives of the public authorities, political parties and other public associations, organizations and officers thereof to participate in the sessions of the Central Election Commission;
- represent the Central Election Commission in the relations with the state authorities, international organizations and public associations;
- inform the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the results of the Presidential elections and the elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- sign the resolutions and other acts of the Central Election Commission;
- distribute and oversee the purposeful use of the funds allocated for the activities of the Central Election Commission from the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- open the first sessions of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and preside over them until the appointment of the respective Speakers;

The Chairperson of the Central Election Commission may exercise other powers in accordance with the present Code and other legal acts.

In cases when it is impossible for the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission to exercise his powers and in his absence, the functions of the Chairperson shall be assigned to the Deputy Chairperson or, based on the decision of the Central Election Commission, to one of its members.

Article 14. The Sessions and the Decisions of the Central Election Commission

The Central Election Commission shall organize its activities in the form of sessions, which are held as often as required. A session shall be considered eligible if at least two-thirds of the total number of the Commission members is present.

The decisions of the Central Election Commission are passed by open vote with a simple majority of the members present. In the case of a tie, the Chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.

The sessions of the Central Election Commission shall be documented in the session minutes. The chairperson of the session and the Secretary of the Central Election Commission shall sign the minutes of the session.

The members of the Central Election Commission shall have the right to express a dissenting opinion in writing, which shall be attached to the minutes of the session.

The Central Election Commission shall adopt the resolutions within the limits of its powers. The resolutions of the Central Election Commission shall be signed by its Chairperson.

The resolutions of the Central Election Commission shall come into force upon adoption and be published on the same day on the official website of the Central Election Commission and, if necessary, in other media.

The resolutions of the Central Election Commission adopted within the limits of its powers shall be mandatory for the district and precinct election commissions, the government authorities, political parties and other public associations, enterprises, institutions and organizations.

Article 15. The Secretariat of the Central Election Commission

In order to ensure its activities, the Central Election Commission shall form its Secretariat.

The Secretary of the Central Election Commission shall head the work of the Secretariat.

The structure, the personnel and the operating procedures of the Secretariat shall be approved by the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission.

Article 16. The Regulations of the Central Election Commission

The operating procedures of the Central Election Commission shall be set forth by its Regulations. The Regulations shall be adopted during a session of the Central Election Commission.

§ 2. The Regional, Sub-Regional and Municipal Election Commissions

Article 17. The Formation of the Regional, Sub-Regional and Municipal Election Commissions

In order to organize and conduct the elections the following commission shall be formed:

- regional election commissions – for the elections to the regional Kengashes of people's deputies;
- sub-regional election commissions - for the elections to the sub-regional Kengashes of people's deputies
- municipal election commissions – for the elections to the municipal Kengashes of people's deputies.

The regional, sub-regional and municipal election commissions shall be formed by the respective Kengashes of people's deputies not less than 80 days prior to the elections. The commissions shall consist of seven to fifteen members and exercise their powers until the announcement of the start of the next election campaign.

The members of the regional, sub-regional and municipal election commissions shall, during a session of the respective election commission, elect their chairpersons from among themselves, based on the nomination of the respective Kengash of people's deputies.

The deputy chairperson and the secretary of a commission shall be elected from among the commission members during its session. The regional, sub-regional and municipal election commissions shall publish in their official websites and in the local press the information on the composition, address and telephone numbers of the commission.

Article 18. The Powers of the Regional, Sub-Regional and Municipal Election Commissions

The regional, sub-regional and municipal election commissions shall:

- execute control over the implementation of the present Code throughout the respective territory, ensure its uniform application and provide guidance on the issues related to the organization and the conduct of the elections;

- form respective constituencies for the elections to the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies, designate their names and numbers, and publish information on the location of the respective election commissions;
- form district election commissions for the elections to the respective Kengashes of people's deputies and publish the information on the composition of the commissions;
- coordinate the activities of the respective election commissions, establish the procedure for introducing changes to their composition, may independently or based on the proposal of the regional, sub-regional or city prosecutor abolish the decisions of the district and precinct election commissions contradictory to the present Code;
- receive the relevant documents from the political parties nominating their candidates for the deputies;
- register the candidates for the deputies and issue the respective certificates;
- ensure equal conditions for the participation of the candidates in the election campaign;
- distribute the funds between the respective election commissions, oversee the provision of the election commissions with the premises, transportation and communications facilities, and resolve other issues related to the logistical support of the elections;
- set the templates and organize the production of the ballots for the elections to the respective Kengashes of people's deputies, the voter lists, the minutes of the election commissions and other documents and the seal;
- hear the communications of the representatives of the political parties, local public authorities, citizens' self-governance bodies, public associations and the heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations on the issues related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections;
- summarize the results of the elections and pass them over to the respective Kengashes of people's deputies, register the elected deputies, publish in press the communication on the results of the elections and the lists of the elected deputies;
- issue the corresponding certificates and badges to the deputies of the respective Kengashes of people's deputies;
- announce and administer the issues related to the conduct of the repeat voting, re-run elections and the elections to replace the retired deputies;
- review the appeals of the voters and other participants of the election process and decide on them;
- pass over to court or corresponding law enforcement authorities the materials related to the violations of the present Code;
- ensure the handover of the documents related to the organization and the conduct of the elections to the archives and departmental archives.

The regional, sub-regional or municipal election commissions may exercise other powers in accordance with law.

§ 3. District and Precinct Election Commissions

Article 19. The Formation of the District Election Commissions

A district election commission shall be formed by the respective election commission not less than seventy days prior to the elections. The commission shall consist of nine to fifteen members.

The members of a district election commission shall, during its first session, elect the chairperson and the secretary from among themselves.

During their sessions, the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the regional and Tashkent city Kengashes of people's deputies shall review the candidates for the membership in the district election commissions for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and propose them for the approval of the Central Election Commission.

A district election commission for the election to the regional, sub-regional or municipal Kengashes of people's deputies shall be formed by the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission not less than seventy days prior to the elections. The commission shall consist of a chairperson, a secretary, and six to eight ordinary members.

The members of the district election commissions are nominated from among the reputable members of the society.

Article 20. The Powers of the District Election Commissions

A district election commission shall:

- execute control over the implementation of the present Code throughout the respective territory;
- form the polling stations, set their numbering within the district, publish the list of the polling stations and their addresses;
- inform the voters on the location of the polling stations;
- form precinct election commissions and publish information on the composition thereof;
- ensure equal conditions for the participation of the candidates in the election campaign;
- assist in organization of the candidates' meetings with the voters;
- register the candidates' proxies and issue the prospective certificates;
- hear the communications of the representatives of the political parties, citizen's self-governance bodies, public associations and the heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations on the issues related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections;
- observe the process of the voter list compilation and its presentation for public scrutiny;
- summarize the results of the elections within the electoral district and forward them to the Central Election Commission, regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission respectively;
- organize the repeat voting, re-run elections and hold elections to replace the retired deputies;
- review and decide on the applications and complaints against the decisions and actions (inactions) of the election commissions.

District election commissions may exercise other powers in accordance with law.

Article 21. The Formation of the Precinct Election Commissions

A precinct election commission shall be formed by the district election commission not less than forty days prior to the elections. The commissions shall consist of five to nineteen members, including the chairperson, deputy chairperson and the secretary. If the commission consists of up to seven members, it shall appoint a chairperson and a secretary. The personnel of the precinct election commission shall be approved by the decision of the district election commission.

If necessary, the number of members of the precinct election commission may be increased or decreased.

The heads of the representation missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the foreign countries shall perform the functions of the chairpersons of the respective precinct election commission.

The candidates for the membership in the precinct election commissions are nominated by the citizens' self-governance bodies and other public associations, enterprises, institutions and organizations. During their sessions, the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies shall review the candidates and propose them for the approval by the respective district election commission.

Article 22. The Powers of the Precinct Election Commissions

A precinct election commission shall:

- compile the precinct's voter lists;
- post the voter lists for public scrutiny, accept and review the applications about the errors and inaccuracies and decide on the necessary amendments;
- accept electoral envelopes from the voters who will be absent from their place of residence on the day of elections and cannot participate in voting;
- inform the population on the day of elections and the location of the polling places;
- ensure that the polling stations are equipped with the polling booths, polling boxes and other equipment;
- organize the voting at the polling station on the day of elections;
- count the votes;
- review and decide upon the appeals of the natural and legal persons on the issues related to the preparation of the elections and organization of voting.

The precinct election commissions may exercise other powers in accordance with law.

Article 23. The Requirements for the Members of the Election Commissions

A citizen, who has attained the age of twenty one year old, has, as a rule, secondary or higher education and experience in organizing and conducting the elections, and enjoys authority among population, may be a member of a regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission.

The members of any other election commissions, the members of the political parties, the khokims of the regions, sub-regions and cities, the officials of the prosecutor's offices, courts, close relatives and authorized representatives of the candidates, as well as the direct subordinates of the candidates are not eligible for membership in an election commission.

Chapter 3. The Electoral Districts and Precincts

Article 24. The Formation of the Electoral Districts

The Central Election Commission shall form the electoral districts for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan within the boundaries of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions and the city of Tashkent. It shall also form, based on the proposal of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the khokimiyats of the regions and the city of Tashkent, one hundred and fifty electoral districts for the elections to the Legislative Chamber.

The boundaries of the electoral districts shall be identified taking into account the administrative and territorial structure of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions and the city of Tashkent. As a rule, the electoral districts shall have an equal number of voters throughout the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

When forming the electoral districts for the elections to the representative bodies of state power, the maximum permissible deviation of the number of voters in the electoral districts should not exceed 15 per cent.

For the elections to the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies the electoral districts shall be formed as follows:

- for the elections to the regional and Tashkent city Kengashes of people's deputies – not more than sixty electoral districts;
- for the elections to the sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies – not more than thirty electoral districts.

The electoral districts shall be formed by the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commissions and have, as a rule, an equal number of voters. The boundaries of the electoral districts shall be identified taking into account the administrative and territorial structure of the regions, sub-regions and the cities.

The lists of the electoral districts, together with information on the number of voters and the locations of the district election commissions, shall be published by the respective commission not less than seventy five days prior to the elections.

Article 25. The Formation of the Electoral Precincts (polling stations)

The electoral precincts for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be formed by the district election commissions. The electoral precincts for the elections to the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies shall be formed by the district election commissions based on the nomination of the respective khokims.

The electoral precincts shall be formed taking into account the boundaries of the sub-regions, cities and the districts within the cities so that to ensure maximum convenience for the voters. The precincts shall be also formed in the military units and included in the electoral districts based on the unit location.

The electoral precincts may be formed at the representation missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the foreign countries, sanatoria, rest homes, hospitals and other inpatient healthcare institutions, in remote and hard-to-reach areas and detention centers. Such precincts shall be included in the electoral districts based on their location. A decision on the attribution of a precinct outside of Uzbekistan to a certain electoral district shall be made by the Central Election Commission.

The electoral precincts at the military units shall be formed by the district election commissions based on the proposals of the commanders of the military units or formations. The electoral precincts at representation missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the foreign countries shall be formed by the Central Election Commission based on the proposals of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The electoral precincts shall be formed not less than sixty days prior to the elections. The electoral precincts at the military units, representation missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the foreign countries, remote and hard-to-reach areas, and detention centers shall be formed within the same timeframe. In exceptional cases, the precincts may be formed not less than five days prior to the elections. As a rule, the number of voters in such precincts shall not be less than twenty and not more than three thousand.

The number of precincts shall not be less than the number of districts.

The district election commissions shall set up the numbering of the precincts and inform the voters on the boundaries of each precinct, the telephone numbers and the location of the respective precinct election commission and the polling premises.

In case when the elections to the Legislative Chamber coincide with the elections to the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies, the district election commissions for the elections to the Legislative Chamber shall form the joint electoral precincts.

Chapter 4. The Voter Register

Article 26. The Single Electronic Voter Register of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The single electronic voter register of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the SEVR) is a public information resource listing the citizens who have attained the age of eighteen years and enjoy active suffrage.

The SEVR shall be formed by means of the State Information System, which shall ensure the following:

- collection, systematization and application of the voter data;
- automation of the process of compilation of the SEVR;
- availability of tools to distribute the voters between the electoral precincts with the option to adjust the lists;
- provision of the voters with the possibility to obtain the information related to their electoral precincts and to apply for a change of the precinct;
- distribution of the users' access rights to the data stored in the SEVR and the functions to adjust the precinct voter lists;
- prevention of multiple voting (proxy, family or group voting);
- prevention of the incidences of voter registration on the day of elections.

The SEVR shall be updated once a year, and, in the period of election campaign, - according to the schedule approved by the Central Election Commission and coordinated with the State Personalization Center under the Cabinet of the Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The procedure for compiling and updating the SEVR shall be established by the Cabinet of the Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The procedure for working with the information containing the citizens' personal data stored in the SEVR shall be established by the Central Election Commission.

Article 27. The Compilation of the Precinct Voter Lists

A citizen, who before or on the day of elections has attained the age of eighteen and permanently or temporarily resides in the territory of the respective precinct, shall have the right to be included in the precinct's voter list.

A voter can be included in the voter list of only one precinct.

The precinct election commission shall further refine the voter list obtained from the State Information System by checking its reliability and completeness. The precinct election commissions may involve the members of the public to participate in this process. The khokims of the sub-regions and cities shall provide support to the precinct election commissions in refining the voter lists.

The lists of the military servants at the military units, their family members and other voters residing in the military unit location areas, shall be formed based on the data provided by the commanders of the respective military units. The military servants residing outside of the military units shall be included in the voter lists according to the general procedure.

The list of voters of the precincts formed at the representation missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, sanatoria, rest homes, hospitals and other healthcare institutions, as well as detention centers, shall be compiled based on the data provided by the heads of the listed institutions.

The voter lists shall contain the following data: a citizen's surname, first name and patronymic, date of birth and residence address. The fields shall come in an array convenient for organizing the voting.

Article 28. Public Scrutiny of the Voter Lists

The voter lists shall be posted for universal public scrutiny fifteen days prior to the elections, and at the polling stations formed under the representation missions of foreign countries, sanatoria, rest homes, hospitals and other healthcare institutions, remote and hard-to-reach areas and detention centers – two days prior to the elections. The precinct election commission shall inform the voters on the place and time of posting the lists.

The citizen shall be provided with the opportunity to study the voter lists in advance at the premises of the precinct election commission and via the State Information System.

Article 29. Appealing against the Voter Lists

A citizen shall have the right to appeal against the non-inclusion, improper inclusion or exclusion from the voters list as well as against any inaccuracies made in a voter list. Such appeals shall be considered by the respective precinct election commission. The precinct election commission shall be obliged to decide on the appeals and make necessary corrections to the voters list no later than within twenty-four hours. In case when an appeal is submitted one day before or on the election day, the appeal shall be reviewed and decided upon immediately. In case when an appeal cannot be satisfied, the voter shall receive a response justifying why the appeal was rejected.

Article 30. The Procedure for Modifying the Voter Lists

A citizen, who, for some reason, was not included in the voter list on time, shall be included in the voter list by the precinct election commission based on the document certifying his identity, citizenship and residence.

In case if the citizen's data in the State Information System is absent or inconsistent (for instance, the precinct is incorrect), the citizen has the right to submit a written application to the precinct election commission or to fill out a corresponding form in the official website of the Central Election Commission.

Chapter 5. The Ballot

Article 31. The Contents of the Ballot

The form and the text of the ballot for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be approved by the Central Election Commission.

The form and the text of the ballot for the elections to the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies shall be approved by the regional, sub-regional and municipal election commissions.

The ballot shall include the following information on the candidates: surname, first name and patronymic, year of birth, position occupied and the nominating political party. The candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order.

The ballot shall contain guidance on how to fill it.

The ballots shall be issued in the state language and, based on the decision of the respective district election commission, in the languages used by the majority of the district.

Article 32. The Production and the Delivery of the Ballots

The procedure for producing and delivering the ballots to the polling stations shall be established by the respective election commissions.

The precinct election commissions shall receive the ballots from the respective district election commissions no later than three days prior to the voting day, including early voting. The chairperson, deputy chairperson or the secretary of the district and precinct election commissions certify the handover and takeover of the ballots with a signature in the respective document.

The number of ballots received by a precinct election commission shall not exceed the number of citizens included in the precinct voter lists by more than 0.5 per cent. Two members of the precinct election commission shall sign the ballots in the right upper corner and seal it with the precinct election commission seal. The ballots not certified by the precinct election commission shall not participate in the votes counting.

Chapter 6. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Observers, Authorized Representatives of the Political Parties and Mass Media

Article 33. The Political Party, Foreign Country and International Organization Observers

The political party, foreign country and international organization observers shall carry out their activities based on the mandates issued by the respective election commissions.

The stakeholder organizations shall announce their observers to the election commissions no later than within fifteen days prior to the day of elections.

The election commissions, within five days upon the receipt of the application of the stakeholder organization, shall issue the observer mandates. The foreign country and international organization observers shall receive their mandates from the Central Election Commission.

The observers shall have the following rights:

- to be present at the sessions of the election commissions;
- to participate in the meetings dedicated to the candidates' nominations and in the meetings between the candidates and the electorate;
- to be present at the polling station, to observe the preparatory works, the installation of the booths for secret voting, the sealing of the ballot boxes, the registration of the citizens and the issuance of the ballots;

- to be present during the counting and compiling the protocols of the election commission;
- to request and obtain the certified by the respective election commission copies of the documents on the results of the elections;
- to report the observations to the respective election commission if there are grounds to believe that the provisions of the present Code were violated at a certain polling station.

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The observers shall be prohibited from the following:

- to be present in the booth or the room for secret voting when a citizen is completing his/her ballot;
- to influence the citizens, to distribute any campaign materials or literature;
- to ask the citizens about the choice they made or provide any assistance in marking the ballot;
- to interfere in the operations of the election commissions, including during the box sealing, box opening, and counting.

Article 34. The Authorized Representatives of the Political Parties

A political party that nominated the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber or the deputies of the local Kengashes from among their members, shall enjoy the right to appoint its authorized representative to participate in the sessions of the election commission, delivery of the documents, verification of the signature sheets and votes counting at the polling station according the procedure established by the Central Election Commission.

An authorized representative of a political party shall carry his/her identity certificate, the authorization of the political party and the mandate of the respective election commission.

Article 35. The Representatives of the Mass Media

The representatives of the mass media shall have the right to cover all activities related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections, as well as to be present at the polling stations on the day of elections during the vote counting.

The powers of the representatives of the mass media shall be certified with the documents issued by the respective election commissions. The representatives of foreign mass media shall be accredited by the Central Election Commission.

The representatives of mass media shall have the rights and bear responsibilities set forth in the paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Article 33 of the present Code.

II. SPECIAL PART

Chapter 7. The Announcement of the Start of the Election Campaign, the Participation of the Political Parties in the Elections

Article 36. The Announcement of the Start of the Election Campaign

The Central Election Commission shall announce the start of the election campaign for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the deputies of the local Kengashes of people's deputies in mass media no later than three months before the expiry of their powers.

In cases when the elections of the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies are being held in different time, the start of the election campaign shall be announced by the respective election commissions.

Article 37. The Right to Nominate

The political parties shall have the right to nominate the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber and the local Kengashes of people's deputies.

Article 38. The Procedure for Collecting the Signatures

For the Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber the Central Election Commission shall provide the political parties with the approved templates of the signature sheets.

A political party shall have the right to start to collect the supporting signatures only upon the issuance of the registration certificate to the authorized representative of the political party. The signatures collected prior to this date shall not be valid.

The voters shall have the right to sign in support of one or more political parties. The voter shall indicate his/her surname, name, patronymic, year of birth (at the age of eighteen – date of birth), residence address, passport series and number, and the date of signing. The indicated information is entered in hand-writing. The voter information may, at the signing voter's request, be entered by the signature collector.

The signature sheets shall be signed by the signature collector, who shall indicate his/her surname, name and patronymic. The signature sheets shall be also certified by the signature of the head of the local branch of the respective political party and its seal.

The signatures may be collected at the places of work, service, study, residence, campaign events and other places, where campaigning and collection of signatures are not prohibited. Any form of voter coercion or bribery on the part of the signature collector entails liability in accordance with law.

Once the collection of the signatures is completed, the authorized representative of the political party shall deliver the signature sheets to the Central Election Commission. The signature sheets shall be bound separately for the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions, and the city of Tashkent.

Article 39. The Verification of the Signature Sheets by the Central Election Commission

The verification of the signature sheets submitted by the political parties shall be executed by the Central Election Commission within seven days. The Central Election Commission shall validate at least 15 per cent of the required number of the voters' signatures as well as verify the respective information on the signatories.

The Central Election Commission shall select for verification an equal number of the voters' signatures collected in support of each political party. The sampling shall include an equal number of the signatures collected from each administrative unit (the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions, and the city of Tashkent).

The Central Election Commission may establish an Expert group to verify the signature sheets. The Central Election Commission shall invite the law enforcement and justice specialists, as

well as the representatives of civil society institutions. The authorized representatives of the political parties shall be present during the process of the signature sheets verification.

Chapter 8. The Registration and the Legal Status of the Candidates and Their Proxies

Article 40. The Candidate Registration

The candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall be registered by the Central Election Commission, while the candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies shall be registered by the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission.

The person registered as a candidate shall receive a registration certificate.

The registration of the candidates shall end thirty-five days prior to the election.

Within five days after the candidate registration the respective election commission shall publish a communication containing the following information: surname, name, patronymic, year of birth, partisanship, position, place of work and residence, and the nominating party of the registered candidate.

Article 41. The Guarantees of the Candidates' Activities

All registered candidates shall enjoy equal rights.

For the period of the election campaign, the meetings with the voters, participation in live, television and radio campaigning events, the candidates shall have the right to be released from his office duties while maintaining an average salary paid out of the funds allocated for holding the elections.

After being registered, the candidates shall have the right to use all types of public passenger transport free of charge (with the exception of urban passenger transport, taxis and registered trips of other transport types) within the electoral district. The candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall enjoy such right within the entire Republic of Uzbekistan.

The business trip and other expenses of the candidates shall be paid out of the funds allocated for holding the elections.

The candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan cannot be prosecuted, arrested or subjected to administrative penalties imposed by court without the consent of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Should this be the case, the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall immediately notify the Central Election Commission on the matter.

Bringing to court or inspecting the personal belongings, luggage, transport means, residential and office premises of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall not be allowed.

Article 42. The Deprivation of the Status of the Candidate. The Self-Withdrawal of the Candidate

A political party shall have the right, no later than five days prior to the elections, to cancel its decision to nominate a certain individual as the candidate. The status of the candidate shall be withdrawn by the respective election commission. Prior to the expiry of the candidate nomination term, the political party may file a proposal to register a new candidate with the respective election commission.

Termination of the activities of a political party deprives the nominated candidate of the right to participate in the elections from this party.

At any time before the election, a candidate may withdraw his candidacy by filing a corresponding application with the respective election commission.

Article 43. The Candidates' Proxies

A candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall have the right to have up to fifteen proxies, a candidate for the deputy of the Legislative Chamber may have up to ten proxies and a candidate for the local Kengash of people's deputies may have up to three proxies. The proxies assist the candidate in the election campaign, agitate for voting and represent the candidate's interests in the relations with the government bodies, public associations and election commissions.

The Central Election Commission, based on the proposal of the candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, shall register his/her proxies and issue the corresponding certificates.

After being registered, the candidate shall identify, at own discretion, the proxies and notify the respective election commission about them. The election commission shall register the proxies and issue the corresponding certificates.

A candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan or a candidate for the deputy, at any time before the election, may deprive the proxy of the powers and replace him/her. Should this be the case, the candidate shall notify the respective election commission. A proxy shall have the right to resign at any time.

A proxy may not be a member of an election commission.

The business trip expenses of the candidates' proxies within the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be paid out of the funds allocated for holding the elections.

Chapter 9. The Election Campaign

Article 44. The Election Campaigning

The election campaign shall start from the date of the candidates' registration. Campaigning one day before and on the day of elections is not allowed.

Any agitation accompanied by the provision the voters with goods or services free of charge or on privileged terms (except for information ones), as well as cash disbursements shall be prohibited.

Article 45. The Types, Forms and Methods of Campaigning

The campaigning may be of the following types:

- dissemination of the information about the program and/or the electoral platform of a political party with an appeal to vote for its candidate;
- dissemination of the information about the candidate with an appeal to vote for the candidate.

The campaigning may be implemented in the following forms: public debates, discussions, press-conferences, citizens' meetings, interviews, speeches, video placement in mass media.

The campaigning shall be carried out through:

- mass media and information and telecommunication networks of general use (including the global Internet information network);
- production and dissemination of print, visual, audiovisual and other campaign materials (posters, flyers etc.);
- meetings with the voters.

Different types, forms and methods of campaigning not prohibited by the present Code may also be used during the campaigning.

Article 46. Campaigning through Mass Media

During the campaigning, the candidates shall have equal access to the state media through allocation of equal amount of airtime and print space free of charge.

The airtime and print space in the state media can be also provided on a commercial basis.

The airtime and print space in the non-government media may be provided in accordance with law.

The airtime and print space payment terms set by the media as well as any other requirements shall be equal for all candidates.

The information disseminated through the mass media shall be trustworthy and not violate the rights and legitimate interests of the contestants. It is prohibited to disseminate false information, as well as the information discrediting honor and dignity of the candidates.

The procedure, volume and duration of use of the mass media resources for the campaign shall be identified by the respective election commission upon agreement with the political parties.

Article 47. Campaigning through Production and Dissemination of Print, Visual, Audiovisual and Other Campaign Materials

The candidates and political parties shall enjoy equal conditions for the unimpeded production and dissemination of print, visual and audiovisual materials, phonograms, electronic versions of the printed matters and other campaign materials. The campaign materials shall be produced in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The print, visual, audiovisual and other campaign materials shall contain the following:

- the title, location (postal address) and other information on the legal entity (surname, name and patronymic of the natural person) of the producer of the campaigning materials;
- the title of the legal entity (surname, name and patronymic of the natural person) of the customer of the campaigning materials;
- the campaign materials output data (circulation, date of issue etc.).

The campaign materials previously posted on buildings, structures and elsewhere shall be removed by the local state authorities and political parties on the day before the day of elections.

Article 48. Campaigning through the Meetings with the Voters

The candidates and political parties shall have equal conditions for campaigning through holding the meetings with the voters.

The candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the candidates for the deputies and the political parties shall organize the meetings with the voters by themselves. A district or precinct election commission shall be notified on the time and the location of the meeting. The commission, in its turn, shall inform the voters in advance.

The state and economic management bodies, local government bodies, public associations, as well as citizens' self-governance bodies are obliged to provide free of charge equipped premises for the meetings and assist in obtaining necessary reference and information materials.

A candidate or his/her proxy shall have the right to hold the meetings with the voters jointly with another candidate or his/her proxy or participate in the meetings with the voters organized by another candidate.

Chapter 10. The Organization and the Conduct of Polling

Article 49. The Polling Premises and the Premises of Precinct Election Commissions

The polling premises are special designated places that shall be equipped with a sufficient number of booths or rooms for secret polling. The places shall be allocated for issuing the ballot papers (hereinafter referred to as the ballots) to the voters, and the ballot boxes shall be installed. The ballot boxes shall be set up so as to ensure that the voters are sure to pass through the booths or rooms for secret polling. Conducting any other political actions in the polling premises shall not be allowed. The precinct election commissions shall be responsible for properly equipping the premises and maintaining them in order.

The state authorities, enterprises, institutions and organizations shall provide the election commissions with the premises and the equipment required for the preparation and the conduct of the elections free of charge. The appropriate premises for the work of the election commissions shall be provided by the sub-regional and municipal khokims five days before the formation of the respective commissions.

The properly equipped polling premises shall be provided to the election commissions not less than eleven days before the elections.

The polling stations with a large number of voters may be equipped with mother-and-child and healthcare rooms.

The responsibilities related to the improvement of adjacent territories, provision of necessary facilities for the citizens, especially for the people with disabilities, equipping the election commissions with the technical means, furniture, inventory, office equipment, communication, and road transport shall be assigned to the local authorities and the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its territorial units.

The responsibilities related to ensuring a public order, maintaining the polling premises and places, ensuring fire safety, escorting the election commissions' members during the delivery of the documentation on the results of the elections shall be assigned to the bodies for internal affairs.

Article 50. The Requirements for the Set-Up of the Premises of the Precinct Election Commissions and the Polling Premises

The premises of the precinct election commissions shall be supplied with the following:

- the National Flag of the Republic of Uzbekistan (above the building and indoors);
- the National Emblem of the Republic of Uzbekistan (indoors);
- a signboard indicating the ordinal number of the polling station;
- booths and rooms for secret voting;
- separate places for observers;
- posters indicating the date of the elections;
- a site map;
- the information on the composition, work plan, and duty chart of the members of the precinct election commissions;
- the biography and the program (in the form of a book) of the candidates published by the Central Election Commission or a regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission;
- the biography and the program (in the form of a poster) of the candidates published by the Central Election Commission or a regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission;
- direction signs along the path leading to the polling room;
- necessary furniture, office equipment (telephone, fax, printer, two computers (one of them connected to the Internet), a safe, and office supplies;
- fire-fighting equipment.

The polling premises shall be light and spacious, have individual entrance and exit and be equipped with ramps for people with disabilities (if such people are listed in the voter lists).

Article 51. The Polling Time and Place

The polling shall take place on the day of elections from 6:00 to 20:00 hours. The precinct election commissions shall notify the citizens on the time and place of polling no later than ten days before the election.

A precinct election commission shall have the right to declare the polling completed at any time at the electoral precincts set up under the representation missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, military units, hard-to-reach areas, sanatoria, rest homes, hospitals and other inpatient healthcare facilities and detention centers, provided that all voters on the voter list participated in the polling.

It is prohibited to open the ballot boxes and start counting before 20:00 hours at the polling stations located within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 52. The Actions of a Precinct Election Commission before the Polling

A polling station shall open on the day of elections when at least two-thirds of the precinct election commission members are present.

A precinct election commissions shall:

- make ready the premises for secret voting before the polling starts;
- instruct the individual responsible for the Single Electronic Voter Register to check the computers' operability, the connection to the Internet and the access to the State Information System;
- distribute the duties among the members of the precinct election commission;

- prepare the ballots signed by two commission members and certified with the seal.

Article 53. The Actions of a Precinct Election Commission on the Polling Day

The National Anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall start at 6:00 hours.

The chairperson of the precinct commission in the presence of the commission members, observers, and the representatives of the mass media shall:

- announce the start of polling;
- examine the emptiness of the ballot boxes and seal them with disposable plastic seals. This action shall be documented in an act with the seal numbers indicated therein;
- communicate the number of voters on the precinct voter list, the number of ballots received and the number of early voters. This data shall be entered in the summary protocol;
- coordinate and control the organization and the conduct of the polling, provide necessary assistance to the commission members, replace the temporary absent commission members with the other ones;
- declare the polling completed at 20:00 hours;
- enable the voters present in the polling premises to complete the polling.

The members of the precinct election commission shall:

- based on the voter's identity certificate, verify his/her personal data with the State Information System, specify whether the voter had voted ahead of time and give out the ballot in return for a signature;
- enable the observers and the representatives of the mass media to observe the election process;
- review the appeals of the natural and legal persons.

Article 54. The Polling Procedure

After receiving the ballot, the voter shall complete it in the booth or the room for secret voting. No other persons except for the voter shall be allowed to be present during the ballot fill. A citizen unable to fill the ballot on his/her own may invite to the booth or the room another person at his /her own discretion, except for the members of the election commission, observers and representatives of mass media.

The voter shall mark the ballot with one of the following symbols: +, √ or X. The mark shall be put in the empty box located to the right from the surname of the candidate of choice.

The voter shall drop the completed ballot in the ballot box.

At the voter's request, the spoiled ballot paper can be replaced with a new one. The spoiled ballots shall be counted, cancelled (by cutting the top left corner) and stored separately.

Article 55. Polling at the Voter's Place of Residence

In cases when certain voters, due to their health condition or other reasons, are unable to attend the polling station, the respective precinct election commission shall, at the voter's request, organize the polling at his/her place of residence.

The respective election commission shall dispatch not less than two commission members to the voter's place of residence. The commission members shall be equipped with a mobile ballot box and ensure the secrecy of the voter's expression of will. The observers and mass media representatives shall have the opportunity to be present during such procedure.

Article 56. Early Voting

A citizen, who, on the day of elections, will be away from his/her place of residence, shall have the right to vote ahead of time.

Early voting shall start ten days before the election and complete on the day before the election. The time for early voting shall be identified by the respective district election commission and communicated to the voters and observers through mass media.

To vote ahead of time, a voter, based on his/her application indicating the reason for absence on the day of elections (vacation, business trip, a trip abroad), shall receive a ballot from the respective election commission. At least two members of the respective election commission shall be present, when the voter signs in the receipt of the ballot in the voter list.

The ballot shall be completed in the specially equipped booth or room for secret voting.

The voter shall make his/her decision and leave the completed ballot in a sealed envelope. The envelope shall be kept in the safe box of the respective election commission. The envelope gluing place shall be signed by two commission members, sealed with the commission seal and certified with the voter's signature.

Article 57. The Actions of a Precinct Election Commission after the Polling Completion

Upon the completion of the polling, the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and one member of the precinct election commission in the presence of all other commission members, observers and the representatives of mass media, shall:

- declare the completion of the polling;
- verify the seal numbers with those stated in the respective act;
- prepare a place (desk) to count the ballots by taking the stationary away from it;
- count and cancel the unused and spoiled ballots and make a corresponding record in the summary protocol;
- drop the sealed envelopes with early voters' ballots in the ballot box;
- perform the opening of the main and mobile ballot boxes;
- stack the ballots in the separate candidate-wise piles, simultaneously voicing and demonstrating the ballots;
- count the votes cast for each candidate;
- identify and count invalid ballots and make a corresponding record in the summary protocol;
- enter a record on the results of the voting in the summary protocol.

The precinct election commission shall review the complaints (applications) submitted during the voting and counting.

After that the precinct election commission shall hold a meeting on the results of the counting and make decision on the results of the voting.

The results of the counting shall be reviewed at the meeting of the precinct election commission and entered in the protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and other members of the election commission. Afterwards, the protocol shall be proclaimed by the chairperson or deputy chairperson of the precinct election commission, and its copy shall be immediately posted in the precinct election commission's premises for public review for a period of not less than forty-eight hours.

The authorized representatives of the political parties and the observers, participating in the process of the counting, shall have the right to receive a certified copy of the precinct election commission's protocol.

The copy of the precinct election commission's protocol shall be immediately submitted to the respective district election commission by means of information and communication technologies, and the original shall be delivered purposely by the chairperson or his deputy accompanied by the internal affairs officers.

Chapter 11. Repeat Voting and Re-Run Elections

Article 58. The Grounds and the Procedure for Repeat Voting

The Central Election Commission shall set the date for the repeat voting within one month from the day of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, but not earlier than fifteen days after the day of elections. The announcement on the repeat voting shall be published in press.

If, within the electoral district, more than two candidates ran in the elections to the Legislative Chamber and the local Kengashes and none of them was elected, the district election commission shall decide to hold a repeat voting in the district for those two candidates who received the largest number of votes and notify the relevant election commissions and the district voters. Repeat voting shall be held within two weeks in full compliance with the requirements of the present Code.

At repeat voting, the candidate, who received the majority of the votes cast comparing to the other candidate, shall be considered elected.

At repeat voting the percentage of voters' participation shall not be taken into account.

Article 59. The Grounds and the Procedure for the Re-Run Elections

In case if the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan are declared failed or invalid and also in case if only one candidate participated in the elections and did not obtain the required number of votes, the Central Election Commission shall announce the re-run elections. The re-run elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be held in the same manner and under the same conditions as those established by the present Code for the conduct of the primary elections. The Central Election Commission may decide on the need to change the composition of the district and precinct election commissions in order to re-run the elections. The voting shall be conducted at the same polling stations and based on the same voter lists that were compiled for the primary elections.

The re-run elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be held within 40 days after the primary elections.

The re-run elections of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber or a local Kengash shall be held in the following situations:

- if the elections in an electoral district are declared failed or invalid;
- if the repeat voting did not allow identifying the elected candidate;
- if the electoral district had no more than two candidates and no one of them was elected.

The re-run elections of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber or a local Kengash shall be held by the district election commission by order of the respective election commission. The respective election commission may decide on the need to change the composition of the district and precinct election commissions in order to re-run the elections. The voting shall be conducted at the same polling stations and based on the same voter lists that were compiled for the primary elections.

The re-run elections of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber or a local Kengash shall be held within one month after the primary elections. The formation of the election commissions, the registration of the candidates and other activities shall be held in the order set forth in the present Code.

Chapter 12. The Specifics of the Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Article 60. The Requirements for the Candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be elected for the term of five years. The one and same individual cannot serve more than two consecutive presidential terms.

A citizen, who is at least thirty-five years old, has full command of the official language, has permanently resided in the country for at least ten years prior to the elections, may be elected a President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The following citizens are not eligible to stand for the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- the citizens convicted of intentional crimes;
- the citizens under criminal investigation;
- professional clergy of religious organizations and associations.

Article 61. The Documents to Be Submitted by the Voters' Political Parties for the Participation in the Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

To participate in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan a political party shall, not less than seventy days before the elections, submit the following documents to the Central Election Commission:

- an application for the participation in the elections, signed by the party leader;
- a certificate of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the information on the registration of the political party;
- information on the future candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Upon submission of the documents listed in the first part of the present Article, the Central Election Commission shall issue a dated certificate to the authorized representative of the political party. Based on the submitted documents, the Central Election Commission shall, within a five-day term, make final decision on the admission of the party to participate in the elections and deliver the registration certificate and the templates of the signature sheets to the authorized representative of the political party. The list of the parties to participate in the elections shall be published in the central press arrayed in the sequence order of submission of the applications.

Article 62. The Procedure for Nominating the Candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The nomination of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall start sixty-five days before the elections and end forty-five days before the elections.

The nomination of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be carried out by the highest bodies of the political parties.

The highest body of a political party may nominate one candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A political party is eligible to nominate a candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan exclusively from among its members or non-partisan. A protocol shall be made to document the nomination of a candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The leader of the political party shall address the Central Election Commission with an application to register the candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The following documents shall be enclosed with the application:

- the decision of the highest body of the political party on the nomination of the candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- the minutes of the meeting of the highest body of the political party on the nomination of the candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The minutes shall contain the candidate's full name (surname, name, patronymic), the date of birth, profession, position (occupation), the place of work and residence, and partisanship;
- the statement of the candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the consent to stand for the post;
- the signature sheets to support the nominated candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The signature sheets, submitted by a political party, shall include the signatures of at least one per cent of the total number of voters in the country from at least 8 administrative and territorial units. No more than eight per cent of the total number of signatures may come from one territorial unit (Republic of Karakalpakstan, region, the city of Tashkent).

The Central Election Commission shall issue a certificate with indication of the date and time of the submission of the documents to the individual, who submitted the documents.

Within seven days the Central Election Commission shall inspect the documents and issue its conclusion on their compliance with the provisions of the present Code.

In case of falsification of the signatures in the signature sheets, the Central Election Commission shall refuse to accept the political party's documents for the registration of its nominee candidate.

The Central Election Commission shall, in accordance with the established procedure, notify the leaders of the relevant political parties about the discrepancies and deviations from the requirements of the present Code revealed in the documents submitted for registration.

The Central Election Commission shall cease to accept the documents for the registration of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan seven days before the registration term expires.

Article 63. The Inauguration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall assume the office from the moment of taking the oath at the joint session of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan no

later than two months after the official announcement of the results of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan by the Central Election Commission.

The incumbent President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall exercise his powers until the newly elected President of the Republic of Uzbekistan assumes the office.

Article 64. Early Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

If it is impossible for the incumbent President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to fulfill his functions, his duties and powers shall be temporarily assigned to the Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Should this be the case, the early elections of the President of the country shall take place within three months in full compliance with the present Code.

Chapter 13. The Specifics of the Elections of the Deputies of the Legislative Chamber

Article 65. The Elections of the Deputies of the Legislative Chamber

The Legislative Chamber consists of one hundred and fifty deputies elected for the term of five years.

Article 66. The Right to Nominate the Candidates for the Deputies

A political party is eligible to nominate its candidates for the deputies provided that the party has been registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan at least four months prior to the announcement of the start of the election campaign and collected at least forty thousand signatures of the voters to support its participation in the election.

No more than eight per cent of the forty thousands of voters' signatures may come from one territorial unit (Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and the city of Tashkent).

In case of falsification of the signatures in the signature sheets, the Central Election Commission shall refuse the political party in the right to participate in the elections.

Article 67. The Documents to Be Submitted by the Political Parties to Participate in the Elections

To nominate the candidates for the deputies, a political party shall, not less than seventy days before the elections, submit the following documents to the Central Election Commission:

- an application for the participation in the elections, signed by the party leader;
- a certificate of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the information that the political party has been registered with the Ministry no later than four months prior to the announcement of the start of the election campaign;
- the signature sheets.

Upon submission of the documents listed in the first part of the present Article, the Central Election Commission shall issue a dated certificate to the authorized representative of the political party. Based on the submitted documents, the Central Election Commission shall, within a five-day term, make final decision on the admission of the party to participate in the elections. The list of the parties to participate in the elections shall be published in the central press arrayed in the sequence order of submission of the applications.

Article 68. The Nomination of the Candidates for the Deputies by the Political Parties

The nomination of the candidates for the deputies shall start sixty-five days before the elections and end forty-five days before the elections.

The nomination of the candidates for the deputies shall be carried out by the highest bodies of the political parties.

The political parties are eligible to nominate one hundred and fifty candidates – one candidate per each electoral district. The one and same individual can be nominated as a candidate in only one electoral district. The procedure for selecting the candidates for the deputies shall be determined by the political parties themselves.

The number of women shall comprise at least thirty per cent of the total number of the candidates nominated by the political party.

Political parties are eligible to nominate candidates for the deputies exclusively from among its members or non-partisans. A protocol shall be made to document the nomination of the candidates for the deputies.

Article 69. The Requirements for the Candidates for the Deputies of the Legislative Chamber

A citizen, who on the day of elections is at least twenty-five years old and has permanently resided in the country for at least five years, may be elected to the Legislative Chamber.

The following citizens are not eligible to be registered as the candidates for the deputies:

- the citizens convicted of a felony or a high felony, whose conviction has not been served or expunged;
- the citizens, who have not permanently resided in the country during the last five years prior to the day of elections;
- the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the employees of the National Security Service, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other paramilitary units;
- professional clergy of religious organizations and associations.

Article 70. The Documents Required for the Registration of the Candidates for the Deputies of the Legislative Chamber

The leader of the political party shall address the Central Election Commission with an application to register the candidates for the deputies of the Legislative Chamber. The following documents shall be enclosed with the application:

- the decision of the highest body of the political party on the nomination of the candidates for the deputies;
- the minutes of the meeting of the highest body of the political party on the nomination of the candidates for the deputies. The minutes shall contain the candidates' full name (surname, name, patronymic), the date of birth, profession, position (occupation), the place of work and residence, partisanship, and the name and number of the electoral district;
- the statements of the candidates for the deputies of the Legislative Chamber on the consent to stand for the post from the respective electoral district.

The Central Election Commission shall issue a certificate with indication of the date and time of the submission of the documents to the individual, who submitted the documents.

The Central Election Commission shall cease to accept the documents for the registration of the candidates for the deputies of the Legislative Chamber seven days before the registration term expires.

The Central Election Commission shall, in accordance with the established procedure, notify the leaders of the relevant political parties about the discrepancies and deviations from the requirements of the present Code revealed in the documents submitted for registration.

Article 71. The Registration of the Elected Deputies of the Legislative Chamber

Based on the protocols of the district election commissions, the Central Election Commission shall register the elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber.

An elected individual obtains the status of a deputy of the Legislative Chamber from the moment of his/her registration by the Central Election Commission.

The elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber shall inform the Central Election Commission in writing on resignation from the duties incompatible with the status of the deputy of the Legislative Chamber.

The elected deputies of the Legislative Chambers shall receive the corresponding certificates and badges.

Article 72. The Elections to Replace the Retired Deputies of the Legislative Chamber

In case of early termination of a deputy's powers, the elections in the respective electoral districts shall be held within three months.

The Central Election Commission shall set the day of elections no later than a month before. The elections shall be held in full compliance with the requirements of the present Code. The district election commission shall be formed twenty-five days before, and the precinct election commissions – fifteen days before the elections. The registration of the candidates shall end fifteen days before the election.

In case if a deputy of the Legislative Chamber retires less than six months before the expiry of the powers of the Legislative Chamber, the elections to replace the retired deputy may be omitted.

Chapter 14. The Procedure for Formation of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Article 73. The Elections to the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the Chamber of the territorial representation and consists of the members of the Senate (senators).

The members of the Senate are elected from the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions and the city of Tashkent – six persons from each territorial unit. The elections to the Senate are held by secret vote at the joint sessions of the deputies of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the regional, sub-regional and municipal representative bodies of state power from among themselves.

Sixteen members of the Senate shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan from among the most reputable citizens with great practical experience and

outstanding credits in science, arts, literature, industry and other fields of state and public activities.

The term of the Senate's powers is five years.

Article 74. The Time of the Elections to the Senate

The elections to the Senate shall be held no later than within one month after the elections of the members of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the representative bodies of state power.

Article 75. The Requirements for the Candidates for the Members of the Senate

A deputy of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan or a deputy of a regional, sub-regional or municipal representative body of state power, who, by the day of elections, has attained the age of twenty-five and permanently resided in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for at least five years, is eligible to be a candidate for the members of the Senate.

Article 76. The Joint Session of the Representative Bodies of State Power on the Elections of the Members of the Senate

The Central Election Commission shall call for a joint session of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the regional, sub-regional and municipal representative bodies of state power (hereinafter referred to as the joint session).

A joint session shall be deemed eligible if at least two-thirds of the deputies are present.

Within three days after the publication of the results of the elections to the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the regional, sub-regional and municipal representative bodies of state power, the Central Election Commission announces the holding of the joint sessions with the purpose to elect the members of the Senate.

The Central Election Commission shall publish in its official website as well as in other media the resolution indicating the date, time and place of the joint sessions.

A joint session shall be opened by a representative of the Central Election Commission, who proposes a chairperson from among the most reputable, experienced, and senior in age deputies. A working presidium consisting of three to five people shall be elected to conduct the work of the joint session by open voting. Besides, a Secretariat consisting of three people shall be formed to review the incoming proposals and to document the decisions made.

Article 77. The Nomination of the Candidates for the Members of the Senate

The nomination of the candidates for the members of the Senate shall be carried out during the joint session.

To nominate a candidate for the members of the Senate, the session shall elect, based on the proposal of the chairperson, the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders shall be elected by simple open majority vote.

The Council of Elders shall be elected from among the most reputable, experienced and senior in age deputies, as a rule, one from each local representative body of state power. The chairperson of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the khokims of the regions and the city of Tashkent shall be the members of the Council of Elders by rank.

The Council of Elders shall elect its chairperson.

The Council of Elders shall consider for the candidates for the members of the Senate the most reputable and experienced deputies with outstanding credits in science, arts, literature, industry and other fields of state and public activities and propose them to be included in the ballot for secret voting.

Upon discussing the candidacies, the joint session shall make a decision on including them in the ballot for secret voting.

The candidate for the members of the Senate, who received the majority of the votes of the participants of the joint session, shall be deemed included in the ballot for secret voting.

The ballot for secret voting shall list at least six candidates for the members of the Senate.

Article 78. The Organization of Voting for the Elections of the Members of the Senate

A Counting Board consisting of nine members, including the chairperson and the secretary, shall be elected from among the deputies present at the joint session to conduct the secret vote and determine the voting results.

The Counting Board shall:

- organize and conduct the voting for the elections of the members of the Senate;
- announce the time, location and the procedure for the secret voting to the participants of the joint session;
- prepare the ballots for secret voting by listing in alphabetical order the candidates' surname, name, and patronymic and indicating the date of birth, position and place of work.
- refine the list of voters and issue the ballots for secret voting;
- seal the ballot's front side and ensure they are signed by at least two members of the Counting Board;
- count the votes and draw up a protocol on the results of secret voting;
- submit the results of the secret ballot for approval of the joint session.

Article 79. The Procedure for Voting for the Members of the Senate

Before the beginning of the secret voting, the Chairperson of the Counting Board shall announce the procedure for voting and, in the presence of the Board members, examine and seal the ballot boxes with disposable plastic seals.

The ballot box shall be set up so as to ensure that the voter is sure to pass through a booth or a room for secret polling.

A participating deputy of the joint session shall submit its identity document to the member of the Counting Board, sign in the voter list and receive the secret ballot.

The voter shall mark the ballot with one of the following symbols: +, √ or X. The mark shall be put in the empty box located to the right from the surnames of the candidates of choice.

The voter shall drop the completed ballot in the ballot box. The ballot box shall be well visible.

At the voter's request, the spoiled secret ballot paper can be replaced with a new one.

After the secret voting is completed, the unused and spoiled ballots shall be cancelled by being stamped with a special stamp. Then the ballots shall be sealed and stored separately.

Article 80. Vote Counting and Determining the Results of the Elections of the Members of the Senate

The Counting Board shall count the votes without interruption until the results of the secret ballot are determined.

Based on the ballot papers in the ballot box, the Counting Board shall establish:

- the total number of the deputies who took part in the voting;
- the number of votes cast for each candidate for the Member of the Senate;
- the number of invalidated ballots.

The Counting Board shall not count the votes cast for the candidates additionally written in by the voters in the ballot papers.

The ballots of an undue format, the ballots with no checkbox marked with +, √ or X symbol, as well as the ballots missing the signatures of the members of the Counting Board and its seal on the front side, shall be deemed invalid.

The results of the secret ballot shall be documented in a protocol signed by all members of the Counting Board. Completing the protocol with a pencil or making any modifications are not allowed.

Article 81. Determining the Voting Results during the Elections for the Members of the Senate

The candidates, who received the majority of the votes comparing to the other candidates, provided that they received over 50 per cent of the votes cast by the deputies of the representative bodies of the state power present at the joint session shall be considered elected.

Article 82. Repeat Voting and Re-Run Elections of the Members of the Senate

If the established number of the members of the Senate was not elected during the voting, the repeat voting shall be held at the same joint session to fill the vacancies. The repeat voting shall be held on the candidates who did not obtain the required number of votes.

The re-run elections for the members of the Senate shall be held in the following cases:

- if the elections are declared void;
- if the repeat voting failed to elect the required number of the members of the Senate.

In the cases set forth by the paragraph 3 of the part 2 of the present Article, the re-run elections shall be held for the unelected number of the members of the Senate.

The re-run elections for the members of the Senate shall be held no later than within fifteen days after the primary elections.

The nomination of the candidates for the unelected number of the members of the Senate and the conduct of the re-run elections shall be held in accordance with the procedure set forth in the present Code.

Article 83. The Results of the Elections to the Senate

Based on the submitted protocols of the joint sessions and no later than within five days from the date of their submission, the Central Election Commission shall register the members of the Senate. The corresponding certificates and the badges shall be issued no later than within ten days from the date of submission of the documents.

The Central Election Commission may declare the elections of the members of the Senate void if violations of the requirements of the present Code that affected the election results have occurred during the elections, counting of votes and the establishment of the results of the secret voting.

Article 84. Appealing against the Results of the Elections of the Members of the Senate

The decisions of the joint sessions as well as those of the Central Election Commission may be appealed at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within ten days from the date of adoption.

Article 85. The Elections to Replace the Retired Members of the Senate

The elections to replace the retired members of the Senate shall be held in compliance with the requirements of the present Code at the corresponding joint sessions within three months.

In case if a member of the Senate retires less than six months before the expiry of the powers of the Senate, the elections to replace the retired member may be omitted.

Chapter 15. The Specifics of the Elections to the Local Kengashes of People's Deputies

Article 86. The Documents to Be Submitted by the Political Parties to Participate in the Elections

To nominate the candidates for the deputies, a political party shall, not less than seventy days before the elections, submit the following documents to the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission:

- an application for the participation in the elections, signed by the head of the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal body of the political party;
- a certificate of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the information that the political party has been registered with the Ministry no later than four months prior to the announcement of the start of the election campaign.

Upon submission of the documents listed in the first part of the present Article, the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission shall issue a dated certificate to the authorized representative of the political party. Based on the submitted documents, the election commission shall, within a five-day term, make final decision on the admission of the party to participate in the elections. The list of the parties to participate in the elections shall be published in the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal press arrayed in the sequence order of submission of the applications.

Article 87. The Requirements for the Candidates for the Deputies of the Local Kengashes

A citizen, who by the day of elections has attained twenty-one years and permanently resided in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan for at least five years, may be elected to the local Kengashes of people's deputies.

The following citizens are not eligible to be registered as the candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies:

- the citizens convicted of a felony or a high felony, whose conviction has not been served or expunged;
- the citizens, who have not permanently resided in the country during the last five years prior to the day of elections;
- the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the employees of the National Security Service, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other paramilitary units;
- professional clergy of religious organizations and associations.

The judges and the officials of the Prosecutor's offices and executive authorities (except for the regional, sub-regional or municipal khokims) may be registered as the candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies provided that they submitted a resignation application upon being elected.

Article 88. The Procedure for Nominating the Candidates for the Deputies of the Local Kengashes

The nomination of the candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies shall start sixty-five days before the elections and end forty-five days before the elections.

The nomination of the candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies shall be carried out by the respective bodies of the political parties.

The political parties are eligible to nominate one candidate per each electoral district located in the respective territory.

As a rule, the nominated candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies shall be the citizens, who work or permanently reside in the territory of the respective region, sub-region or city. The one and same person can be nominated as a candidate for the respective local Kengash of people's deputies in only one electoral district. The procedure for selecting the candidates for the deputies shall be determined by the political parties themselves.

The number of women shall comprise at least thirty per cent of the total number of the candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies nominated by the political party.

Political parties shall nominate the candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies from among its members or non-partisans. The nominees shall be the citizens, who actively participate in the in the socio-political life of the country, the development of the economy of the relevant region, sub-region or city, promote the efficiency of small businesses and private entrepreneurship and the farmer movement.

Article 89. The Documents Required for the Registration of the Candidates for the Deputies of the Local Kengashes

The head of the respective body of the political party shall address the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission with an application to register the candidates for the local Kengashes of people's deputies. The following documents shall be enclosed with the application:

- the decision of the respective body of the political party on the nomination of the candidates for the deputies;
- the minutes of the meeting of the respective body of the political party on the nomination of the candidates to the local Kengashes of people's deputies. The minutes shall

contain the candidates' full name (surname, name, patronymic), the date of birth, profession, position (occupation), the place of work and residence, partisanship, and the name and number of the electoral district;

- the statements of the candidates to the local Kengashes of people's deputies on the consent to stand for the post from the respective electoral district;
- the resignation applications of the individuals listed in the part 3 of the Article 87 of the present Code in case of being elected as the deputies of the local Kengashes.

The respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission shall issue a certificate with indication of the date and time of the submission of the documents to the individual, who submitted the documents.

Within seven days the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission shall inspect the documents and issue its conclusion on their compliance with the provisions of the present Code.

The respective regional, sub-regional or municipal election commission shall, in accordance with the established procedure, notify the leaders of the relevant political parties about the discrepancies and deviations from the requirements of the present Code revealed in the documents submitted for registration.

Article 90. The Elections to Replace the Retired Deputies of the Local Kengashes

In case of early termination of a deputy's powers, the elections in the respective electoral districts shall be held within three months.

The respective Kengash of people's deputies shall set the day of elections no later than a month before. The elections shall be held in full compliance with the requirements of the present Code. The district election commission shall be formed twenty-five days before, and the precinct election commissions – fifteen days before the elections.

In case if a deputy retires less than six months before the expiry of the powers of the respective regional, sub-regional or municipal Kengash of people's deputies, the election to replace the retired deputy may be omitted.

Chapter 16. Determining and Publishing the Results of the Elections

Article 91. Vote Counting at the Polling Station

The precinct election commissions shall determine the total number of the citizens included in the voter list and the number of the ballots in the ballot boxes.

The precinct election commission shall count the votes cast at the polling station separately for each electoral district and candidate.

Based on the counted ballots, the precinct election commission shall determine:

- the number of votes cast for each candidate;
- the number of invalidated ballots;
- the number of spoiled ballots.

The votes cast for the individuals or the issues additionally written in by the voters in the ballot papers shall not be counted.

The ballots of an undue format, the ballots with no checkbox marked with +, √ or X symbol, as well as the ballots with more than one checkbox marked, shall be deemed invalid. If there is any doubt about the validity of the ballot, the precinct commission election commission shall decide on the issue by voting.

A ballot shall be deemed spoiled if the voter made a mistake while completing it and received a new one instead. Should this be the case, a corresponding record shall be made both in the voter list and on the reverse side of the cancelled spoiled ballot.

Article 92. Determining the Results of the Election

The district-wise results of the elections shall be determined only based on the submitted protocols of the precinct election commissions. The district election commissions shall determine:

- the total number of citizens included in the district voter list;
- the number of citizens, who received the ballots;
- the number of citizens, who participated in the voting;
- the number of votes cast for each candidate;
- the number of invalidated ballots.

In case of any discrepancies in vote counting reflected in the protocols of a precinct election commission, the district election commission shall have the right to propose to the precinct election commission to eliminate those discrepancies during its session.

The district-wise results of the elections shall be determined at the meeting of the district election commission and entered in the protocol. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and other members of the election commission and submitted to the respective election commission in accordance with the established procedure.

Article 93. Determining the Status of the Election

Based on the protocols of the precinct election commissions, the Central Election Commission, the regional, sub-regional and municipal election commissions shall determine:

- the total number of the voters in the Republic of Uzbekistan or by region, sub-region or city;
- the number of citizens, who received the ballots;
- the number of citizens, who participated in the voting;
- the number of votes cast for each candidate;
- the number of invalidated ballots.

A candidate for deputy, who received more than half of the votes cast, shall be considered elected.

In case if two candidates compete for the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the one who obtained the relative majority of the votes cast, shall be considered elected.

In case if more than two candidates compete for the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and no candidate obtains more than half of the votes cast, a repeat voting shall be held.

In case if due to a variety of reasons (a candidate's death, health condition incompatible with the participation in the elections, or withdrawal of the candidacy for any other reason established by law etc.) only one candidate stands for the post, he/she shall be considered elected if obtained more than half of the total number of votes cast

The elections shall be declared uncompleted if the turnout rate is less than thirty-three per cent of the total number of the registered voters.

The elections as a whole or in certain election districts or precincts may be declared void if the violations occurred during the elections affected the voting results. The decision on declaring void the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan or the elections to the Legislative Chamber shall be made by the Central Election Commission and may be appealed against at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within ten days from the date of publishing the elections results.

The decision on declaring the elections to the regional, sub-regional or municipal Kengashes of people's deputies void, shall be made by the respective election commission and may be appealed against at court within ten days from the date of publishing the elections results.

In case if at certain precincts the elections are declared void, the respective election commission may decide to exclude these polling stations' results from the total election results provided that the elections as a whole may be declared complete without them.

Based on the polling results, the relevant election commission shall draw up a protocol and adopt a resolution.

Article 94. Publishing the Results of the Elections

The Central Election Commission shall adopt a resolution on the results of the elections for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the elections to the Legislative Chamber no later than within ten days after the elections. The resolution shall be published in the official website of the Central Election Commission and other media.

The resolution on the results of the elections to the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies shall be adopted by the respective election commission no later than within ten days after the elections and published in press.

Chapter 17. Financing the Elections

Article 95. Public Financing of the Elections

The expenses related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and to the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies shall be financed from the funds of the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Financing the elections and providing any other material support to the candidates and the political parties by foreign countries, the natural and legal entities thereof and international organizations shall be prohibited.

Political parties, other public organizations, enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens may donate their funds to conduct the elections. These funds shall be received by the Central Election Commission to be further used in the course of the election campaign.

Article 96. Financing of the Election Commissions

The expenses of the Central Election Commission, the regional, sub-regional and municipal election commissions, the district and precinct election commissions related to the preparation and the conduct of the elections, shall be financed from the funds of the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Financing of the Central Election Commission shall be presented in the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan as a separate line item.

The salaries of the individuals attracted to work for the election commissions shall be paid out of the funds allocated for the conduct of the elections.

Article 97. Financing the Political Parties' Participation in the Elections

The participation of the political parties in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and to the regional, sub-regional and municipal Kengashes of people's deputies shall be financed according to the established procedure from the funds of the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan allocated for these purposes.

The Central Election Commission and other respective election commissions shall determine the amount of public funds allocated for the financing of the participation of the political parties in the elections per one candidate.

The public funds to finance the participation of the political parties in the elections shall be transferred, in accordance with the established procedure, to the political party's current account upon the registration of the party's nominees and in the amount corresponding to the number of the registered candidates.

The public funds allocated for financing the participation of the political parties in the elections may be spent for:

- the conduct of the election campaign;
- the organization of the candidates' speeches on TV, radio and other mass media;
- the organization of the candidates' meetings with the voters;
- the organization of the work of the candidates' proxies and other activists attracted to conduct the election campaign;
- the conduct of the general party events related to the election campaign.

Chapter 18. Final Provisions

Article 98. The Procedure for Reviewing the Appeals of the Natural and Legal Persons by the Election Commissions

The election commissions are obliged, within the limits of their competence, to review the appeals of the natural and legal persons (hereinafter referred to as the appeals) filed during the election campaign and related to the violations of the requirements of the present Code as well as any other issues related to the elections organization. The election commissions shall conduct the corresponding inspections and respond for the appeals in writing within three days. The appeals filed within less than six days before the elections or on the voting day shall be responded immediately.

The appeals shall be registered in the logbook.

The chairperson of the respective election commission shall, within the time limits established by the present Code, call for a meeting to review the appeal and decide on it. The applicants as well as other stakeholders may be invited to attend the meeting.

If the subject of the appeal filed lies beyond the powers of the precinct election commission, the commission within three days shall forward the appeal to the corresponding authorized bodies and notify the applicant of this fact.

The members of the election commissions reviewing the appeal shall notify the applicant of the results of the consideration and the decision taken.

Article 99. Reviewing the Complaints against the Decisions of the Election Commissions

The respective bodies of the political parties that nominated the candidates, the candidates for the deputies and their proxies, the observers and the voters shall have the right to challenge the decisions of the election commissions at a superior election commission or at court within ten days after the decision date. The decisions of the Central Election Commission may be appealed at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan within ten days after the decision date. The complaints shall be reviewed within three days upon submission. The complaints filed during the last six days prior to the day of elections must be reviewed immediately. The applicants shall have the right to participate directly in the complaint consideration.

Article 100. The Liability for Violating the Requirements of the Present Code

The individuals violating the rules and the procedures for conducting the elections set forth in the present Code, suppressing - by coercion, deception, threats or otherwise – the free exercise by a citizen of his/her right to elect and be elected, as well as the members of the election commissions, the officials of state and public associations who have committed forgery of documents or deliberately incorrect votes counting, offended the secrecy of polling or committed other legal abuses, shall bear responsibility in accordance with law.

Within five days before the voting day, as well as on the voting day, the publication (and the posting in information and telecommunications networks of general use, including Internet) of the results of public opinion polls, forecasts of the elections results or the results of other studies related to the forthcoming elections is prohibited.

The individuals who have published or otherwise disseminated false information discrediting honor and dignity of a candidate or insulted the members of the election commissions shall be kept liable in accordance with law.